



DAANA NEWSLETTER



October 2022 - Volume 2, Issue 2 : REUNION EDITION

As we all continue to reminisce the fond memories of the recent DAANA2022 reunion, we want to give a huge thank you to all our alumni and their families for gracing us with their presence and giving their generous support. We also wish to express our gratitude to all the volunteers for their efforts and help in facilitating and ensuring smooth accomplishment of multiple events simultaneously. The valuable contributions of all our sponsors are very appreciated as well. Lastly, a special shout out to Team Florida for taking the initiative and hosting us all in the sunshine state.

We are really looking forward for the next reunion and will take all your feedback and suggestions into consideration for the future.

Sincerely,

DAANA Board of Directors

**DAANA 2022
Main Event**

**DAANA 2022
Other Events**

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Next-Generation Kinships!
(3 kids, 3ages, 3homes but
1 family - DAANA)

daananewsletter@gmail.com
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Dear DAANA family,

It gives us great pleasure to bring to you, our Special Reunion Edition. We hope that all the articles, from alumni who attended Orlando 2022, will help our fellow Deccanites not only reminisce, but also encourage everyone to attend future reunions to make them even grander events! As the camaraderie & bonds of kinship grow stronger with every passing year, we hope these events will propel our Alumni organizations in future co-operative endeavors.

With this in mind & to keep our alumni abreast of news from our global community, we are very proud to include with this issue, new sections representing our sister organizations - DAAE, DAAME & DAA. These will include relevant news & contributions from alumni & their families in those geographical areas. To facilitate this, we are also very pleased to welcome, to our editorial team, 2 new members - Dr Umair Khan ('89) & Dr K. Yaminuddin ('99) who shall be editors for DAAE & DAAME sections respectively.

Also included (above) are slideshows from the various events at the DAANA 2022 reunion. Please enjoy & hope to see you all at DAANA 2024! ~ Editors



Hema, Afshan, Aparna & Aiman



Dr. Umair Khan is an alumnus of DCMS '89 batch. He practices as a consultant in Acute Paediatrics and Paediatric Critical Care, Royal Hospital for Children, Edinburgh, Scotland. He also teaches under graduate and post graduate students as Hon Senior Clinical Lecturer, at College of Medicine, University of Edinburgh. Apart from academics he has a keen interest in Urdu & English poetry and enjoys translating poems in both languages.



Dr Yamin is an alumnus of DCMS '99 batch. He practices as a Diabetes Care Specialist at the Ministry of Health. He is the assistant Supervisor for the Interns and Residents Training at the Facility. He is a Public Speaker and is part of the Toastmasters organisation for Public Speaking. Apart from this he is a Video Creator, both in English & Urdu languages for short motivational messages with the hashtag #THINKABOUTIT & #نرا غور فرمائیں

DAANA 2022 REUNION

Life was very different for all of us for the last two years in the face of the global COVID-19 Pandemic. The pandemic taught us to never take for granted the ability to meet in person, gather with family and friends, congregate and celebrate life's many moments together. After having to cancel the LA2020 event, with cautious optimism we started planning for our Biennial Global meeting and conference in Orlando, Florida which was chosen as the 2022 venue.

What started as an idea, took approximately eight months to plan and bring to fruition, with the DAANA 2022 meeting taking place between July 21-24 at the Rosen Center Hotel in Orlando. The meeting celebrated many "first of its kind" events including the first ever Ladies Social event, and first ever Financial Advisory event. The CME meeting was a robust educational experience offering 8 AMA PRA Category 1 credits accredited by the Ochsner Clinic Foundation.

Distinguished invited guest speakers included Dr. Prathibha Varkey (President, Mayo Clinics), Dr. Raghib Ali (Consultant, Acute Medicine, Oxford University Hospitals), Dr. Shabbir Amanullah (President, Canadian Academy of Geriatric Psychiatry) as well as a panel of accomplished speakers from DCMS.

The traditional Gala Night was attended by over 150 alumni and 400 guests. Guest speakers included Honorable Dr. Swati Kulkarni, Consul General of India in Atlanta, Dr. Zach Zachariah Chair, Florida Board of Medicine, VA State Senator Dr. Ghazala Hashmi, NC State Senator Mr. Mujtaba Mohammed and Mr Sam Pitroda, Indian Tech inventor and entrepreneur.

This year's event had more sponsor support than any of our previous events.

There was an army of people who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to bring the event to fruition including the leadership of our President, Secretary, Treasurer, Board of Directors, the team Florida alumni, trusted advisors, well wishers and several individuals who personally gave their time, talent and efforts in making the event a grand success.

The event celebrated our Healthcare Heroes and rejuvenated the Alumni body after two difficult years battling the pandemic on the front lines. Beautiful memories were made, productive discussions were had, new projects and initiatives were discussed and launched, cutting edge education was delivered and bonds of kinship were rekindled.

We thank all the alumni for attending and look forward to seeing everyone in 2024!

Sincerely,

Shaista Safder and Taruj Ali

Shaista Safder, MD
Pediatric Gastroenterology, Orlando, FL

M. Taruj Ali, MD FCCP FAASM
Pulmonary Associates of Richmond, VA

On Thursday July 21, 10 AM, my mom, my two sisters, and I arrived in Orlando, Florida for the DAANA reunion. My sister and I thought this trip would be too short, uneventful, and tiresome. But it was everything but that. From those four days in Florida, I have made incredible memories with my family and new friends. Meeting new people, especially around my age, is always a little nerve-racking. However, meeting the friends I made during this trip, I would not trade it for anything. Whether it was the night we stayed up until 2 am laughing so hard at the dumbest things or singing our hearts out at the Ladies Event. In addition to having a lot of fun, I was surprised when I saw so many different doctors all in one place. Even more, I got to see how Hyderabad doctors will always be a different type of impressive. Not only do they know how to party and have fun, but they also know how to save lives. Elite! I'm telling you! Seeing how much DAANA does for the community, meeting amazing people, and having a great time makes me realize how grateful I am that I was able to attend. Overall, this short, yet eventful trip has me counting down the days until the next Deccan reunion where I can experience this all over again.



by Airrah Salam (15yr) D/o Afshan Khan ('96)

DCMS reunion keeps getting better each time. It was a joyous occasion with a lot of fun memories made. From the frenzy of “Mango rush” to the late night Antakshari sessions that took place under the midnight sky and the chatter filled restaurant at “Woodlands”, the experience we shared as a collective group was an unforgettable time.

“Ladies event” was a very exciting night where the women and girls had a blast and it was one of a kind night that I wish could have never ended. Shaista’s dinner party was the perfect balance of intimate yet fun filled event. Boat rides and a beautiful party scene filled with smiles and laughter was a picture perfect evening.

DCMS trading event was the first but hopefully not the last of its kind. What started as a small DCMS trading “Gupshup” turned into a start of a new venture and learning experience for us all. All kudos to Ateeq for coordinating the event and it was a very humbling experience to speak on the occasion. The topics selected were very informative from understanding the basics of compounding, Investing in 529 plans, CLAT opportunities, Wealth creation and Raising financially savvy kids which was incorporated in the youth event. Some of our colleagues brought business opportunities to the group and God willing should turn out to be beneficial. Overall, the response received has been positive and in future, the trades team plan to bring more topics that will help us in financial planning and growth.

CME was productive and wonderfully organized with a keen eye for detail to the relevance and quality of topics presented.

The entirety of the event was exquisitely done and I am so grateful to have had the blessing to experience such a joyous time. I thank DAANA BOD for their unrelentless effort in making this event so unique and memorable.

~ Rubina Baig ('91)

You know your family is having a good time when you head up to your hotel room after the DAANA main gala and your husband sends you texts of your son dancing and playing musical chairs with his elder doctor uncles!

Our time in Orlando, Florida at the DCMS/DAANA reunion was our third time attending these reunions, and every time the programming and events step up just another notch! (Admittedly as a spouse, I think they could be held every three years, but Taruj insists that his DAANA batchmates and classmates want to get together every other year!)

Sometimes it's hard as a non-medical spouse (and born-American) to build the kind of connection that DAANA docs and spouses who hail from Hyderabad have with each other. The jokes and stories go over my head sometimes, but the beautiful part is how welcoming everyone is with each other and especially how hard everyone works to make this event special for the youth. While there is so much for the Deccan docs to learn from each other's works, one of the lasting legacies of this organization is its emphasis on youth involvement and fostering connections of friendship.

Each event serves to create wonderful opportunities for our youth to not only get involved and volunteer at the events, but there are also special sessions and activities just for them that help develop fun friendships. I mean, when I see my 14-year-old congregating with the boys at the hotel pool or begging me to let him swim at midnight with the children of other Deccan docs, that feels pretty good.

These connections are continued on past the reunion events through interactions over the DAANA Youth Group on WhatsApp, where kids and parents are constantly cheering each other on, sharing articles and resources and gently urging and helping our kiddos organize charity events and fundraise for different causes.

Whether or not our sons and daughters become doctors themselves, more important to me is that they find community among each other and continue to support and cheer each other on. That's one of the best things that DAANA and these reunion events have done.

~ Dilshad D. Ali, wife of Dr. Taruj Ali, mom to Daanish, Amal and Hamza, the musical chair champion





I am glad to share my experience about the recent DAANA conference held in July 2022 in Orlando, FL.

Going to the DAANA conference, I didn't know what to expect but alhamdulillah, I'm glad I went and I was able to benefit from the programs they had. It was impressive to see all my father's friends socialize with each other. This year was different as I was able to socialize too and meet new friends during the youth event led by Dr Baseer Qazi. During this youth program, I was able to learn a few tips about taking care of myself both mentally and physically while simultaneously learning more about my peers. I really loved the scavenger hunt game they had planned for us. Unfortunately, we did not win but it was still a fun experience as we all got to bond together.

I am really looking forward to the next reunion to meet up with my friends and make new ones.

by Sulaiman Haseeb (16yr) S/o Ateeq Haseeb ('93)

As the spouse of a Deccan alumni (Fawad Khan, 1998 batch), I had the pleasure of attending DAANA's 2022 reunion in Orlando this summer. We had a fabulous and fun weekend catching up with old friends, family (after all, aren't all Hyderabadis somehow related?), and making new friends.

Leading up to the conference, I was amazed at how dedicated all of the board members were in ensuring that everything for the conference was well-thought out, and planned to perfection. There were many late-night phone calls, zoom planning sessions, and emails exchanged. To be quite honest, I don't think I truly understood why Fawad and his fellow board members volunteered to take on this monumental task. But, after attending the conference and seeing the pride that all of the alumni took in their education and the love they all share for their shared medical school experience and each other, I was humbled by their dedication to DAANA.

It has truly been inspiring to see how DAANA alumni are paying it forward to their juniors and working to make an impact through shared humanitarian efforts. As a fellow physician, I understand that our journey through medical school and years of training can be arduous and lonely at times. It was amazing to see the camaraderie that DAANA alumni have to help lessen that burden for those that came after them, setting up mentorship programs, helping juniors navigate through the application and residency/fellowship process, networking to help further each other's research objectives, and even advising each other on lucrative business ventures/investments. This sense of community is truly unparalleled.

However, in my opinion, the best part of attending the DAANA reunion was being able to experience and share this sense of community with our young children. Fahad, Noorah, and Nimrah are still young but we were so happy to introduce them to all of our friends, old and new alike. It was inspiring to watch other alumni's teenage children participating in the conference, and hearing about their educational achievements. It gave us hope and motivation to emulate the commendable job that so many of our Senior Alumni are doing raising their children.

Overall, it was a fun-filled, memorable weekend. We are so grateful to Shaista Baji for hosting us all in Orlando. We look forward to the DAANA reunion in 2024, inshAllah!

~ Rubina Khan w/o Fawad Khan ('98)



1. Click Link : [AmazonSmile](#)

2. Search & Select Your Charity : Deccan Alumni Association of North America

All proceeds will go to [A Charitable Cause!!](#)



Dastarkhwan Corner

by Aparna RM ('89)

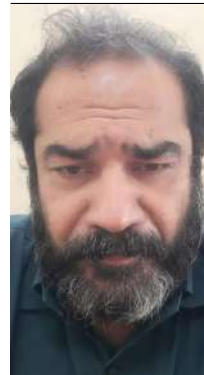
Greetings to all.

In this special reunion edition, we wanted to feature the Safder family's dinner reception in the Dastarkhwan Corner.

Shaista's open house invitation was the perfect kick-off event for our reunion. As we all gathered together and munched on the samosas and snacks and drank chai, we also got to enjoy catching up with our old acquaintances while making new friends.

Her kitchen overflowed with warmth and love as we started our dinner with wonderful salads and dips which included tabbouli, fattoush, and hummus. The beet hummus, in particular, stood out for its unique flavor and color. The main entrees included a gourmet assortment of Lamb mandi, creamy shrimp, and salmon dishes. Nikhat Baig's home-made haleem was a big hit.

The icing to our delicious meal was an excellent dessert table featured below with an array of mouth watering sweets, giving us a perfect way to end the night.



إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

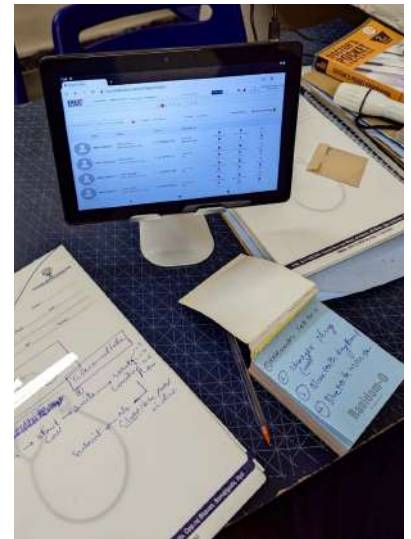
IN MEMORIAM

Dr Khurram Saxena ('84) was a very simple & decent man. We had messaged just the other day.. Life is so short May Allah SWT Bless him with His infinite Rehmat and give Sabr to a relatively young family — Raza Khan ('84)

CONGRATS ~ Mohammad Sajed ('93)

Alhumdullilah (all praises to God), we were able to set up SmartClinix EMR and Telemedicine platform in the "Free Charitable Teachers Clinic" that has been running since 2018. We see patients, six days a week Monday to Saturday. On an average 25-30 patients who are provided with free medicines too. Referral to specialist physicians is provided on a local basis, but with the Telemedicine platform, now physicians and specialists from around the world can see patients and help us out in the clinic.

My company Neurox.us provided the EMR and Telemedicine HIPPA compliant platform for free, so now physicians can see patients from anywhere in the



world from their cellphones and no software needed to be downloaded, simple and easy.

I would like to thank Dr Naseem, Dr Mohammed Aslam Ahmed and Dr Ismail Shakaib for helping set up the system in the clinic. Would also like to thank Waqas Ahmed and Muhammad Umar Farooq from American TelePhysicians and NeuroX who help provide the Smart Clinix USA EMR and Telemedicine (Televideo and Teleaudio) for free.

I would also like to thank DAANA leadership for guidance.

#DAANA #NeuroX
#AmericanTelephysicians



REUNION 2022

by Raza Khan ('84) ex-president DAANA
Hospitalist in Allina Health System in Minneapolis, MN

After the Pandemic keeping us apart, confined, fearful and away from large gatherings DAANA reunion 2022 was a good opportunity to get out there and catch up with class and college-mates. It was an excellent ROI provided by team Florida, something to remember for some time. Alumni came from around US, North America and around the world.

It all started with the ladies' event. I have no clue to write about it except most of the participants looked happy! The CME was a grand success, both in the scope and the quality of lectures and discussions. Of note was Fawad Khan ('98) hosting the Mayo Clinic President. It can be said that the quality of these CMEs is no less than any international conference. I am also not going to forget the wonderful Qutba of Baseer Qazi ('96), the various varieties of mangos of Florida brought by Bari Asif and others, and the South Indian restaurant meals, thanks to Altaf Aman's travel guidance.

The party at Shaista's house was a grand success! The food was good, the company-excellent and the hosts-really welcoming. We all celebrated President Moizuddin's daughter's birthday with a delicious cake and really spent good one-on-one time with near and dear friends.

The main event's enthusiasm was phenomenal. The Hyderabad formal dresses with the typical Fez worn by Aslam ('96) & the photo booth as expected being the most densely populated spot. Couples and friends making memories. Seating arrangements according to the batch brings so much ease and presents instantaneous sense of comfort in these gatherings - something we need to enhance and have more attention paid to in lieu of hearing speeches and more commercial speeches which may be somewhat of a distraction (turnoff may be a strong word) from this very quality time we all long so much to come and have. This is coming from someone who has been a speaker in all of DCMS gatherings before and after formation of DAANA.

Since the types of jokes enjoyed by Hyderabadis may be different, it feels like we need to come up with a new amusing-enough-for-Hyderabad format of innovation for making people laugh in place of stand up comedy the next time. Otherwise the chief organizer need to just stand up and reveal all the arm twisting that happens subtly before the function behind the scenes - which in itself should be good enough. The music at the end of the function saw the regulars Shahnoor and Khaudeja enjoying, joined by a large number of alumni to the DJ playing.

The following day, CME was excellent, though most were busy saying goodbyes to friends after having spent a near night out catching up, remembering college, chit-chatting, singing and laughing the night of the grand event. The spacious and sprawling Rosen Hotel therefore turned out to be such a great idea.

While flying back I felt that these meetings are a source of preventing burnout for all. They allow us to let off some steam, in the company of longtime friends. I was also appreciative of the smooth planning by Team Florida headed by Shaista ('95) and ably supported by DAANA BOD and especially people like Taruj, Touheed, Illyas and many more in the background who I cannot name due to logistic reasons but I'm appreciative and thankful. Thank You "Team Florida" for a wonderful Format!



I was born in Hyderabad and raised in Chicago. Hyderabad slang, Hyderabad food and jokes are nostalgic and remind me of my childhood. I enjoy the company of fellow Hyderabadis. In the midst of busy life, sounds and sights of Hyderabad is like breath of fresh air. DAANA reunions bring back those emotions and reconnect me to my roots. I look forward to these events. I like connecting with alumni as we have so much in common. I enjoy every moment and love supporting all the events and activities. I appreciate the hospitality, enjoy the food and good company.

— by Dr. Syed Quadri h/o Talat Tayyaba ('89)



DAAE SECTION

INAUGURAL EDITION



Deccan Alumni Association of Europe (DAAE) and its vision

DAAE is a charitable organisation which has been established in the United Kingdom (UK) for the last two years. DAAE is made of alumni from Deccan College of Medical Sciences (DCMS) in Hyderabad in India who are living in the UK and Europe. In the last update we have highlighted the aims and objectives of DAAE and also the vision statement. Earlier this year DAAE successfully completed its first ever annual event in March 2022 which was attended by alumni and their families from across the UK, Ireland, US, Middle East and India. This event was marked by excellent presentations, children and teens programs, felicitation of the dignitaries, light entertainment and the program ended with delicious Hyderabad style dinner.

DAAE has been engaging with charitable, academic, mentoring roles and activities for the last two years since its inception. This includes workshops for aspirants of PLAB and entry to UK, relief work in the form of charity back home, remote clinics with Specialists based in the UK, face to face specialist input to the clinics in Hyderabad by UK DAAE members, Covid relief work – that included oxygen concentrators and setting up of Oxygen centres to help Covid sufferers.



President DAAE: Prof Dr Farooq Khan

DAAE aims and aspires to work relentlessly to end the inequalities that exists in our system at the moment. There are examples of disparities among communities with reference to accessing good physical and mental health, there are disproportionate job opportunities among the populations, there are gross differences in the society regarding the access to respectful life and overall there are problems with everyone getting 'a fair deal' across the globe. Although these statements are generalised in the international context these have become quite palpable specifically among the marginalised groups and minority communities. DAAE's intentions are to eliminate these differences and inequalities by working in collaboration with its sister organisations DAA, DAANA and DAAME. DAAE also intends to work in partnership with other charitable and like-minded organisations in achieving mutual goals.

DAAE has come up with number of workstreams to focus its energy and efforts in achieving the aims and objectives:

- **Charity** – DAAE has kept charitable work at the heart of its functioning. We believe that this is the duty of every individual and member of a community to help in the best possible manner we can. This includes fund raisers for specific and focused causes, personal and organizational charitable work, development of links with other charities and share learnings.
- **Humanitarian** - Disaster management, urgent and emergency calls for help and aid, helping the cause both face to face and remotely. DAAE prides itself for engaging in the activities that help the humanitarian cause.
- **Career development / Academics / Educational** – One of the main aims of the organization is to help and support the aspirants of PLAB to come to UK and explore further opportunities. There are also number of remote academic programs that are supported by DAAE.
- **Clinical support:** This workstream has helped number of patients back home to access specialist help via face to face and remote consultations.
- **International coordination** – Number of charitable organizations work across the world which has similar working style as DAAE and works for the similar causes. DAAE aims to have collaborations with these organizations to promote its vision.

- **Social / Networking** – Being an organization belonging to Hyderabad, DAAE needs social networking with each other and beyond. This is the reason we have a focused workstream working on this.

Finally I would like to introduce the newly formed Board of Directors for the new term beginning 2022-23 and also would like to thank the outgoing BOD members for their excellent contributions:

Newly appointed BOD for DAAE:

Dr Umair Khan (89)

Dr Wasif Siddiqui (90)

*Prof Dr Farooq Khan (93) - **President***

*Dr Junaid Nasiri (95) - **General Secretary***

Dr Adil Siddiqui (99)

Dr Sulmaaz Qamar (2K5)

*Dr Nazima Hussaini (90) - **Vice President***

Dr Mohammed Abdul Muqsith (90)

*Dr Misbah ur Rehman (93) – **Treasurer***

Dr Aamir Khan (95)

Dr Syed Farhan (2K)

Dr Abdul Rehman (2K9)

Congratulations to all and please welcome all new BOD members 🌸🌸🌸

My heartfelt thanks to the **outgoing BOD members** for their exceptional contribution over the years:

Dr Farrukh Shamshad (88)

Dr Abrar Ahmed Almulla(89)

Dr Mohammed Zackaria (90)

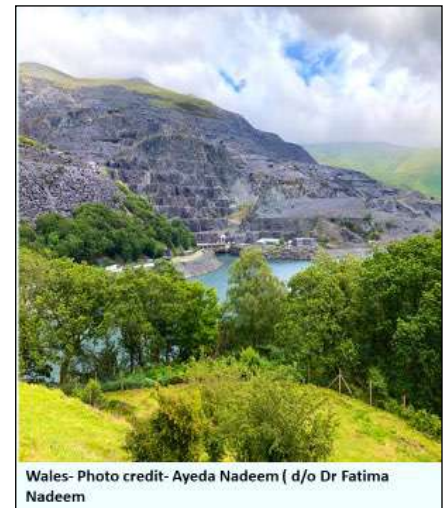
Dr Mohammed Abdul Malik (92)

Dr Rubina Fatima (93)



England- photo credit – Dr Zackaria '90 Batch

Photos representing the
4 nations that make up
Great Britain



Wales- Photo credit- Ayeda Nadeem (d/o Dr Fatima Nadeem



Scotland- Photo credit- Dr Umair '89 batch



Ireland- Photo credit Dr Nazima '90 Batch

DAANA Global reunion – A Scottish visitor's perspective A glittering evening of stars and bright lights and joyous colours

by Umair Khan ('89)

Na haarā hai ishq aur na duniyā thakī hai
Diyā jal rahā hai havā chal rahī hai — (Khumar Barabankvi)

(Love has not lost out-though the world
Continues tirelessly to oppose it
The candle continues to spread its light
Undaunted in the face of blowing winds)



**Gracious host -
Shaista Safdar ('95)**

In a world that has more than its fair share of dark tragedies and sad stories, which tend to cast a pall of gloom over one's outlook on life, the DAANA reunion event on 23rd July 2022 was a welcome reminder of the power of good to overcome the bad and the power of light to drive away darkness. The overall theme of the evening was precisely this – about how light and goodwill and cheer and a few good people can be victorious against the threatening all enveloping darkness. It was all glitter and light at the glorious venue at Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando with all the attendees- organisers and alumni members and special guests, providing the glamour element.

The evening was a good chance to catch with old (young!) friends and also an opportunity to meet up and hear from the founders and movers & shakers of the DAANA group who have ensured the group's success in achieving its objectives in the charity field and also in providing mentorship to juniors and encouraging all its members to progress academically and professionally. Past and present presidents (Dr Raza and Dr Moiz) and other office bearers graced the stage and gave brief summaries of the work done and the path ahead. Dr Altaf Aman, through his video presentation, gave a sombre tribute to the valiant effort of the healthcare teams around the world and honoured those among our friends and relatives who have sadly died during the pandemic.

There was an impressive list of dignitaries – all spoke well including Senator Mujtaba Mohammed and Senator Ghazala Hashmi. The speech from Dr Ghazala Hashmi, with her resounding call to those assembled to 'Punch holes in the darkness' praised healthcare workers in the hall about the great work they have been involved with during the pandemic and also reminded the attendees about their duty, which with their education and training, and the excellent opportunity that fate has bestowed on them, they are well equipped to do. A truly inspirational speaker who connected brilliantly with the audience, her speech got a wonderful applause that was well deserved.

There were highly informative talks from the 2 main sponsors- Xybermed (Dr Rafeuddin Azaz's brilliant initiative) and Build Senior Living (which highlighted not only an investment opportunity for those interested but also brought to the fore the importance of building comfortable housing facilities for the elderly and those needing assistance).



LeBron with a G! — with new fans!

The serious part of the evening over, it was time for fun and games – and some excellent food! Gibran Saleem provided lots of laughs with his stand up comedy – his jokes were nicely delivered along with some thought provoking truths of the pain of partition (for India and Pakistan) and how sometimes the geographical boundary lines can be so artificial because the common cultural roots are just too strong. A message that resonated well with the audience and got him good laughs and appreciation.



Senator Ghazala Hashmi
"Punching holes in the darkness"



Distinguished senior alumni

The organisers served up some wonderful food- well suited to the Hyderabad palate spoilt by nawabi traditions and used to the biryani and the special chicken and desserts of the region! And a special treat was the chai and paan- all the ingredients for a feast which satisfied the taste buds as much as it fulfilled the nostalgic yearning of migrants away from the place of their birth and the growing up years.

The organisers did not stop there- after stimulating the mind and providing a very satisfying cuisine it was now time for some foot tapping music! The star of this part of the evening was clearly Dr Shanoor who stole the show with his dance moves- and was well supported by juniors and seniors alike! Time seemed to have stood still- as the years rolled back to memories of similar parties with music and dance while in college which provided much needed relief during the 6 years of medical school.



*Lighting up the dance floor!
Wonderful moves.*

A marvellous evening indeed- a great representation of the DAANA spirit of lighting candles, spreading hope and cheer and yes **‘punching holes in the darkness’!**

With the initial Khumar Barabankvi sher that spoke about how it is important to keep the candle lighted even in face of adversity here are 2 couplets from Nadeem Shad that carry the theme forward:

***Diye roushan karenge aur munderon pe bhi rakhenge
Aur uspe ye hai ki tujhko hava honay nahin denge***

— (Nadeem Shad)

(We will light candles, and we will keep them on the roof tops
And it is true that will not let you be the wind that snuffs them out)

The first sher states forcefully that we will not let the winds gather enough force to snuff the light out and the second delivers a promise that we will be the beacons of hope even when there is darkness around!

***Charaaghon tum agar bujh bhi gaye, Vaada hai hum jugnu
Andheron ka jahaan mai dab dabaa honay nahin dengay***

— (Nadeem Shad)

(If the lamps are dimmed and turn off, we promise that as jugnu (fireflies)
We will ensure that in this world of ours darkness never triumphs)

Let us – the alumni around the world, in DAA, DAAME, DAAE and DAANA continue the good work we are meant for- that which we are destined to do!

I shall end with a line from Bashir Badr’s rather poignant sher (I have only included the first line here- those who know the sher will appreciate why it is poignant) – the line goes –‘**ujāle apnī yādoñ ke hamāre saath rahne do’** .. so yes thanks to the superb organisers of DAANA reunion 2022 for a most wonderful evening and for leaving us with such great memories to light up our lives!

Dr Umair Khan, an alumnus of the 1989 batch, is a specialist in Paediatric Critical care (PICU) at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, UK with special interest in mechanical ventilation and acute kidney injury and also in Human Factors and Palliative care within the ICU setting. Apart from academics he has a keen interest in Urdu & English poetry and enjoys translating poems in both languages.

A MOMENTOUS OCCASION

by Fauzaan Ali Syed (S/o Mujahid Ali Syed '90 Batch)
3rd year Medical Student at Lancaster Medical School, UK

As-salam-alaikum.

Being the son of Mujahid Ali Syed from the 1990 batch, I have had the opportunity to interact with many of the alumni from Deccan College of Medical Sciences over the years as family friends.

In 2015, I was informed that there was a proposal for the formation of DAANA as a mentoring organisation for budding alumni from DCMS. I did not think much of it at the time, assuming that it was simply an activity a few friends were doing to keep in contact with another. Little did I know that it would span world-wide, offering humanitarian aid, mentoring youngsters, offering emotional, financial and medical support to alumni in difficulty around the globe. As a result, when my father gave me the opportunity to travel to Orlando to attend this big DAANA reunion, I did not hesitate to say yes. As a medical student, I was sure to benefit from meeting the worldwide community for the first time that has accomplished so much in a small amount of time. All this whilst visiting one of the biggest tourist hotspots of the world.

The excursion to Orlando, after having sat the 2nd year medical exam, coincided with lifting of COVID restrictions. Nothing could be more exciting. Travelling to a new city is inherently stressful, especially with young siblings. But 'Team Florida' members of DAANA made it much easier. From the initial welcome calls before attending, to the food provided on various occasions, the hospitality was excellent. As a teenager, not directly a DAANA member, I felt incredibly welcomed by all members attending the reunion. I managed to speak to many of the alumni. The biggest wonder was when I heard about the difficult and humble beginnings of this institute and the fact that there is not an area of medicine or a corner of the world where the alumni are not present.



The reunion itself was very well organised. It was apparent from the outset that a lot of thought had been placed into all aspects of the event. From engaging activities for the children, CME, ladies' event and the main event. All these gave opportunities to the alumni to rekindle old friendships. I would like to take this opportunity to thank DAANA for giving me this opportunity to visit this amazing city, spend precious family time, visit the world-renowned theme parks, stay in a world-class hotel, attend a magnificent event, and most of all meet the people who make up the esteemed Deccan Alumni.

As I often tell my father "Insha'Allah, when I graduate from medical school, I hope to have alumni from my own university. However, the warm friendship and brotherhood shared by the DCMS alumni, even 25 years after graduation, is something which I may never experience in the western world".

May Allah SWT grant DAANA all the success in its endeavours. Ameen.



DAAME SECTION

INAUGURAL EDITION



DAAME SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

This year, Alhamdulillah, DAAME has sponsored 17 students (15 girls & 2 boys) under category A for MBBS. Our aim was to sponsor 1st year candidates seeking admission under category A, only for MBBS course. The total cost of first year fees is around 1 Lakh INR. (INR 60,000 for tuition fees and INR 40,000 for miscellaneous expenses). Out of 17 candidates, 2 are sponsored for government medical college, for whom fees is just INR 25,000 but hostel and mess charges are INR 60,000. The other 15 candidates are in minority colleges - DCMS, SHADAN, VRK, AYAAN.

As we are based in the Middle East, we didn't have anyone to work on ground in Hyderabad. I was assigned the task of talking to candidates and getting all academic and economic status information; which I did by talking to candidates and for female candidates, I let my wife talk on video call to enquire about their credentials, like NEET CARD, COLLEGE ALLOTMENT LETTER, which they have to show and have an assessment of the house background, which denotes their economic status. For some candidates we have taken services of a member of Jamaat-e-Islami, through Dr Najeeb ('89 batch), who personally went to the houses of candidates and gave first hand report. Most of the candidates were very poor, some without father, some with divorced parents, some mothers working as maid as well, some fathers working on daily wages...

After the process of enquiry is complete, we sent all details along with NEET RANK CARD, ALLOTMENT LETTER OF THE COLLEGE to the DAAME CORE COMMITTEE GROUP (core committee group has 20 members which includes 12 members of DAAME BOD). For each candidate, some member will agree for sponsorship. Some members have sponsored the entire fees of 1 lakh INR while some members sponsored partially for up to 3 candidates. 1 member has partially sponsored 9 candidates (amount of INR 20,000 each). There were a couple of non-core committee members also who sponsored students (1 from US & Dr Fatima Zaidi has also sponsored some amount). In this way, we have given sponsorship up to the tune of 10 lakhs INR Alhamdulillah. We made the transfer of money to the candidate's account through local bank account transfer and asked the candidates to send us admission receipts, which is being done successfully.

Now those who have sponsored are exhausted. We still have candidates from 2nd & 3rd year MBBS, awaiting scholarship. I wish to appeal to DAANA, DAAE and sister organizations to come forward and take up this noble cause or be a part of this cause along with DAAME. We have seen your generosity during ROHINGYA issue, COVID times, HYDERABAD Floods, and the ongoing RAMADAN FOOD DISTRIBUTION and look forward to the same for this cause supporting our future doctors. **Those interested please contact DAAME president Dr Junaid ('86) on 00966502900961 or DAAME SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM coordinator Dr Salman ('93) on Whatsapp 00919550558243.**

May Allah accept our efforts and reward all those involved in this noble cause. — **Dr Salman ('93) for DAAME SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

IN MEMORIAM

Extremely sad to inform all that Dr Ayesha ('90) passed away recently. She was consultant Gynecologist at SMC, Riyadh KSA. She was very active in charity work in Hyderabad during COVID pandemic in 2020 including donating an ECG machine to Durru Shehvar Hospital.

May Allah grant her Jannat-ul-Firdous & give strength to the family to bear this irreplaceable loss.



DAA SECTION

INAUGURAL EDITION



DCMS ALUMNI - HYDERABAD REUNION : 6TH JULY 2022

by Dr.K.Yaminuddin ('99)

MBBS, MHSC DIABETES, PGDD CARDIFF UK
FELLOWSHIP IN DIABETES (IMA CGP)

It is always a memory that is cherished as time goes by. Humans are naturally inclined to bind everything they have in common. The land of nawabs, the city of pearls, the place famous for Biryani, just to name a few, our city Hyderabad, has embedded in us so many memories, that we just can't name a few. To add on to the list was the recently organised DCMS Alumni Reunion on 6th July 2022, a Wednesday evening.



Modern life can feel like a pressure cooker. We feel anxious partly because we don't know how to let off the steam. Thanks to the general Secretary of DAA - Dr.Naseem Majid, a fun filled event was organised at the Residence of Dr Farheen, alumni of 95 batch. As the month of July was the vacation period, alumni had reached Hyderabad from across the globe and it was a perfect time for a get-together. The theme was 'aao phir milen hum'. With a perfect photo booth to start with, where alumni were busy taking pictures upon arrival, the function started with the recitation from the Holy Quran.

The gathering was addressed by the Presidents of DAA - Dr.Adil and DAAME - Dr.Junaid . The BOD members from DAANA - Dr.Afshan and Dr.Aparna invited the attendees for the DAANA Reunion in Orlando, FL at the end of July 2022. As the Master of Ceremony, I welcomed all the alumni. A touch of Urdu poetry in the form of Tamseeli Mushaira — recitation of Urdu poetry couplets of known poets, was showcased by myself (Dr.Yamin).

Words matter very much and so does the encouragement. The student achievers of our alumni belonging to the current academic year in different fields were felicitated with a memento for their hard work and success.

It would not be fair to skip the details of the mouth-watering dinner that followed later. Sweets first, as the temptation to taste them were uncontrollable. Badam kund and ice-cream from famous ruled. Live station which had fried fish was another attraction besides biryani and kebabs. During and after the dinner, the networking continued. Best dressed male and female awardees received their gift hampers. The evening concluded with the singing of famous Bollywood songs by Dr.Adil.

We are ordinary people, who happen to be doing extra ordinary jobs and this reunion at the city of Hyderabad, post-Covid was much needed!





STUDENT SECTION

Contributions by current students of Deccan College of Medical Sciences

Student editor : Hunaina Manfusa - 2017 batch



**Hiba Masood
(2019)**



A Medico's thought
on COVID-19:
From observing to
experiencing.
-Hunaina Manfusa
(2017 batch)

"The warrior is me, The conqueror too. Wake up and see, Believe in yourself too."



On a chilly winter night of December 2019, I was watching news with my father; it said a rare viral outbreak was happening in China. Little did we know then, that this would become the cause of all of us sitting in our homes for months to come along. The entire 2020 was gone in our homes watching news, praying and trying to cope up with the new normal.

The new normal that was laid for us was including masks, social distancing, and sanitization. This is something we as Hyderabadis never did. It's our culture to freely mingle, have our *chais* together, and talk about everything and nothing.

People laughed at us when we had our masks up, making the one wearing it doubt the mask. But all that is NOTHING compared to the actual disease and the anxiety that comes with it.



**Maseera
Mujeeb (2015)**



In April 2021, it was a normal day, and we were just doing our daily activities to pass the time. My mom had a headache. Well, in our general medicine classes we were taught that a headache has many causes, and we shouldn't pinpoint it to something alarming at the very first step. It could also be from trivial causes such as a tight ponytail. But a slight alarm rang in my mind the very next day when my father had a fever. As a medico, covid comes to my mind, but as an only daughter, I don't want it to come to my mind. The struggle of being a medico and a daughter simultaneously was something that I struggled a lot with in those weeks. We had their tests done, and they had come what I continuously hoped won't come as a daughter, but doubted may come as a medico. It satisfied the medico side of me that at least this was detected early, but it devastated the daughter side of me. *Alhamdulillah!* They had mild symptoms, but I couldn't bear to see my parents in that

condition. Thinking about the fact that this could've been avoided, maybe if I had told them to be more cautious. Checking their vitals, making sure they're okay, as a future doctor I wanted to do this perfectly, but the tears I had to forcefully stop, when seeing them, was hard. Too hard.

My uncle, a doctor, had guided me. *Alhamdulillah!* He decided to become a doctor. If it wasn't for him, I don't think I could've distinguished myself from being the emotional daughter to the serious medico I should've been in that situation. After a few days, we made everyone in the family undergo tests. And only 3 of them were negative. We isolated them from the rest of us.

During this entire duration, I learnt many things. As a student whose last clinical posting was in early 2020, this was an uncommon experience. I learnt a lot about the disease, its management, got confused by misleading WhatsApp forwards at times but more than that the respect I had for doctors increased magnanimously. Doctors leave their homes every day, and treat unknown people from whom they can contract anything. I felt how stressful it must be for doctors working in hospitals treating such COVID patients, the amount of stress they experience from hundreds of patients. All this effort they do, all the hours they spend, it's so inspiring that a profession is so noble that it teaches us to selflessly devote ourselves to others. And realising that I am studying to become a person like this is burdensome, because I fear how I will perform as a fully fledged doctor. With the continuing of online classes and no physical classroom and clinical postings for time unknown, I am scared if I could become a good doctor, if I could manage things as all doctors are doing currently. I am sure that every single medical student out there must have developed this fear. Fear of not being able to learn as our seniors have. Many of us have a doubt about what kind of doctor they'll become.

COVID-19 has taught me a lot of things. This has surely changed my perception of life and carved me into a stronger person. It taught me to not assume anything by relying on a single thing. It made me recognise where I am lacking as a student. It made me realise how fun college in person actually is, compared to being cooped up on desks for online classes. I understood the things I took for granted, a family dinner, a hug from mummy, cracking jokes with papa, an idle conversation with my grandparents and fighting over useless stuff with my cousins and most importantly I sensed the value of Ramadan with family.

From observing this pandemic from afar in 2020 to actually experiencing it in 2021, this was a turning point for us and I hope that the road from here is smoother with more happy stops than stressful ones, *Insha'Allah*.



Mehveen (2017 batch)

**AAPI .GLOBAL
HEALTH SUMMIT
2022 - 3rd Prize for
Case presentation**

**Neurenteric Cyst
presenting as Lateral
Meningomyelocele.**

Madeeha Mujeeb (2021)



بیدار ہوجاتے ہیں جلد علم حاصل کرنے کیلئے
کتابوں کا ڈھیر ہی بنگیا ہے بستر ہمارے لئے
میڈیکل کالج میں آتے ہی ہماری مزاج بدل گئی
ہر کونے میں اک مریض بیٹھا ہوتا ہے ہمارے لئے