Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University

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SHIFA COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

14TH ANNUAL SHIFA SCHOLARS DAY
6th May 2025

EVENT REPORT

Background

Shifa College of Medicine has an illustrious history of providing a platform in form of Annual Shifa Scholars Day; for aspiring researchers to present their work in a collaborative and intellectually stimulating environment. Keeping up with the tradition the 14th Annual Shifa Scholars Day- "From Ideas to Impact: The Power of Research," was held on 6th May 2025 in Shifa College of Medicine.

Introduction

Underscoring Shifa Tameer e Millat University' s commitment to academic excellence, research development, and student-led innovation, the Honourable Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Khan, Dean Faculty of Health Sciences Professor Dr. Mohammed Amir and Chairperson Professor Dr. Riffat Shafi were instrumental in providing leadership and guidance for the event.

Spearheaded by Professor Dr. Saima Hamid, organizational support was provided by the Department of Community Medicine and Public Health and the student organization READ (Research, Education, Assistance, Development). The event was conducted in a hybrid format, combining both in-person and virtual participation, to facilitate broader accessibility for presenters and observers. This approach allowed students from across Pakistan and international institutions to actively participate regardless of their geographic location, enhancing the diversity and reach of the event.

Call for Abstracts

A call for Abstracts was sent to all PMDC recognized medical and dental colleges in Pakistan. International contributions were also welcomed through Social Media engagement. As a result 243 abstracts from 39 Medical and Dental colleges were received from all over Pakistan along with 3 International submissions

Shifa Scholars Day Core Committee:
1. Dr. Saima Hamid
2. Dr. Riffat Shafi
3. Dr. Umme Kulsoom Khattak

Process for Abstract Finalization
To ensure academic rigor and transparency, the selection of abstracts for the 14th Annual Shifa Scholars Day followed a meticulously structured three-tiered evaluation process:

Level 1: Initial Screening

- A total of 243 abstracts were received.

- The Technical Committee from the Department of Community Medicine and Public Health (CM&PH) conducted the first round of screening to assess basic eligibility, relevance and scientific rigour.

Level 2: Merit-Based Shortlisting

- After initial screening, the selected abstracts underwent cross-evaluation by independent reviewers from faculty of Shifa College of Medicine
- Based on scientific merit, originality, relevance and impact factor, 119 abstracts were shortlisted for the research competition.

Level 3: External Evaluation

- The shortlisted abstracts were further evaluated by a panel of external evaluators, including discipline-specific subject matter experts from Shifa College of Medicine and Shifa International Hospital.
- Following a three-tiered evaluation, 106 abstracts highest standards of academic excellence and discipline were finalized

External Evaluators

1. Dr. Saima Pervaiz- Shifa College of Medicine
2. Dr Raheela Amir - Shifa International Hospital
3. Dr Humaira Altaf- Shifa International Hospital

The abstracts represented four primary research domains:
- Clinical Health Sciences: 66%
- Public Health: 19.8%
- Medical Education: 9.4%
- Basic Health Sciences: 4.7%

The abstracts were categorized as:

- Original Research: 51
- Meta-Analysis: 28
- Case Reports: 27

This distribution highlights the interdisciplinary focus of the competition and the broad academic interests of participants.

Impact and Outreach

The event featured 99 research presentations. Notably, one international poster from Nepal was also showcased, further enriching the event's global outlook. The competition drew participation of 100 budding researchers and observers from 29 medical and dental colleges across Pakistan reflecting an impressive and diverse national reach.

Link for Abstract book: https://stmu.edu.pk/academic/collegesdepartments/scm/

S.No	Name of participating Medical and Dental College
1.	Shifa College of Medicine
2.	Rawalpindi Medical University
3.	Foundation University Medical College
4.	Islamic International Medical College
5.	Al-Nafees Medical College and Hospital Islamabad
6.	Gomal Medical College
7.	Bacha Khan Medical College Mardan
8.	NUST School of Health Sciences and CMH Institute of Medical Sciences
9.	Quaid-e-Azam Medical College, Bahawalpur
10.	Fazaia Medical College, Islamabad
11.	Army Medical College, Rawalpindi
12.	Sahiwal Medical College
13.	Federal Medical College, Islamabad
14.	Shifa College of Dentistry
15.	Quetta Institute of Medical Sciences, Quetta
16.	Fazaia Ruth Pfau Medical College, Karachi
17.	HBS Medical and Dental College
18.	Ayub Medical College, Abbottabad
19.	Tehran University of Medical Sciences
20.	Central Park Medical College
21.	Khyber Medical College, Peshawar
22.	Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences
23.	Wah Medical College
24.	Islamic International Dental College
25.	Gandaki Medical College Teaching Hospital and Research Center, Pokhara, Nepal
26.	Bahria University of Health Sciences, Karachi
27.	D.G. Khan Medical College
28.	Rehman Medical College
29.	Foundation Dentistry

Research Competition Highlights

- 55 poster presentations.
- 44 oral presentations.
- 1 international poster submission.
- Representation from 29 medical and dental colleges.

Research Domains

- Clinical Health Sciences: 66%
- Public Health: 19.8%
- Medical Education: 9.4%
- Basic Health Sciences: 4.7%

Awards

The winners of 14th Annual Shifa Scholars Day are as follows

Original Study:
- First Prize: Raafey Imran and Muhammad Sheraz Hassan (Shifa College of Medicine)
- Second Prize: Abdullah Azam and Salsabeel Fatima (Army Medical College)
- Third Prize: Muhammad Umair (Rawalpindi Medical University)

Best Case Report:
- Maroosha Fatima and Hadiya Nadeem (Shifa College of Medicine)

Best Meta-Analysis
- Soha Shahid and Hafsah Kamran (Army Medical College)

Judges

The panel comprised distinguished faculty and experts including:

S.No	Judges Name	Institution
1.	Dr. Katrina Ronis	Health Services Academy
2.	Prof. Dr. Tahira Sadiq	Bahria University
3.	Prof. Dr. Junaid Sarfraz Khan	Health Services Academy
4.	Prof. Dr. Naila Azam	Foundation University
5.	Dr. Mariyam Sarfraz	Health Services Academy
6.	Prof. Dr. Rukhsana Khan	Fazaia Medical College
7.	Prof. Dr. Shujat Hasan Idris	Shifa College of Dentistry
8.	Dr. Saira Akhlaq	SSHPE

9.	Dr. Jawad Hassan	Shifa International Hospital
10.	Dr. Muhammad Furrukh	Shifa International Hospital
11.	Dr. Gulshan Ara Saeed	Shifa College of Medicine
12.	Prof. Dr. Fahad Azam	Shifa College of Dentistry
13.	Prof. Dr. Khurram Irshad Qureshi	Shifa College of Dentistry
14.	Prof. Dr. Sumreena Mansoor	Shifa College of Medicine
15.	Dr. Syed Usman Hamdani	GIHD
16.	Prof. Dr. Maimoona Siddiqui	Shifa International Hospitals
17.	Dr. Naheed Gul	Shifa College of Medicine

Mentors Hi Tea

After the presentations, the students were given a chance to mingle with the judges and Mentors of the event and gain valuable insights and guidance from the leading experts of the medical and dental fields

Pre Scholars Day Workshops

A series of Pre and Post Scholars Day workshops were carried out by READ student led society

1**. Honey Bee Model of Research** by Dr. Mowadat Rana
2. **Clinical Trials**: An introduction for Medical students by Dr, Saima Pervaiz
3. **Navigating Qualitative Research; A step by step approach** by Dr. Ikhlaq Ahmed and Dr Umme Kulsoom Khattak
4. **Advancing Research through AI and Digital Tools** by Dr. Fahad Azam

READ

Shifa student led society READ was instrumental in running a successful social media campaign and attracting sponsorships. READ played a pivotal role in networking by recruiting Ambassadors in other medical and dental colleges which helped increase the participation of their respective colleges in the event.

Students Committees

The department of Community Medicine and Public Health is proud of the exemplary coordination and logistics arrangements done by Shifa students through various student committees. The core Technical committee was successful in empowering the Shifa students for future leadership roles as per the mission of the department

Sponsors

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of our sponsors towards refreshments for the participating students, Judges, Mentors and Shifa support staff.

- Transworld Home
- Crusteez Donuts
- Khulasa: Flavours Beyond Culture
- Cheese Stick Korean Food

Conclusion

The success of the 14th Annual Shifa Scholars Day reaffirms Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University's vision for fostering a research-driven academic environment. The outstanding participation and enthusiasm reflect the growing culture of inquiry, collaboration, and innovation among our students.

Reflection

With a view to embrace feedback as a catalyst for growth and chart a course for ongoing improvement; the department of Community Medicine and Public Health sent feedback forms to the esteemed judges, SCM faculty and participating students. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and these valuable insights and lessons learned will be taken into consideration in coming years

(See Annexure A for the summary feedback report).

Annexure A: Report on feedback from 14th Annual Scholars Day- 2025

The results from feedback of presenters, judges and faculty indicate a highly successful event that effectively showcased student research, inspired professional learning, and provided valuable insights. It has been an inclusive, engaging, and community-building experience for all participants. With small strategic enhancements, future iterations can build on this strong foundation and push overall excellence even further.

The data consistently reflects high satisfaction across all dimensions, showing a well-received and impactful event.

Feedback	Optimization Plan
Event plan and checklist	
• The inclusion of faculty from departments beyond Community Medicine was a new and welcome addition to the event • Another key development in event planning was the introduction of a structured checklist with designated committees and defined timelines	The new inclusive and structured approach can be sustained and refined, leading to smoother coordination, greater faculty engagement, and improved outcomes for future events.
Poster presentations	
78.78% of participants reported enhanced understanding and also recognized the real-world relevance of the research presented.	Continue curating presentations around cutting-edge and diverse research areas
A strong majority (71.43%) of respondents rated presenters' understanding and clarity	Introduce a segment for presenters to highlight practical takeaways.

Suggestions: • Posters were not arranged in sequence and themes were mixed, making it difficult to evaluate them accurately and making original work receive disproportionately high scores. • Participation should be limited to original research, as meta-analyses often appear more impressive and may overshadow the efforts and impact of original research studies. (highlighted in faculty forum meeting and a judge)	• Each of the three domains had distinct categories with separate winners, so the results remained unaffected. • To ensure consistency in evaluation, judges should be thoroughly briefed in advance • Provide judges with tailored rubrics for each research type, emphasizing novelty, methodology, and contribution to knowledge.

Oral presentations

68.18% of attendees found the research highly relevant and addressing current gaps	Maintain practice
71.43% of respondents reported gaining useful ideas for their own work.	
The variety in styles and ideas is enriching, supporting presenters through structured preparation, clear expectations, and communication training can help maintain a high standard and make the learning experience even more effective and accessible for all participants	
Lack of a standardized presentation format	• Develop and disseminate a clear presentation template in advance (e.g., PowerPoint layout, font size, time limits, content structure). • Include formatting guidelines in the abstract booklet and event briefing emails. • Conduct a short orientation session or circulate a sample presentation for reference. •
Ethical clearance not specified in research presentations	• Make it mandatory for all research submissions to include a statement on ethical approval in their abstracts and presentations. • Clearly communicate this requirement during the call for abstracts •
Quality of research presented	• Share judging rubrics and expectations with participants ahead of time

	• Offer remedial workshops on research design and academic writing.

Media coverage and marketing

Live media coverage	Intimate/email a week prior to the event
Marketing of the event via official social media	It was student led this time but STMU social media should be used for next time

Abstract book

The abstract book should be made available online before the event	Noted

Abstract publication

Publication of supplementary issue for the submitted abstracts	• The Scholars Day team has expressed concerns regarding ethical issues. • The quality of research cannot be guaranteed due to lack of supervision by the designated team. • If the responsibility is undertaken, it may impose a significant mental and physical burden on the faculty

Mentoring and feedback from judges on presentations

Nearly 73% of respondents rated judges feedback as useful and actionable	• Continue engaging knowledgeable and experienced mentors. • Provide mentors with brief guidelines or orientation to align on expectations • Ensure diverse, external judging panels and anonymize projects where feasible. •
60% of respondents rated the information shared by mentors as valuable	Collect pre-event input on participant interests and tailor session tracks accordingly

51.66% rated the time/format as effective (score 4 or 5), suggesting format issues may be a barrier.	Match mentors to mentees based on specific research interests to enhance relevance
Organize a separate tea session for the judges to foster interaction among them.	• When sending out the invitations, judges should be inquired about their interest in mentoring the students. • Separate mentors, apart from the judges, should be arranged for the Scholars Day event.
Lack of time to interact with judges' post-presentation	• Allocate dedicated Q&A or feedback sessions after each presentation segment or at the end of the event. Set up "Meet the Judges" sessions (informal tea/discussion rounds) after presentations.
Participants unable to seek clarification on judges' comments or scores	• Use written feedback forms from judges to be shared with presenters. Create a follow-up email option for questions.
Controversy around final results or judgment decisions	Organize a briefing or calibration session for judges to align understanding and application of the rubric.
Refreshments and hi-tea	
54.79% rated refreshments as excellent (score 5), showing high overall satisfaction.	Continue offering a diverse selection that caters to various dietary needs
51.35% rated the timing as ideal (score 5), showing that most breaks were well-scheduled.	• Maintain current break scheduling structure as baseline. • Ensure session moderators adhere to timing strictly
Networking	
50% of respondents rated networking opportunities 4 or 5, showing a solid foundation.	

56.66% rated 4 or 5, indicating many participants successfully connected with relevant individuals.	
59.72% found the event format helpful (score 4 or 5), showing that timing and structure partially supported interaction.	
58.97% felt more connected after attending (scores 4 or 5), reflecting positive but improvable engagement	Invite returning participants as peer mentors.

Pre-scholars day workshops

Topics covered were beneficial and equipped participants with necessary skills	Conduct a pre-workshop needs assessment to tailor topics to participant expectations and backgrounds.
Lack of awareness about a pre-event workshop	- Send clear, timely communication through multiple channels (email, WhatsApp, social media etc.) - Require RSVP for workshops and record sessions for later access. - Improve promotion through official channels, class reps, and reminders.

Suggestions for improvement from participants

Integration of high achievers into Scholars Day, which was intended only for Shifa College students	Using separate platforms tailored to each purpose.
Sponsors secured for the first time.	Improve engagement with sponsors and start earlier to secure support.