

Monthly

UHS NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES LAHORE



February 2026



103 UHS students receive laptops

Centre for Faculty Excellence inaugurated to strengthen teaching and research culture

Feb 27: As many as 103 students of the University of Health Sciences (UHS) were awarded laptops under Phase IV of the Prime Minister's Youth Laptop Scheme at a ceremony held on campus. Provincial Minister for Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education Khawaja Salman Rafique attended the event as chief guest and inaugurated the "Prof Ahsan Waheed Rathore Centre for Faculty Excellence". Addressing the ceremony, the minister congratulated the students who secured laptops on merit, saying their achievement reflected dedication and discipline. "In today's world, a laptop is not a luxury but a basic academic need," he said, adding that digital access

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Top News

Punjab launches large-scale emergency care training for nurses

UHS, Robert Gordon University explore academic, research collaboration

UHS Syndicate approves student councils



Pediatric Surgery Council reviews MS curriculum; calls for stronger ethics and clinical skills

Feb 11: The Discipline Specific Faculty Council for Pediatric Surgery at the University of Health Sciences reviewed the MS Pediatric Surgery curriculum, with faculty urging stronger research ethics, better communication skills and closer coordination among affiliated institutions.

Prof Dr Nabila Talat, Dean Faculty of Surgery at The University of Child Health Sciences, The Children's Hospital Lahore, spoke on soft skills, stressing communication, empathy, ethical decision-making and teamwork. Prof Dr Muhammad Saleem of Akhtar Saeed Medical College discussed research integrity and misconduct, calling for robust ethical review systems.

Dr Burhan Ayub and Dr Maiha Nadeem presented on thyroid malignancy, while Dr Jamaal Butt and Dr Moeezah discussed post-operative complications in Hirschsprung Disease.

A panel reviewed curriculum updates in line with global standards. Prof Dr Ahsan Waheed Rathore reaffirmed UHS commitment to stronger postgraduate training, research culture, digital learning and transparent assessment.



Farkhanda elected UHS BoG chairperson

Feb 25: The newly constituted Board of Governors of the University of Health Sciences elected former senior bureaucrat Farkhanda Wasim Afzal as chairperson at its 63rd meeting. She will head the seventh BoG. A Grade 22 retiree and former Director General of the Civil Services Academy, she holds degrees from University of the Punjab and University of Cambridge. She earlier served as secretary Services and Cooperatives and as provincial ombudsperson. The meeting was attended by Justice (ret'd) Sheikh Ahmad Farooq, Ms Shahnaz Sardar, Prof Dr Saeed Shafqat, Capt (ret'd) Zahid Saeed, Prof Ahsan Waheed Rathore, Prof Dr Nadia Naseem, Registrar Kiran Fatima and Treasurer Mujahid Iqbal. Prof Dr Nadia Naseem briefed the board on the university's administrative and academic affairs. Members expressed their resolve to work together for the university's sustained progress and stability.





UHS Syndicate approves student councils

Feb 18: The 95th meeting of the Syndicate of the University of Health Sciences approved the formation of on-campus Students' Councils and hostel representative committees to address student issues and improve academic engagement.

Chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof Ahsan Waheed Rathore, the meeting was attended by senior faculty members and representatives of the Punjab health and finance departments. The Students' Councils will be non-political and advisory, dealing only with academic, co-curricular and welfare matters. Each council will include at least 20 students from all classes and disciplines, with one-year tenure. A senior faculty member will act as president. Councils will submit documented concerns to the administration and coordinate welfare initiatives.

Separate hostel committees for male and female residents were also approved to oversee cleanliness, mess, security and complaints under the chief wardens.

The Syndicate endorsed a digital Examiners' Appointment and Bills Management System to replace manual processing, allowing real-time tracking of appointments and payments.

171 receive degrees at Ameer ud Din Medical College Convocation

Feb 17: Degrees were awarded to 171 graduates at the 6th Convocation of Ameer ud Din Medical College Lahore, attended by UHS Controller of Examinations Dr Muhammad Abbas.

The ceremony was presided over by Punjab Minister for Specialised Healthcare and



Medical Education Khawaja Salman Rafique and hosted by Principal Prof Farooq Afzal. A total of 106 MBBS graduates from the 2019–2024 batch received degrees, including 29 medalists for academic performance. In addition, 65 postgraduate students were awarded degrees.



UHS faculty call for accurate CKD classification, standardised protocols

Feb 16: The second session of the Discipline Specific Faculty Council for Internal Medicine at the University of Health Sciences called for greater diagnostic accuracy, urging that chronic kidney disease be regarded as an outcome rather than a primary diagnosis.

Hosted academically by Services Institute of Medical Sciences, the meeting brought together senior faculty including Prof Dr Tahir Siddique, Dr Asma Kamal, Dr Javaid Iqbal and Dr Kiffayat Ullah Malik to review academic standards and clinical training priorities. Citing a case in which IgA nephropathy was mislabeled as CKD, participants stressed early detection, identification of underlying causes and multidisciplinary care to improve outcomes and accuracy in diagnosis.

The council also reviewed a preparatory course for IMM graduates seeking admission to MD Internal Medicine programmes, focusing on clinical competence, diagnostic reasoning and evidence-based decision making.

UHS Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Nadia Naseem invited faculty input for upcoming alumni conference workshops. Members agreed to draft recommendations for standardised CKD management protocols in the next phase.

Anaesthesiologists urge competency-based training and strict clinical protocols

Feb 23: Speakers at the third session of the DSFC Anaesthesia forum at the University of Health Sciences called for competency-based postgraduate training, regular clinical audits and strict adherence to standard operating procedures to strengthen patient safety and professional standards. The session was hosted by Services Institute of Medical Sciences and Services Hospital Lahore.

UHS Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Nadia Naseem described the forum as a platform for clinical development, curriculum improvement and research collaboration.

Prof Dr Liaqat Ali stressed competency-based training and workplace-based assessments to evaluate skills in real settings. Dr Samina Ashraf presented a clinical audit of preoperative investigations, urging compliance with evidence-based guidelines and avoidance of unnecessary tests.



Dr Minahil Zaman outlined SOPs for key anaesthesia procedures, emphasizing patient preparation, consent, aseptic measures and monitoring.

Participants recommended wider adoption of workplace-based assessments, routine audits and strict observance of SOPs. Vice Chancellor Prof Ahsan Waheed Rathore highlighted the forum's role in harmonizing teaching standards across affiliated colleges.



UHS, RGU Move Towards Formal Academic Partnership

LAHORE/ISLAMABAD, Feb 2-4: The University of Health Sciences and Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, have moved closer to formalising academic and research collaboration following engagements in Islamabad and a subsequent visit to Lahore.

On the sidelines of the RGU Connect 2026 showcase in Islamabad, UHS Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof Nadia Naseem met RGU Vice-Chancellor Steve Olivier and Prof Julie Jones, Dean of the School of Health Sciences. British High Commissioner Jane Marriott also attended and encouraged stronger UK-Pakistan cooperation in medicine, health sciences and artificial intelligence-based academic programmes. Discussions covered

student and faculty exchanges, joint summer schools, postgraduate scholarships, collaborative master's programmes and joint PhD degrees in nursing.

In a follow-up visit to UHS Lahore, the RGU delegation comprising Prof Julie Jones, Associate Dean for Economic, Social and Community Engagement at the School of Health, and Verda Munir, Lecturer in the School of Computing specializing in 3D scanning, photogrammetry and augmented reality, held detailed talks with Vice Chancellor Prof Ahsan Waheed Rathore and senior faculty.

Both sides explored joint research in public health, maternal and child health, communicable and non-communicable diseases, digital medicine, bioinformatics and clinical sciences. Proposals also included co-supervised research, virtual learning sessions and joint seminars, with agreement to work towards a structured partnership framework.





VC urges research depth, discipline at UHS postgraduate orientation

Feb 12: UHS Vice Chancellor Prof Ahsan Waheed Rathore has called upon newly admitted postgraduate students to pursue depth of knowledge and complete their degrees within the minimum permissible time, stressing that there were no shortcuts to success.

Addressing students enrolled in MPhil and Master degree programmes for the 2025-26 session, the VC said the university had introduced a three-month zero semester focused on hands-on training to strengthen research skills and academic grounding at the outset.

He told the students that consistent effort and discipline would define their academic journey. He announced that he would hold monthly review meetings with postgraduate scholars to monitor progress and address academic issues directly. Director Postgraduate Studies Prof Asif Naveed briefed the participants on postgraduate regulations and explained the structure and objectives of the zero semester. Controller of Examinations Dr Muhammad Abbas outlined assessment procedures and examination regulations, guiding students on compliance and evaluation standards.

The interactive session concluded with a question-and-answer segment in which students sought clarification on coursework, research timelines and assessment mechanisms.

Fourth professional MBBS result declared; over 92pc pass rate

Feb 3: The University of Health Sciences (UHS) announced the result of the Fourth Professional MBBS annual examinations, recording an overall pass rate of 92.03 per cent. The results were issued just three days after the conclusion of practical examinations, reflecting swift completion of the assessment process.

A total of 5,212 candidates from 43 medical colleges across Punjab appeared in the examinations. Of these, 4,795 students were declared successful, while 415 failed.



Syed Moiz-ul-Haq Bukhari of Sheikh Zayed Medical College Rahim Yar Khan secured first position with 924 marks out of 1,000. Tabinda Afzal of DG Khan Medical College stood second with 899 marks, followed by Saqlain Imdaad of Ameer-ud-Din Medical College Lahore, who obtained 898 marks to claim third position. The university administration congratulated the successful students and extended best wishes for their future.





Admissions

Programs Offered:

Diploma in Medical Writing & Journalism (Dip-MWJ) – Batch I

Certificate in Medical Editing (CME) – Batch VIII

Certificate in Medical Journalism for Editors (CMJE) – Batch IV

**Last date to apply:
18 March 2026**



UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES LAHORE



ADMISSIONS

DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL WRITING & JOURNALISM (Dip-MWJ) - BATCH I
CERTIFICATE IN MEDICAL EDITING (CME) - BATCH VIII
CERTIFICATE IN MEDICAL JOURNALISM FOR EDITORS (CMJE) - BATCH IV

Dip-MWJ

- The course shall be of one year and three months with three modules: Module- I (CME – 06 months), Module- II (CMJE – 06 months) and Module-III (Research Report – 03 months).
- There shall be four (04) contact sessions during the first year. Each contact session shall be of four (04) days duration (09:00 AM to 05:00 PM).

EXITS FOR Dip-MWJ

Module- I- (1st exit point = Certificate in Medical Editing – Portfolio and viva exam)
Module II – (2nd exit point = Certificate in Medical Journalism for Editors – Portfolio and viva exam)

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

CME & Dip-MWJ	MBBS/BDS or graduate in Allied Health Sciences, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Health Informatics etc. Preference shall be given to the candidates already attached with a medical/health sciences journal as editors, assistant editors, managing editors, reviewers, editorial board members etc. Those having publications will also be preferred.
CMJE	Only those candidates are eligible who have successfully completed six-month Certificate in Medical Editing (CME) course and are actively attached with a medical/health sciences journal as editors, assistant editors, managing editors, editorial board members etc.

Course Fee (Including Examination Fee)

Rs.60,000/- for CME
Rs.90,000/- for CMJE
Rs. 170,000/- for Dip-MWJ } To be deposited at the start of the course.

HOW TO APPLY

- Visit the UHS Online Admission Portal for Postgraduate Programs at www.uhs.edu.pk.
- Create an account by entering your full name, father's/guardian's name, email, mobile number, and password.
- Select your desired program (Dip-MWJ, CME, CMJE).
- Fill in personal details (name, domicile, contact info, address, nationality, gender, date of birth).
- Enter academic qualifications with marks, year of passing, and awarding university.
- Upload scanned copies of all required documents (max 2 MB each).
- Read and acknowledge the Undertaking before submission.
- Submit the application online. A confirmation email will be sent — download and print both the application and bank challan.
- Deposit the non-refundable admission fee of **Rs.2,000/-** at any Bank of Punjab branch or via 1Bill online banking. The process is complete only after fee payment.

Contact sessions for both CME & CMJE shall commence from the **3rd week of April 2026**.

LAST DATE TO APPLY Wednesday, 18th March, 2026

REGISTRAR

University of Health Sciences,
Khayaban-e-Jamia Punjab, Lahore-54600
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Punjab launches large-scale emergency care training for nurses

UHS initiative to equip 15,000 nursing students each year with life-saving skills

Feb 10: Punjab's emergency care system is set to see a broad shift as the University of Health Sciences begins training 15,000 nursing students every year in core life-saving skills, marking what the provincial government calls a new phase in emergency healthcare preparedness. Speaking at the inauguration of capacity-building workshops for nursing faculty at the UHS Jinnah Campus, Punjab Minister for Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education Khawaja Salman Rafique said the programme went beyond routine training and reflected a collective resolve to save lives. He described the initiative as the opening of a new chapter in emergency care across the province.

"We are one family, and that family is Pakistan and humanity," the minister said, praising UHS for launching the programme with clear professional vision and careful planning. He said nurses had continued to deliver exemplary services even in difficult circumstances and deserved recognition on par with doctors. Commending the health sector reforms under Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, he assured full government support for UHS initiatives.

Mr Rafique also paid tribute to the leadership of Vice Chancellor Prof Ahsan Waheed Rathore, saying he had worked with several vice chancellors but had rarely seen such strict adherence to merit. Referring to the conduct of the Medical and Dental College Admission Test, he said the manner in which MDCAT was held under Prof Rathore's supervision left no room for doubt or criticism. The minister said around 8,000 final-year MBBS students had already been trained in six essential emergency skills, including basic and advanced life support, first trauma response, neonatal and

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Students receive laptops.....

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connected students to research journals, online libraries and global learning platforms.

He thanked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for expanding youth-focused initiatives across the country and said the scheme was ensuring equal opportunity for students nationwide. Referring to provincial measures, he said Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz was continuing student support programmes, including the provincial laptop scheme and Honhaar scholarships.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Centre for Faculty Excellence, Vice Chancellor Prof Ahsan Waheed Rathore said the initiative marked “an institutional commitment to strengthening the intellectual foundations of medical education”. “We are not merely opening a new facility, we are reinforcing a culture where faculty development, disciplined scholarship and academic leadership remain central to institutional progress,” he said. He added that medical education was transformed not by infrastructure alone but by empowered teachers. “When teachers grow, institutions rise, and when institutions rise, healthcare outcomes improve,” he remarked, noting that the centre would serve as a hub for faculty development, research collaboration and innovation across affiliated colleges in Punjab.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Nadia Naseem said the centre aimed to provide an environment for academic dialogue and scientific inquiry, enabling faculty to refine teaching practices and strengthen research capacity.

Fahad Shehbaz, Coordinator of the Prime Minister’s Youth Programme in Punjab, said the government’s youth initiatives were designed to remove financial and digital barriers that hinder talented students. He added that the laptop scheme, scholarships and skill development programmes reflected a long-term strategy to prepare young Pakistanis for a competitive global environment.

Members of the Prime Minister’s National Youth Council, faculty and a large number of students attended the ceremony.

Punjab launches.....

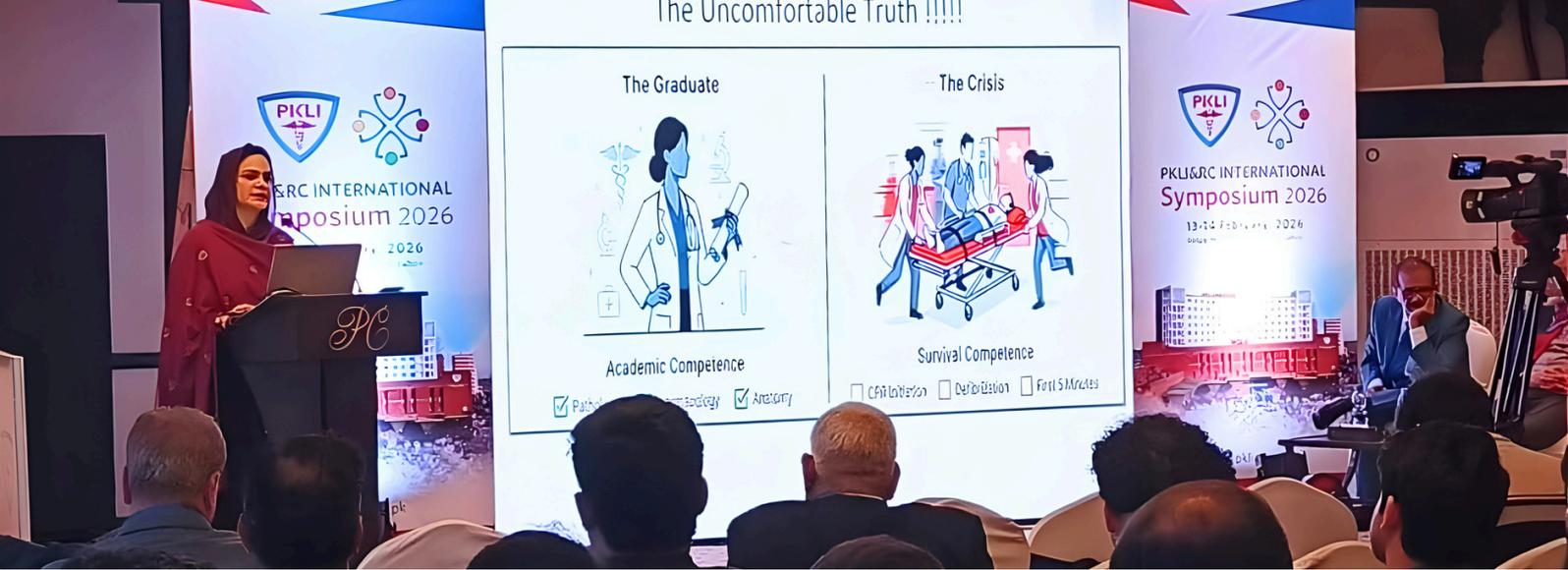
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obstetric resuscitation, and emergency triage assessment and management. He added that 1,000 medical faculty members had been prepared as master trainers, while the next phase would focus on training 1,200 nursing teachers who would pass these skills on to students in public and private institutions across Punjab.

UHS VC Prof Rathore said that after completing medical faculty training, the university had now formally launched the nursing faculty component. Under the programme, teachers from 86 nursing colleges would train more than 15,000 students annually in emergency life-saving skills, ensuring that every graduate could respond effectively in critical situations. He said trained faculty members would be certified instructors and added that, going forward, no health student in Punjab would be awarded a degree without passing an assessment in the six mandatory emergency skills. Former health adviser Dr Saeed Elahi described nurses as the backbone of the healthcare system and credited the UHS leadership and its team for prioritising their professional development. Secretary Emergency Services Punjab Dr Rizwan Naseer pointed to UHS collaborations with international partners to strengthen emergency care education.

UHS Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Nadia Naseem said more than 25,000 students from public and private nursing institutions would benefit directly from the programme. She noted that faculty members from dozens of medical colleges had already been trained as master trainers, who had subsequently trained final-year MBBS students in emergency response skills.

Earlier, the provincial minister visited the UHS Professional Skills Development Centre, interacted with trainee faculty members, and lauded the university’s efforts. A special message by the vice chancellor titled “Nursing: A Trust of Life” was also presented and received warm appreciation from participants.



Early emergency training to students is no more 'optional', says UHS Pro-VC

Feb 13: Calling for a shift in how Pakistan prepares its healthcare workforce for emergencies, University of Health Sciences (UHS) Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Nadia Naseem on Friday urged the mandatory integration of life-saving skills into mainstream education, saying preparedness was “a moral and institutional obligation, not an operational expense.”

She was addressing the PKLI&RC International Symposium 2026, where she presented her talk titled “From Classroom to Crises: Reimagining Undergraduate Health Education.”

Framing her address around a pressing national question – whether early, standardised training could transform the “Golden Hour” response to emergency crises in Pakistan – Prof Naseem drew on national and international data to highlight a troubling gap between knowledge and practice. She said that while doctors, dentists, nurses, pharmacists and allied health professionals often achieved high theoretical scores, their practical competence in resuscitation and disaster triage remained alarmingly low. Pre-test evaluations conducted across major cities, she noted, consistently revealed fail-level readiness for mass casualty incidents.

“The evidence shows that experience alone does not ensure emergency competence,” she said, adding that without regular reinforcement, CPR

knowledge and psychomotor skills decline rapidly. Referring to the American Heart Association’s 2025 guidelines, Prof Naseem stressed the need to embed emergency skills training into the standard school curriculum for students aged 13 to 18, describing it as the prime learning window to build a culture of response before professional education begins.

She maintained that voluntary workshops were not enough. Instead, she advocated structured and repeated exposure to emergency scenarios through simulation-based learning and smart digital tools as the only sustainable way to bridge the skills gap.

Highlighting UHS’s ongoing efforts, she said the university, through its Professional Skill Development Centre and Institute of Learning Emergency Medicine (ILEM), had already trained over 65,000 healthcare professionals across Punjab.

She added that UHS had launched what she described as a first-of-its-kind initiative in Pakistan by developing a provincial healthcare emergency task force of more than 25,000 professionals through standardised training and certification pathways. The programme includes quality assurance mechanisms in collaboration with the National Ambulance Service Ireland and links emergency competency with the award of undergraduate degrees.

Prof Naseem concluded by saying that strengthening the country’s emergency response capacity must begin long before a crisis unfolds. “Preparedness,” she said, “is not optional.”



UHS rolls out nutrition-focused reforms

Mandates nutrition societies and faculty councils across colleges

Feb 16: The University of Health Sciences has introduced nutrition-focused reforms across health sciences curricula to strengthen preventive healthcare in Punjab. The initiative was reviewed at a meeting chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof Ahsan Waheed Rathore.

The reforms go beyond classroom teaching. All affiliated colleges will set up Nutrition Societies to raise student awareness, while a Clinical Nutrition Faculty Council will oversee curriculum review and research integration. The meeting was attended by Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Nadia Naseem, Prof Zohra Khanum, Principal of Services Institute of Medical Sciences, Prof Junaid Rashid, Pro-VC of the University of Child Health Sciences, and faculty from public health, nutrition and family medicine. Developed with UNICEF Pakistan, the plan embeds structured nutrition competencies into MBBS and postgraduate programmes so future doctors can assess nutritional status, detect deficiencies early and provide preventive dietary counselling. The participants also reviewed a certification course in family medicine for general practitioners to improve maternal and child health services at primary level, and plans to establish a geriatric clinic at Services Institute of Medical Sciences focusing on nutrition-related decline in older adults. Prof Rathore said doctors must be trained to respond to gaps in national health data, particularly concerning elderly nutrition and adolescent girls.

Kashmir Solidarity Day observed

Kashmir Solidarity Day was observed at the Jinnah Campus, Kala Shah Kaku, of the University of Health Sciences on February 5, 2026. The event, organised by the Department of Pharmacy, expressed solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir and reaffirmed support for their right to self-determination. Faculty and students attended the programme, where speakers highlighted the historical background of the Kashmir issue, ongoing humanitarian concerns, and the need for a



peaceful resolution in line with international principles. They stressed unity, awareness and the responsibility of youth in raising informed voices.

Head of the Department of Pharmacy, Prof Haji Muhammad Shoaib Khan, said the day served as a reminder of the continued struggle of the Kashmiri people and noted that academic institutions should promote dialogue and peaceful expression on humanitarian issues.



UHS, Astana Medical University seal academic pact ahead of Kazakh president's visit

Feb 2: In a move reflecting deepening academic and diplomatic ties between Pakistan and Kazakhstan, the University of Health Sciences (UHS) Lahore and Astana Medical University signed a memorandum of understanding to promote joint research, faculty exchange and professional training in healthcare disciplines.

The agreement was signed at the Allama Iqbal Open University Islamabad in the presence of Mr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, and H.E. Sayasat Nurbek, Kazakhstan's Minister of Science and Higher Education. The MoU was signed on behalf of UHS by Pro Vice Chancellor Nadia Naseem, while A.A. Turmukhambetova, Chairman of the Board and Rector of Astana Medical University, represented the Kazakh side. Astana Medical University's Vice Rector Ayan Myssayev was also present. The agreement was concluded on the eve of the official visit of Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, who is scheduled to arrive in Pakistan from Feb 3 to 4 with a high-level delegation. During his visit, he is expected to

meet his Pakistani counterpart, hold talks with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and address the Pakistan-Kazakhstan Business Forum.

Under the five-year MoU, the two universities will cooperate in joint scientific research, development of innovative healthcare technologies, exchange of faculty and students, and organisation of conferences, seminars and training programmes. The agreement also provides for collaborative publications, professional development of healthcare personnel and sharing of academic resources.

Officials said the partnership would help strengthen research capacity in medicine, pharmacy and nursing, while opening new opportunities for students and researchers in both countries.

The MoU does not carry immediate financial or legal obligations and will be implemented through separate project-based agreements. It is renewable automatically and includes provisions for confidentiality and amicable resolution of disputes.

UHS VC, Prof. Ahsan Waheed Rathore, see the accord as part of wider efforts to expand educational and scientific cooperation between Pakistan and Kazakhstan, in parallel with growing political and economic engagement between the two countries.

