



COVID-19 Infection in Pakistan SIUT at the frontline of pandemic

In December 2019, Wuhan city in China reported several cases of pneumonia of unknown origin. This pathogen was identified as a novel enveloped RNA beta-coronavirus and was subsequently named severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV2). The World Health Organization (WHO) named the 2019 Pneumonia Coronavirus Disease as COVID-19 and declared an International Emergency to combat this virus. The first case of COVID-19 was identified in Pakistan on Feb 26, 2020 and majority of the initial positive cases were pilgrims from Iran and Saudi Arabia. Till 31st July 2020 Pakistan reported 279146 confirmed cases, 5970 deaths and 248027 recoveries. The death rate at this stage was 2.1% and recovery rate of 88.9%. Karachi the largest city of Pakistan had 86786 confirmed cases with 1844 deaths.

In view of the COVID-19 emergency and high risk of infections in our patient population on March 21st 2020 a dedicated Corona Outpatient Clinic and admission facilities were established for COVID-19 cases. Furthermore, these free services were extended to general public due to paucity of such facilities in the government sector and high cost in private sector, viral test COVID-19 test Rs. 8,000, admission charges per day Rs. 36,800.

Till end of July SIUT had screened 10,695 patients, 10113 were tested for COVID-19 by RT-PCR and 3616 patient were positive. A positivity rate of 35.76%. SIUT established an Isolation ward, High dependency

What does it mean to be immunocompromised during COVID-19?

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It means that a patient's defence mechanism is weakened due to a disease or medication, and this makes them even more susceptible to contracting COVID-19.

SIUT treats over 16,000 patients that are immunocompromised, and there has been a surge of COVID-19 infections among patients who are undergoing dialysis or post-transplant and cancer treatment is ascending on a daily basis.

SIUT is the only medical institution in Pakistan that has the expertise and capability to treat such high-risk patients. Patients who cannot afford the treatment, they need to survive. We continue to provide the best treatment to Patients – free with dignity.



SIUT has become the largest COVID treatment centre for immunocompromised patients in the country.

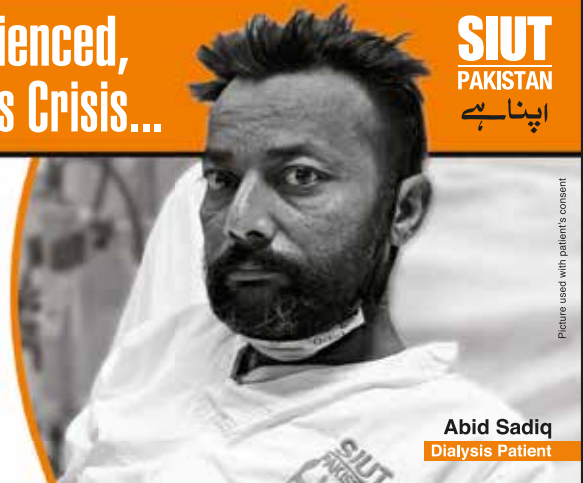
Despite The Setbacks We Have Experienced, SIUT Continues To Combat The Coronavirus Crisis...



Since the COVID-19 pandemic took root in Pakistan in March, SIUT has:

- Successfully treated over 3,616 COVID-19 patients.
- Conducted over 10,113 COVID-19 tests.
- Collaborated with the Government of Sindh, the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) and the Pakistan Society of Critical Care Medicine to bring on board public and private hospitals to treat COVID-19 patients. Thanks to our joint efforts, the number of hospitals providing COVID-19 treatment in Sindh has increased by eight times: from 4 to 33.
- Treated the highest number of immunocompromised COVID-19 patients in Pakistan.

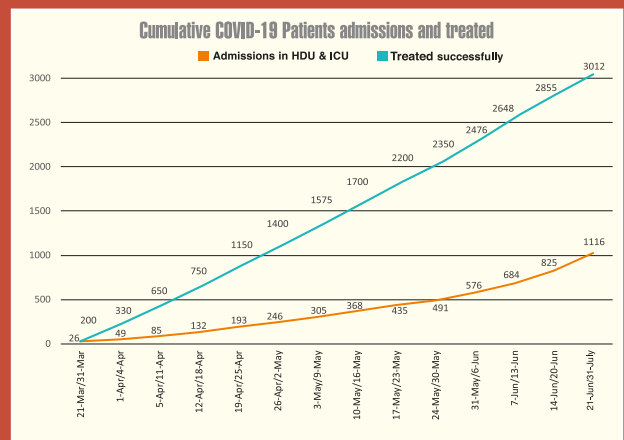
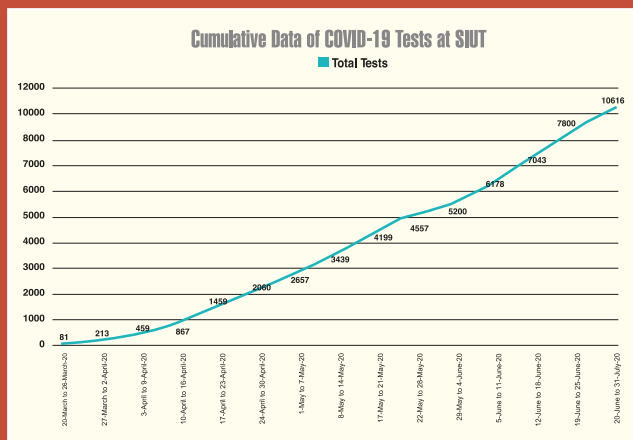
Over the course of the last four months, 102 of our frontline professionals have contracted COVID-19, and one of our colleagues, Nurse Ambreen, succumbed to the disease. Yet, these setbacks have not deterred us from providing our patients with quality treatment – free-of-cost and with dignity.



Abid Sadiq
Dialysis Patient

Picture used with patient's consent

SIUT's response in Coronavirus Pandemic



unit and Intensive care unit for the COVID-19 positive cases. Till end July 1116 patients were admitted in SIUT, 922 (83%) were discharged. Overall death rate of admitted patients was 17%. Overall death rate in positive cases was 5%. Majority of the patients admitted had co-morbid conditions, renal failure, renal transplant recipients and cancer patients. ■

Our Heroes

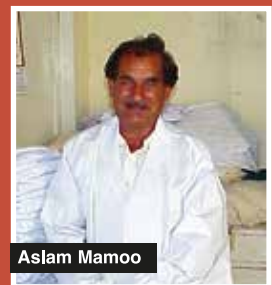
SIUT has also paid a heavy price in human capital. One of our frontline worker staff nurse Ambreen lost her life treating patients performing beyond the call of duty.

Another support staff Mr Aslam who was on dialysis and died of COVID infection, Aslam worked as a nurse aid.

We salute our frontline warriors who have given personal sacrifices to save the lives of patients so that they could live. ■



Ambreen Khalid



Aslam Mamoo



Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation

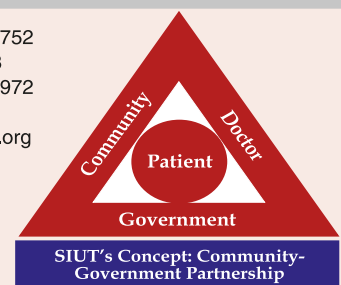
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This **NEWSLETTER** is a quarterly publication. For further information and correspondence please contact the Editor at Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT), Dewan Farooq Medical Complex, Chand Bibi Road, Karachi.

Tel: (92-21) 9921-5752 and 9921-5718
Fax: (92-21) 9921-6972
e-mail: info@siut.org
website: http://www.siut.org



Obituary

Acquired his primary education from St. Francis Grammar School, Quetta and St. Patrick's High School, Karachi. He then completed his MBBS from Liaquat Medical College, Hyderabad in 1972.

After acquiring his MBBS, Dr. Soomro was conscripted into the Pakistan Army where he worked as a Regimental Medical Officer from December, 1972 to April, 1974. He later served as a Residential Medical Officer in General Surgery and Orthopaedics at PNS Shifa Hospital, Karachi from May, 1974 to March, 1975. After being relieved from the army he joined Dow Medical College, Karachi as Demonstrator in Anatomy.

In February, 1976 Dr. Soomro travelled to the United Kingdom to pursue his higher education and training in the fields of Surgery and Orthopaedics.

At the end of his training he received the prestigious degree of FRCS from Glasgow, Scotland.

Dr. Soomro returned to Pakistan in May, 1984 and joined Dow Medical College, Karachi as Assistant Professor of Orthopaedics.

He retired as Professor and Head of the Department of Orthopaedics in 2007.

Dr. Soomro has received both national and international awards for his contribution and service to the field of medicine.

The most notable is the President award of Tamgha-e-Imtiaz, which he has received twice. First in 2004 by President Pervaiz Musharraf and later in 2012 by



Dr. Yunus Soomro

President Asif Ali Zardari for the introduction of Russian technology of Ilizarov for correction of deformities and limb length discrepancy.

During his career, Dr. Soomro has been published in several national and international journals and has organized numerous workshops all over Pakistan to train young doctors especially in the Russian technology of Ilizarov of Surgery.

In 2013, Dr. Yunus Soomro was inducted as Federal Minister for Housing, Works and CAD in the Interim Government of Prime Minister Hazar Khan Khoso. ■

SIUT'S INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES FOR COVID-19

The decision to treat COVID-19 patients required not only medical equipment but also large quantities of personal protective equipment (PPE). Daily consumption of PPE exceeded >5000/day. The costs of Corona Dress in the market was Rs. 325, disposable face shields Rs. 35 and Isolation Gown Rs. 125. SIUT decided to prepare these in-house. Our carpenter shop started making Face Shields. SIUT purchased material in bulk and 4 tailors were hired to make corona dress and gowns round the clock. The supply never ran out and all these were made at 1/10 the cost in the market.



Thank you to our supporters

First and foremost the Government of Sindh and the Chief Minister Operation Center, for COVID-19, I.I. Depot, Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) for providing us PCR testing Kits for COVID-19, 15 ventilators, 25 patient monitors, 20 beds, essential PPEs and all other disposables for safety of our staff and care of our patients. The costs must run into many crore rupees. Increasing demands for the PPEs made us engage the community and our donors who helped us by purchasing ventilators, patient monitors and PPEs worth Rs. 5 Crore. ■



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Resource Generation and Outreach (RGO) Department

Ground Floor, Dewan Farooq Medical Centre (DFMC),
Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT),
Sardar Yaqoob Ali Khan Road, Near Civil Hospital, Karachi.

• SIUT accounts are audited by
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For further information please contact us on
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Head Office (Houston):

Contact person:
Dr. Fatima Sayeed, President
SIUT North America.
6671 Southwest Freeway, Suite
812A, Houston, TX 77074
Tel: (713)900-7044
E-mail: info@siutna8.org
Web site: www.sicutna.org

Tri-State (NY, NJ, CT)

Contact person:
Mr. Rizwan Mumtaz
Tel: (860)316-8227

Canada:

Contact Person:
Mr. Khaled Nizami
Tel: (613)301-7372