

## Report on G4 Alliance Meeting, Peshawar, Pakistan

The **Global Alliance for Surgical, Obstetric, Trauma and Anaesthesia Care (G4 Alliance)** is a coalition of over 75 organisations including academic institutions, professional organisations and colleges, and NGO's around the world working to increase awareness, foster political will, shape policy, and mobilize resources to make access to quality, safe, timely, and affordable emergency and essential surgical, obstetric, trauma and anaesthesia (SOTA) care a global health priority and a reality for all. The mission of the G4 Alliance is: *Advocating for the neglected surgical patient*.

The G4 Alliance holds 2 in-person meetings per year, one in Geneva in May to advocate to the World Health Assembly delegates; the second 'on the ground' in a country where there is a need for SOTA upscaling, bringing together key stakeholders in that area. This year the meeting was held in Peshawar, Pakistan, from **14-16 November**, wonderfully hosted by Prof Tariq Khan and his team from the G4 Alliance member organisation Northwest General Hospital (NWGH).

The G4 Alliance members were amazed at the breadth of services offered at NWGH. It was in-



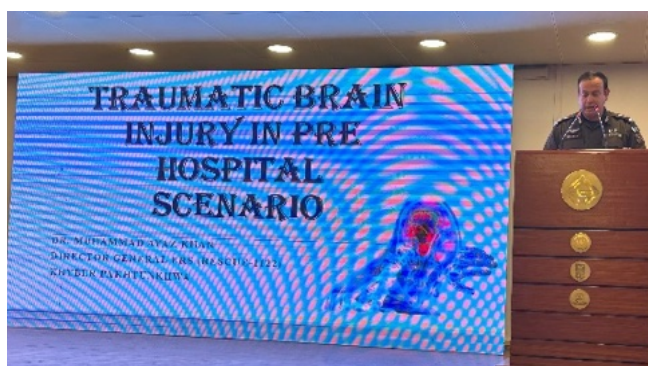
formative to see the 2 hospitals, private and not-for-profit, both connected to the Medical School and serving both fee-paying and non-fee-paying patients. Many of us had not previously seen such enthusiastic, innovative medical and nursing students. The nursing students took us on a tour of the various anatomical and physiological systems models they had designed during their learning of anatomy and physiology. There was a wonderful public outreach to highlight the need

for public safety in prevention of traumatic brain injury (TBI) in Motor Bike Riders with distribution of classic orange G4 Alliance motorbike helmets. This was also attended by key police including the Peshawar Police Chief.

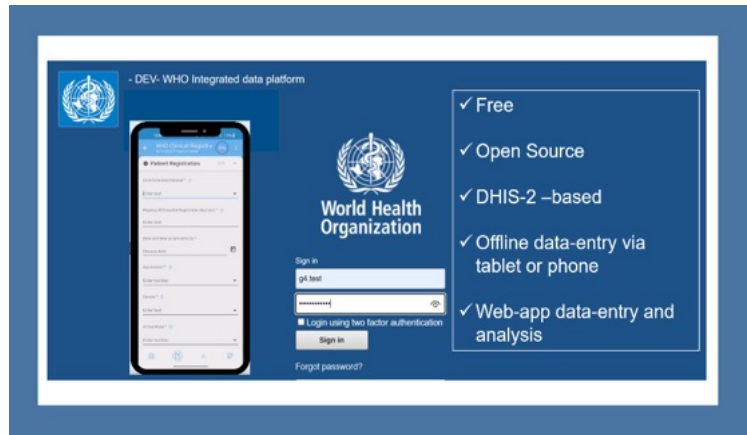
On 14 November, 3 separate public awareness forums were held, focussing on subjects important to the NWGH team and the G4 Alliance: TBI as a notifiable condition, Folate Fortification to prevent Spina Bifida, and Prevention of Burns. Many attended - including key



stakeholders such as policy makers, politicians, the Police Chief, and many others - as well as relevant clinicians. Importantly though, each forum included patient advocates which highlighted the human toll of each of these conditions.



On 15 November, the focus was on G4 Alliance initiatives. A significant session and discussion on the WHO Operative Encounter Registry (OER) occurred. The ‘OER’ has been developed by a G4 Alliance working group over the past 6 years in conjunction with ‘WHO Clinical Services and Systems Unit, Department of Integrated Health Services’. It collects data prospectively on operative encounters that will form the basis of quality improvement initiatives and data-driven advocacy for upscaling operative care.



Neurosurgical encounters are also included. The OER is about to be piloted globally. NWGH contributed significantly to a preliminary ‘demonstration project’ of the database, revealing that it is an effective QI tool. This session was therefore critical for both the G4 Alliance and Pakistan.

Another highlight of that day was the ‘Round Table’ on the Pakistan National Surgical Obstetric and Anaesthesia Plan (NSOAP). This brought together Ministry of Health officials, other policy makers, a range of local and national health leaders, and representatives of WHO, World Bank, and The Asian Development Bank. Actionable policies were discussed and key commitments made. This should be a model for future G4 Alliance meetings in other geographical areas.

Other very relevant Global Surgery topics covered on 15 November: Empowering Rural Health Care, Private Health Care Innovations, Nurses Role in Transforming Healthcare in Pakistan, Safe Surgical Care Programs, SOTA Care Capacity Building in Pakistan, and Optimising Pain Relief – a Critical Component in SOTA Care in Pakistan.



The final official day, 16 November, saw the G4 Alliance Business meeting: working group reports were presented, new office bearers appointed, and a longer session focused on the G4 Alliance Strategic Plan 2025-2027. The meeting proved of interest to the Pakistan Media, resulting in a Press Conference at the Peshawar Press Club highlighting key aspects of the meeting and the need for upscaling of SOTA Care - both globally and particularly in Pakistan.



# Pakistan hosts first ever G4 alliance meeting



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Northwest in Peshawar proudly hosted the 16th Meeting of the Permanent Council of the Global Alliance for Surgical, Trauma, and Anesthesia Care (G4 Alliance), marking a historic moment as Pakistan became the host country for this prestigious international event.

The G4 Alliance conference was organized and successfully conducted by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tariq Khan, a consultant Neurosurgeon at Northwest and Dr. Afnas Fasih Khattak, a Global Surgery Advocate at Northwest. The conference brought together global healthcare leaders, policy-makers, and experts to collaborate on strategies to improve access to life-saving surgical, obstetric, trauma, and anesthesia (SOTA) care in low- and middle-

income countries (LMICs). Speaking during the pre-conference, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tariq Khan told that awareness is key with regard to trauma brain injury and burn care so that the cases could be reduced in the country. He stressed the need for community engagement and preventive measures to address the pressing health challenges.

Other renowned healthcare professionals, including Neil Wetzig (Australia), Franco Servadei (Italy), PI Desveraux (Canada), Gail Rosseau (USA), Richard Henker, Lee Willis, and many others also spoke on the occasion. They highlighted various steps being taken by Pakistan to address the health challenges and saying it is a flagship initiative of G4 Alliance and WHO, the OER showcased its transformative potential in improving surgical out-

comes through data-driven solutions. Sessions discussed its implementation in Pakistan, highlighting its capacity to set new global standards in surgical care. As the National Surgical, Trauma, and Anesthesia Plan (NSOAP) discussions featured actionable recommendations for Pakistan's healthcare systems, National and international experts, including policy-makers, explored ways to enhance access to SOTA care across the country.

They stressed the need for public health awareness sessions on critical topics such as Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) prevention, burn care, and iodine fortification provided a platform for impactful dialogue. These sessions underscored the need for community engagement and preventive measures to address these pressing health challenges. The conference reinforced the importance of global partnerships in addressing healthcare disparities. As a host, the Northwest showcased its commitment to advancing medical and nursing education, research, and community health in Pakistan, making this event a milestone in the country's healthcare journey.



This particularly well organized meeting benefitted NWGH and Pakistan and also the G4 Alliance. It highlights why G4 Alliance membership is so important: Membership allows: members to have a **'seat at the table'** with policy makers and multilateral organisations to advocate for improved policies, funding and resources for global SOTA Care; **Networking** opportunities for a purpose and to achieve out-comes; an 'Info-link' – to gain **information** about meetings, activities, and opportunities to enhance an organisation's scope and function; and **Connections and Collaboration** amongst members to enhance the reach of individual organisations.

This was such a successful meeting - as it was also coupled with an exciting social program. In the evenings food, dancing and festivities made for an exciting meeting.



A highlight was the 'Farmyard Dinner' at Tariq Khan's 'family property' just outside Peshawar where we were serenaded by



the amazing **Khumariyan Band** celebrating Pashto Folk Music and Culture. They have played and sung around the world, but the G4 Alliance had the privilege of having them

wearing the bright orange G4 Alliance caps, so they have been renamed them the 'G4 Alliance Band'. Gail Rosseau, Chair of the G4 Alliance Board thanked them for their support.

The 3-4 days Peshawar experience with amazing hospitality and generosity made the meeting a great way to successfully conclude 2024.

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