

Jinnah Sindh Medical University

Public Relations Office

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World Oral Health Day at Jinnah Sindh Medical University (JSMU)

Oral Cancer on the Rise in Pakistan, Experts Warn Against Poor Oral Hygiene on World Oral Health Day

“Oral health standards in Pakistan must be raised in order to check the increasing incidence of mouth cancer in the local population,” the Vice Chancellor Jinnah Sindh Medical University (JSMU) Professor Tariq Rafi stressed the need for oral hygiene at the World Oral Health Day 2018 celebrated at the JSMU’s Sindh Institute of Oral Health Sciences (SIOHS). He told the audience that oral cancer in Pakistan has reached the third spot in terms of annual incidence and regular oral checkups can help in its early detection, prevention, and treatment. “It is alarming to note the high number of young people among patients of oral cancer, most of whom are habitual users of betel leaf and nut, gutka, and niswaar,” said Professor Tariq Rafi, an expert of ENT.

Pro Vice Chancellor Dr Lubna Ansari-Baig stressed on the need for building the idea of community service into the curriculum of dental colleges to push the youth in the direction of public service.

The day was also the second anniversary of SIOHS’ Dental Outpatients Department. Dean SIOHS Professor Kefi Iqbal described the annual performance of the SIOHS and shared that 9,165 patients have been treated in the dental Outpatients Department at SIOHS in the last year. Out of these, around 4,000 were treated free of cost as part of JSMU’s community service initiatives, he said.

The program was organized by the JSMU Student Council and included an oral health and hygiene related awareness drive, cake cutting ceremony, and prize distribution of the city-wide oral hygiene selfie competition for 16 to 22 years old people.

For more information, please contact:

Asfiya Aziz
Public Relations Officer
Cell: 0302-8264140

Umair Ahmed Khan
Assistant, PR Office
Cell: 0346-2193144

Third Floor,
Jinnah Sindh Medical University
Rafiqui H.J. Shaheed Road, Karachi.
Tel: +9221-99205185 Ext:1076
Email: asfiya.aziz@jsmu.edu.pk

Web: <http://www.jsmu.edu.pk/index.html>

Jinnah Sindh Medical University is a public-sector university established in 2012 when the city's premier institution Sindh Medical College was given the status of a University. Since then, the University has opened four more institutes and affiliated 10 colleges. The total enrolment of medical and dental students exceeds 4,000, making it the largest medical university in Sindh. Its components are Sindh Medical College (SMC), APPNA-Institute of Public Health (AIPH), Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (IPS), Sindh Institute of Oral Health Sciences (SIOHS), and Institute of Health and Business management and Social Sciences (IOHBMSS).

