

Aligarh Medical Alumni Association of North America
(AMAANA) update:

4th Biennial Reunion in Niagara Falls

The 4th Biennial AMAANA Reunion and Meeting was held in the spectacular backdrop of the iconic Niagara Falls on Saturday, 17th August 2019. About 50 people attended the event. The chief guest was Professor Imran Ghani, retired pediatric surgeon from JNMC who was accompanied by his wife, retired Professor Shahin Ghani, also a JNMC alumnus. Before retiring, she was the Chairperson of the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care at JNMC.

The new **AMAANA executive team** was announced comprising of Board Members-

President: Dr Kohkan Shamsi

Vice President: Dr Tazeen Beg

Secretary: Dr Sadia Chaghtai

Joint Secretary: Dr Huma Ansari

Treasurer: Dr Syed Mohsin Alvi

Joint Treasurer: Dr Anathakrishnan Ramani

Canadian Liaison: Dr Huma Kazmie

Executive Committee Members-Dr Jyotsna Nair, Dr Reshma Ali Mahmood, Dr Syed Rashid Husain, Dr Gaurav Gupta, Dr Asghar Naqvi, Dr Ayesha Iqbal and Dr Aseebur Rehman.

In the past two years many AMAANA members have traveled to Aligarh for delivering lectures and conducting workshops and courses in various departments. Details of these activities and Financial Report were presented at the event in the Secretary and Treasurer reports.

The Hon Vice Chancellor of AMU, Professor Tariq Mansoor, addressed the gathering via video link. AMAANA members were delighted to hear about the new JNMC projects and the progress of JNMC that VC outlined. He reiterated the importance of alumni and reinforced his belief that AMAANA can play a significant role in JNMC programs.

AMAANA's Jawaharlal Nehru Life Time Achievement Award was given to Dr. Shahid Jameel, CEO The Wellcome Trust/DBT India Alliance for his ground-breaking research on Hepatitis E and other viruses. Dr. Jameel also addressed the audience via video link.

The Chief Guest, Prof Ghani was presented with a **Distinguished Service Award** for his commitment to teaching and service to JNMC as a pediatric surgeon.

A **Distinguished Alumni Award** was introduced this year to honor an AMAANA member for their dedication and support to the organization. This year's award went to Dr Mirza Muzaffar Ali Beg, an alumnus of the second batch at JNMC and a practicing Family Medicine/Emergency Medicine Physician. Prof Abdul Wase, the outgoing AMAANA's President received the **Distinguished Service Award** for his exemplary commitment to AMAANA.

The evening continued with a personal introduction by each AMAANA member, a group photo session, singing of the National Anthem and our University Tarana. This was followed by dinner and a wonderful musical program.



Group Picture

AMAANA President Message



Dear Friends,

I am honored to have been given the privilege of serving as the President of AMAANA. I completed MBBS in 1979 and MD radiodiagnosis in 1983. I am blessed to have earned my degrees from JNMC, AMU and had the opportunity and privilege to learn from superb teachers. Our teachers inspired, informed and challenged our mind, opening alternative points of view, and helping us understand the big picture. I left AMU with a wider intellectual perspective and life time friends, and without a doubt, what I am today is because of AMU. I will be forever be indebted to AMU for helping build the foundations of my character and basically chalked path of my life. The years have flown by, but like most of us, I never left AMU and there is a strong sense of belonging.

The role of AMAANA cannot be overemphasized as we are one-time students and life time ambassadors and well-wishers of our alma mater. While other universities continuously struggle to cultivate their brand loyalty, this “MaiN apne chaman ka bubul hooN” conviction is unique to us and must be channeled and utilized for the benefit of JNMC.

There is potential for all alumni to contribute to JNMC in different ways and scale. Collecting funds for university is important but non-financial contributions like mentoring, acting as role model, dissemination of expertise, professional development guidance, enhancing JNMC image etc. have immense long-term impact both on our alma mater and students.

AMAANA’s collective opinion can play a very important role in potential JNMC’s projects and proposed solutions to the challenges and would be of high value to JNMC in achieving its vision and mission.

I am convinced that while having an engaged alumni network is beneficial to the institution, it is a 2-way street and the benefit to the alumni themselves should not be overlooked. AMAANA members can utilize this platform for cross discipline research, business collaborations, job opportunities and mentoring etc. Mentoring itself can be very rewarding.

Recognizing the importance and potential of Alumni networks, current Vice Chancellor, a JNMC alumni, **Professor Tariq Mansoor** has reiterated the importance of alumni associations/forums and has focused on providing transparent and dedicated alumni services. We must take advantage of this opportunity and closely interact and communicate with the VC and with **Professor Satish Chandra Sharma**, current JNMC’s principal.

Success of any program depends on communication, communication and communication. We must strive for HOT (honest, open and two ways) communication and utilize all communications channels including social media. Continuous and open dialogue with fellow members will encourage reluctant and skeptical alumni to contribute and participate in JNMC’s future programs.

I am proud to join dedicated, enthusiastic, and capable executive team that has a firm commitment that AMAANA must contribute towards the success of our alma mater. Of course, we cannot accomplish these goals in isolation and will reach out to you for your input and guidance. Your active participation is essential for our success. Let’s join hands and give our unrestricted, unconditional and unwavering support to the endeavor of JNMC becoming number 1 medical college in India.

This year’s biennial Alumni reunion will be held in Niagara Falls, NY on 17th of August 2019. It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to this fun filled event.