

December 16th 2011

Dear Alumni,

I am writing to bring to your attention certain issues that require your involvement. There is also some news to share and we will end with some soul searching.

First the news. This may not be new to you, but is useful to reiterate.

1. AKUANA completed the process of registration/incorporation in the State of Illinois earlier this year. This means that we now have an EIN (Employer Identification Number) which allows the organization to have a bank account and to apply for 501(c)3 status. We have established a bank account, allowing dues to be transferred directly to the organization. We have not applied for 501(3)c status, but this can be done at a later date if needed.
2. The new AKU website is up and running, although I did find some glitches. Please visit it at www.aku.edu. Go to the Alumni section and update your information. This is important to try and build a robust alumni body. There are no strings attached. It also allows for you to receive the AKU publications by email, if that is more convenient for you. If you have a problem, email Abdul Haq Wahedna (aka Haqqi) ahaq.wahedna@aku.edu and let him know.
3. Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the AKU Alumni association were voted in on December 15, 2011 by active dues paying Alumni Association members. Latest updates on this topic can be found on the University's Alumni webpage.
4. The AKUANA website is in the process of reconstruction. You can visit the site at www.akualumni.net. Currently, the website is set up for you to pay dues and to provide you with some basic pertinent information. There is a group of 15 volunteer alumni, led by Atif Khan (99), who will be working with the web designer. The cost for Phase 1 of the redesign is \$6000 to be paid immediately. Phase 2 will allow for additional development of the website, pending fundraising and collection of membership dues. We are hopeful that we will be able to use this site to improve communication and access amongst the steadily increasing alumni body in the US.

The issues.

1. In its coffers, AKUANA currently has a total of \$6000 with some change. This money has been collected over the years as dues. Monies have been used to pay for the registration of AKUANA and towards hosting and developing the website, past and future. The funds are also accessed to cover the informal reunions that occur under the aegis of AKUANA from time to time. AKUANA does NOT cover the travel or boarding expenses of AKU officials when they

visit for the reunion. We pay no salaries. We are a component of APPNA, but dues are separate for each organization. During the last year only 17 alumni paid dues, at the time of the Reunion. That will not be enough to sustain us as an entity that has the ability to do anything of meaning over any significant period of time.

Currently, the dues are set at \$90 for Attendings and Faculty, \$25 for Residents, and free for those in the 2-year period following their graduation. Any contributions above that will be gratefully accepted and fondly acknowledged.

2. We have significant issues with trying to connect to alumni. We had a system of class representatives previously, but there were minimal nominations when the terms (2 years) came to an end. The absence of representatives also diminishes decision-making, leaving it to a few individuals. If you feel there is a way to improve this situation, please step up to the plate and take a swing. AKU grads are not known for being shy!

I think we are at the stage where as group we must reflect on our expectations and aspirations for this organization. My own opinion (and we are all entitled to one!) is that the group is capable of achieving so much more. Do you see this as an organization that can/ should do more than set up an annual reunion dinner? Should we be mentoring students and young physicians? Should we be repaying Pakistan with time and money? Should we have a voice in the direction the University takes? Should we be a stronger entity in the country we live in?

If these questions resonate with you, please consider the previously listed issues and their solutions.

Engage, Participate, Own.

Sincerely,

Sadaf Khan '92