

# Message from the Patron-in-Chief, BBMT-Pakistan

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It is an honour to present the special supplement of Annals of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (APIMS) in conjunction with the 5th Annual Conference of Bring Brilliant Minds of Transfusion (BBMT)-Pakistan from December 5-6, 2024. This year's BBMT conference is a remarkable milestone in our ongoing efforts to advance the field of transfusion medicine in Pakistan, bringing together national and international experts to share their experiences, research, and innovative solutions.

As Patron-in-Chief of BBMT-Pakistan, I bring over 30 years of experience in haematology and transfusion medicine, which has shaped my commitment to promoting excellence in this vital field. BBMT-Pakistan was founded in 2020 with the vision of promoting excellence in blood transfusion systems nationwide. Since its inception, we have focused on building strong collaborative networks among professionals, government bodies, and healthcare organizations. Over the past years, our society has hosted annual conferences in Malaysia (2020), UAE (2021), Turkey (2022), and Azerbaijan (2023), establishing BBMT-Pakistan as a key platform for knowledge exchange within the global transfusion community. This year's event in Langkawi, Malaysia, reaffirms our commitment to maintaining high standards in blood safety and transfusion practices while providing opportunities for education, training, and research.

The two-day conference programme reflects the diverse aspects of transfusion medicine, from governance, leadership, and regulation to innovations in blood banking and clinical transfusion practices. The second day is focused on Thalassemia and key challenges surrounding it. This supplement includes the abstracts of all presentations, capturing the essence of the scientific deliberations and discussions that took place during the event. A special highlight is the participation of distinguished figures from national and international bodies, including the Lithuanian National Blood

Transfusion Service, World Health Organization and the International Society of Blood Transfusion. A crucial theme of the conference is the need for continuous education and capacity building. Pakistan's healthcare sector must adopt new technologies and methodologies, such as nucleic acid testing (NAT) and plasma fractionation, to meet the growing demand for safe blood. Additionally, the importance of voluntary blood donation, a key factor in ensuring sustainable blood supplies, is being emphasized through our digital advocacy campaigns.

We are particularly grateful for the support of the Health Ministers from AJK, Punjab, Sindh, KP, and Balochistan, who have provided valuable messages for this supplement. Their involvement underscores the government's recognition of the vital role of transfusion medicine in public health.

Moving forward, BBMT-Pakistan will continue to align its efforts with national health priorities and global standards. Our objectives include supporting policy development, setting technical standards and guidelines, and expanding research initiatives to elevate transfusion practices. We remain dedicated to creating opportunities for professional development through workshops, seminars, and conferences that cater to the evolving needs of our members and the broader healthcare community.

As we celebrate the achievements showcased at this conference, we are reminded that the future of transfusion medicine in Pakistan depends on collaboration, innovation, and firm dedication to patient care. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all participants, presenters, and organizers for their contributions. Together, we are paving the way towards a safer, more efficient blood transfusion system that will benefit patients and communities across the nation. I look forward to future collaborations and the continuous growth of our society as a hub of excellence in the field.

**Dr. Samina Tufail Amanat**  
Patron-in-Chief, BBMT-Pakistan