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## Neurology training in Pakistan, a resource limited country - Opportunities and challenges

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Pakistan is a developing country in Southeast Asia with a population of 210 million. There are about 210 practicing neurologists in the country at present. Neurology as a specialty in Pakistan started in 1963. To start off with there were 5 neurologists, all British trained from 1963-1969. Then more neurologists returned from abroad, especially after 1992, mainly trained in the UK and USA. Intrinsic neurology training program started in 1990 by the College of Physicians & Surgeons, Pakistan. The first Pakistani trained neurologist qualified in 1995. Since then the College has trained 202 neurologists to date who qualified FCPS (Neurology) Examination after a 5-year structured training program. About 45 specialists trained in Pakistan are working in the Middle East, UK and Canada. At present there are 21 approved neurology training centers and 24 approved training supervisors in the country where over 120 postgraduates are undergoing training. The training includes 2 years in Internal Medicine followed by a 3-year specialty training in Neurology. In addition to above, universities offer postgraduates programs in Neurology namely, Diploma in Clinical Neurology (one year program) and MD (Neurology) which is a 3-year training program in Clinical Neurology. There is a sizeable research contribution in the field of Neurology from Pakistan. The number of research papers published in peer-reviewed journals from Pakistan was over 140 in 2017 alone.

### Biography

Sarwar Jamil Siddiqui is graduated from Dow Medical College, Karachi, Pakistan in 1985. He trained in General Medicine and Neurology at St Margaret's Hospital, Epping, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow and St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, England. He is also a member of American Academy of Neurology. He is Dean, Faculty of Neurology at the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Pakistan and is responsible for Neurology Postgraduate Training in the whole country which includes 24 training centers. This is his 4th consecutive tenure as Dean. He is also Chairman of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Pakistan Medical Association. His interests include General Neurology, Movement Disorder and Parkinson's disease and Neurology Education and Training.

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