

Message of the SAAP President 2025 & 2026

It is with great pleasure that I write this message as the President of the South Asian Association of Physiologists for the term 2025 and 2026. I am grateful to the PPS and SAAP Executive Council, SAAP Advisors and General body for electing me for this prestigious position during SAAP IX Biennial conference at The University of Lahore, Pakistan. SAAP founding father, Professor Arif Siddiqui, would have been very happy to see his mentee as the first female President from Pakistan.

As the Secretary General SAAP in the last term (2023 & 2024), I pledged to bridge the gap between SAAP member societies, which has been achieved by the grace of God. The member subcommittees have played active role in education and research webinars under the leadership of Prof. Munazza Asad and Dr. Kaushik Bharati, respectively. Time has come to transform SAAP newsletter to the next level of SAAP Journal of Physiology in this new term by amalgamating and updating the SAAP Research and Publication subcommittees into one under the continued leadership of Dr. Kaushik. Special focus will be on publishing collaborative research in high impact factor journals, including Advances in Physiology Education lead by Prof. Barbara Goodman and Prof. Dee Silverthorn. Presence of Prof. Barbara at SAAP IX was a source of encouragement for SAAP researchers.

Our pursuit to consider establish physiological societies in Afghanistan, Bhutan, and Maldives or seek associate members from these countries besides Bhutan will continue. The Health Minister of Afghanistan has committed to get us associate members in this term. The SAAP IX 2024 at the end of last term was a great success following a precipitous decline of BSP and PSN rotations. Another success of the last term was the announcement of SAAP X, Bangladesh 2026 during the SAAP IX Pakistan.

The first set of Prof. Arif Siddiqui memorial awards were handed over by Prof. Robert Carroll, the Chief guest at SAAP IX in presence of Mrs. Arif Siddiqui. The first Senior Physiologist award was received by Prof. M. Aslam and the first Young Investigator award was received by Prof. Sundus Tariq from Pakistan.

The efforts of Immediate Past President SAAP, Prof. Mangala Gunatilake, the Ex-Joint Secretary, Dr. Kumarage, and Treasurer Dr. Himansu towards registration of SAAP as a Society under Registrar of Companies in Sri Lanka have been instrumental, expecting to materialize soon Insha'Allah.

I am confident that with the support of the Secretary-General, Prof. Nayma Sultana, SAAP advisors, Executive Council, adjunct advisors, research-publication and education sub-committees, and SAAP member societies along with alignment of SAAP with IUPS, FAOPS and APS, the SAAP Physiologists will discover new horizons. The support of IUPS for Physiology Teaching workshops at SAAP IX and the three travel grants of 1000 USD each for SAAP IX delegates by FAOPS with in-person participation of President Gary Housley for the first time in a SAAP conference was a milestone in the direction of international collaboration, after the regional one.

Long live SAAP!



Prof. Dr. Samina Malik
The SAAP President 2025 & 2026