

Clinical Trials in the Era of AI: A Catalyst for Faster and Smarter Trials

"CELEBRATING SUCCESS: SCRC AND SCOPE LEAD THE WAY IN AI-DRIVEN CLINICAL TRIALS!"

On January 30, 2025, the Shifa Clinical Research Centre hosted a landmark symposium, Clinical Trials in the Era of AI: A Catalyst for Faster and Smarter Trials. This highly anticipated event brought together a diverse group of national and international experts, uniting key stakeholders in clinical research –ranging from heads of clinical trial units and AI pioneers to leading contract research organizations (CROs) from across the region.



The symposium featured distinguished speakers who shared groundbreaking insights into the evolving landscape of clinical research. Dr. Saeed Hamid, Director of Research at Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH), and Dr. Babar Saeed, Director of Research at the National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS), provided a comprehensive overview of Pakistan's growing role in the global clinical research arena. Meanwhile, Mr. Munawwar Ali, Head of Clinical Operations Pakistan, highlighted the critical contributions of CROs in enhancing efficiency and compliance in AI-driven trials.



Adding an international perspective, Dr. Shalaan Beg, Adjunct Associate Professor at UT Southwestern Medical Center, USA, delivered a thought-provoking talk on the global impact of AI in clinical trials. His presentation underscored the importance of cross-border collaboration and technological innovation in shaping the future of research.

The event also included three dynamic scientific sessions, each featuring panel discussions that brought together experts from medicine, pharmacy, research, and artificial intelligence. These sessions sparked meaningful dialogue and collaboration, showcasing the powerful synergy between technology and clinical research.





Regulatory perspectives were also a key focus, with representatives from the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP)—Dr. Shafqat Hussain Danish (Deputy Director, Clinical Research) and Dr. Malik Muhammad Asad (Deputy Director)—providing valuable input on compliance, along with Dr Faiza Bashir from NBC for ethical considerations, and the evolving framework for AI-driven clinical research in Pakistan.



A standout moment of the symposium was the engaging Q&A session, where Dr. Yasir Ayaz, Chairman of the National Centre of Artificial Intelligence (NCAI), NUST Islamabad, and Dr. Naima Altaf, Head of Research at the Military School of Signals, NUST, addressed pressing questions from the audience. Their insights illuminated both the immense potential and the challenges of integrating AI into clinical trials, offering a balanced perspective on this transformative technology.



Throughout the symposium, one theme remained clear: AI is revolutionizing clinical trials. From optimizing trial design and accelerating patient recruitment to enhancing data-driven decision-making, advancements in machine learning and predictive analytics are paving the way for a future of greater efficiency, precision, and accessibility in clinical research.



The resounding success of this symposium is a testament to Shifa Clinical Research Centre's unwavering commitment to innovation and collaboration in medical research. As AI continues to reshape the landscape of clinical trials, the centre remains at the forefront, driving advancements that will redefine the future of healthcare.

