

Comments on Suhail Anwar (J Pak Med Assoc. 68: 692-693, 2018)**The role of a cancer registry in a health-care system**

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Madam, in response to a recent Editorial titled 'The role of a cancer registry in a health-care system' (Vol. 68, No. 5, May 2018), I would like to point out the existence of two population-based registries that have been recognized by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).

First, the regional registry of the Karachi South district, in Sindh, was established and managed for several years by Dr. Yasmin Bhurgri. This registry reported its data to IARC and the statistics were published in CI5, Volume 9.¹ However, owing to the sudden demise of Dr. Bhurgri in 2012, the registry stopped functioning. Recently, professionals in Karachi are attempting to set-up a cancer registry for the city of Karachi (unpublished information).

Secondly, another registry in Pakistan is the Punjab Cancer Registry (PCR), which was set-up through a collaborative effort in Lahore in 2005, with the support of the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Trust.² The PCR is registered with the Societies Registration Act, 1860, of Pakistan and is also a member of the International Association of Cancer Registries, France. For over a decade, data have been captured on a prescribed data collection form, in accordance with the minimum data items required for cancer registries.³ Extensive reports on cancer incidence in the district of Lahore have been published and show results by gender, age-group and

tumour type.^{4,5}

The author appears to be unaware of the systems running in Pakistan and it is concerning that this was missed in the editorial review as well.

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Conflict of Interest: None to declare.

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