



**DR. RUTH PFAU**  
FOUNDER MEMBER, MALC  
1929-2017

# NEWSLETTER

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## EDITORIAL

The health status of women and their low standing in society has a direct link in our country. A study conducted by UN on Women's Health further strengthens the fact, as it reports that 48.1% of the female population does not participate in decisions about their health care. Women in general, lack power to make decisions due to the prevailing patriarchal system. This gender bias further affects the choices women make regarding their health, as a result of which their work, economic productivity and sense of wellbeing deteriorates. Pakistan ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> globally, if number of maternal deaths are taken into account. Malnourishment among women and young children, especially girls show cultural and social discrimination in the distribution of household resources.

4 out of 10 people in Pakistan are living below the poverty line. Women, children and elderly people are always the vulnerable group to face the brunt of financial constraints. Other causes which aggravate poor health includes political, social and economic injustice. Infectious and neglected tropical diseases kill and weaken millions of the poorest and the most vulnerable people each year. It becomes vital that 'health awareness' should be raised without any gender bias, and quality accessible services should be provided to all. MALC through its network of centres across the country is making efforts to provide equitable and accessible services to all. Over the last three years the percentage of female TB patients treated through our centres is over 55%, whereas annually over 20,000 females accessing our Maternal Child Health Care OPDs speaks volume about the reach of MALC.



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## 65<sup>TH</sup> WORLD LEPROSY WEEK CELEBRATIONS

Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre (MALC), conducted a Press Conference on Saturday, January 27, 2018 to commemorate '65<sup>th</sup> World Leprosy Day' where media representatives were briefed about the current situation of Leprosy in the Country. The Press Conference was followed by the inauguration of Dr. Pfau's museum by Mr. Mervyn Lobo – CEO MALC and his team. After Dr. Pfau's sad demise, it was decided by MALC Management to convert her residence into a museum, to preserve her fond memories.

On Monday, January 29, 2018, with the support of Jubilee Life Insurance, MALC observed 65<sup>th</sup> World Leprosy Day at Arts Council of Pakistan, Karachi. It was an honour to have Dr. Fazlullah Pechuho, Secretary Health, Health Department - Government of Sindh as the Chief Guest for the evening, who appreciated the efforts made towards healthcare by MALC, and assured the continued support of the Government. Sr. Jeannine Geuns- Founder Member MALC, and Mr. Bernd Braukmann- an old friend of MALC were among the distinguished guests.

Every year at MALC, each patient looks forward to one particular day i.e. **Patients' Day**, and so did Dr. Ruth Pfau. This year, Patients' Day was organized on January 31, 2018 collectively by the Patients and Ward Staff of MALC, cherishing her fond memories. MALC also organized **World Leprosy Day Seminars** in collaboration with the Faculty of Eastern Medicine Hamdard University at Bait-al-Hikmah Auditorium on January 25, 2018, and the Department of Dermatology Sindh Government Hospital in their auditorium on January 30, 2018.

On February 1, 2018, students from Public Health Nursing School, Pakistan Central Homeopathic Medical College and Islamic Mission College of Nursing spent quality time with patients at MALC and distributed gifts among them. Their visit brought a smile to every patient. MALC appreciated the volunteers who put in their tremendous efforts all throughout the year, by awarding them with shields.

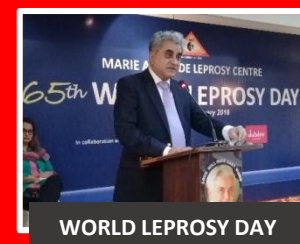
The World Leprosy Week celebrations concluded with '**Staff Day**', a day where employees were rewarded for their efforts throughout the year. - International Project Desk



PRESS CONFERENCE



DR. PFAU'S MUSEUM



WORLD LEPROSY DAY



PATIENTS' DAY

### 'MALC-NBP DR. RUTH PFAU MEMORIAL CRICKET TOURNAMENT'

On the occasion of International Women's Day (IWD), MALC through the support of National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) organized 'MALC-NBP Dr. Ruth Pfau Memorial Cricket tournament' on March 8, 2018, at KGA Grounds. 8 teams comprising of girls from different schools of Karachi participated enthusiastically in the tournament. It was an honour to have the Minister of Sports & Youth Affairs-Government of Sindh Sardar Muhammad Bux Khan Mahar as the Chief Guest for the occasion. The trivial effort contributed to #PressForProgress; IWD theme, thus encouraging young girls to play more in public places. MALC also expresses its sincere appreciation to KGA for providing their premises free of charge for conducting the tournament. - Resource Mobilization Department



GROUP PICTURE WITH THE WINNING TEAM

### FOUNDERS' DAY

MALC has been celebrating Founders' Day on March 10 from the year 2011 to honour all Founder Members: Sr. Bernice Vargas (1956), Mother Doyle (1956), Dr. Ruth Pfau (1960), Dr. Zarina Fazelbhoy (1962) and Sr. Jeannine Geuns (1962), by recollecting their efforts and contributions to the Organization. March 10 also marks the birthday of Sr. Bernice Vargas. It was an honour to have Sr. Jeannine Geuns, Founder Member MALC as the Chief Guest for the occasion. - International Project Desk



Sr. JEANNINE GEUNS, FOUNDER MEMBER MALC (LEFT)

**WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY  
CLEANLINESS DRIVE**

On March 24, 2018, MALC commemorated World Tuberculosis Day by organizing an awareness walk and a cleanliness drive at Sea View, Clifton-Karachi. The participation was overwhelming; MALC employees collectively picked up the scattered trash and gathered it in trash bags. Keeping the city clean is everyone’s responsibility, as together we can prevent ailments through a healthier environment.



**GROUP PICTURE AFTER THE CLEANLINESS DRIVE**

**DR. ZARINA FAZELBHOY’S  
DAUGHTER VISITS MALC**

Dr. Zarina Fazelbhoj was one of the pioneers of MALC who worked for over 35 years with Dr. Ruth Pfau. She was among the first Pakistanis to join the mission with Dr. Ruth Pfau and her team. Most recently her daughter Ms. Ismet Hussain along with her son visited MALC, to introduce him to the work done by his Maternal Grandmother for Persons Affected by Leprosy (PAL). This visit left a profound impact on her son.



**MS. ISMET HUSSAIN (4<sup>TH</sup> FROM LEFT) AND  
HER SON (5<sup>TH</sup> FROM LEFT)**

**EYE SURGICAL CAMPS IN MANJIPUR  
AND LEHRI-BALOCHISTAN**

MALC conducted two Eye Surgical Camps in Manjipur and Lehri – Balochistan, through the support of New Zealand High Commission. The details are mentioned to the right.



**GOVERNMENT OF SINDH INCREASES ITS ANNUAL  
GRANT TO MALC**

MALC is grateful to the Government of Sindh, Pakistan, for increasing its annual grant by 47% for MALC Hospital.

**CORPORATE NEWS**

**SSGC RE-ADOPTS TWO MALC CENTRES**



Cheque presentation by Mr. Salman Siddiqui - DGM CCD Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (left) to Ms. Salwa Zainab - Manager Resource Mobilization MALC (center) for adoption of MALC’s Gwadar and Mirpurkhas Centres.

**NBP SUPPORTS FEMALE WARD AT MALC HOSPITAL**



Cheque presentation by Mr. Ovais Asad Khan - EVP/ Divisional Head, Strategic Marketing Division/ CSR & Sports Division, National Bank of Pakistan (right) to Ms. Salwa Zainab – Manager Resource Mobilization MALC (left) for support of female ward at MALC hospital.

**HEALTH CAMPS**



**EYE SURGICAL CAMP IN UTHAL-BALOCHISTAN**

Through the support of National Bank of Pakistan, MALC conducted an Eye Surgical Camp in Uthal, Balochistan. The details are as follows:

**TOTAL NO. OF CONSULTATIONS: 2,218**

**CATARACT SURGERIES: 114**

**MINOR SURGERIES: 17**



Location	Manjipur	Lehri
Consultations	1,230	1,860
Cataract surgeries	91	116
Minor surgeries	16	33
Major surgeries	1	2
Eyeglasses provided	116	169



**“I HAD A BATH NOT ONLY ONCE, BUT SEVERAL TIMES IN A SEWERAGE DRAIN TO CLEAR MY SKIN LESIONS.”**

I'm Younus Masih, 40 years of age, born in the Metropolitan city of Karachi in 1977. My siblings and me never went to school. My father was a drug user, who had a government job at the Security Printing Department and my mother looked after us .



**YOUNUS MASIH**

In 2010, skin lesions appeared all over my body without causing any pain or itch. It made me feel ugly especially whenever I used to look at my face. From the very beginning I was unwilling to take medicines, therefore, I never consulted a doctor. A colleague advised me to bathe with sewerage water, which I did: the other one told me to wear the shirt of a person who was born feet first and eat the sugar from church. I tried all of these but none worked and I was getting uglier day by day as the skin patches were increasing and getting more prominent.

This went on for more than five years, and finally one day when my uncle James visited my house, after seeing my condition advised me to consult Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre (MALC) in Malir, as he was aware about leprosy.

Today I am content, having completed two years of leprosy treatment, I am thankful to God & MALC who did not let me get disabled and offered me a temporary job as a General Helper.

The greatest thing for which I am grateful to MALC is for detecting Leprosy in my wife & daughter in the initial stage. They are now under treatment.

MALC's team made me aware of the importance of education and I realized that only education can stop a person from following wrong practices which were done by me.

**Reported by: Abdul Salam, Leprosy Field Officer**

***MALC expresses its sincere gratitude to all donors for extending their kind support towards the cause of serving marginalized communities.***

***Each contribution matters and plays a significant role in their lives. For transferring your donations, you may scan the QR code for further details.***



**ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER AT MALC**

MALC brought in the New Year with a small Annual Get-together; a combined celebration of Eid, Diwali, Christmas. Mr. Mervyn Lobo-CEO MALC in his welcome address encouraged the staff to continue working with the same zeal as before, whereas Mr. Savio Pereira-Director HR/Admin acknowledged the retired staff's efforts in contributing tirelessly to MALC's cause. Dr. Ali Murtaza-Director Training MALC, presented the vote of thanks. Ms. Ulli Raimann, a friend of MALC and Sr. Jeannine Geuns - Founder Member MALC were the guests of honour for the occasion.

**-Resource Mobilization Dept.**



**FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: MR. SAVIO PEREIRA, SR. JEANNINE GEUNS, MR. MERVYN LOBO AND MS. ULLI RAIMANN**

**GIFTS DISTRIBUTION AT GIRLS HOSTEL, MANGHOPIR**

New Year gifts were distributed among the residents of Girls Hostel, Manghopir, by MALC's team. These gifts were collected by the joint efforts of Karachi Grammar School students and MALC's Fundraising Committee. Ms. Sabrina, a well-wisher of MALC, also accompanied the team for the distribution and held a session on life skills-based education with the girls. **-Resource Mobilization Dept.**



**GROUP PICTURE WITH THE GIRLS**