

## EDITORIAL

### HEALTH AND BIOSTATISTICS

The World Health Assembly defined health as “a state of complete physical mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity” (1948). This definition is still widely referenced, but is often supplemented by other World Health Organization (WHO) reports such as the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion which in 1986 stated that health is “a resource for everyday life, not the objective of living.

Lord Kelvin described biostatistics as a system to measure the observations in health care and express them in numbers (1986).

N. J. Morohey described biostatistics as a surgical discipline because properly conducted statistical analysis is a delicate dissection of uncertainties of the supposition.

W. A. Wallis described statistics as a body of methods for making wise decision in the face of uncertainty.

Biostatistics is a system of the collection, organization and interpretation of numerical data especially the analysis of population and disease characteristics by inference from the sample.

Demography is an understanding of the relationship of the disease with reference to general characteristics of the patients. Anthropology is the understanding of the patients with reference to the general community in which he lives. Pathomorphology is the understanding of the classification and pathology of the disease.

A clinical researcher is expected to have a clear understanding of the subjects; health, epidemiology, demography, anthropology, research methods, biostatistics and research ethics.

The King Edward Medical University is regularly conducting a two (2) weeks course which covers basic knowledge about Research Methodology and Biostatistics. During 2007 and 2008, (five hundred and forty-five) (545) students and faculty members have successfully completed this course. The readers who are interested to attend the course or participate as faculty, are requested to contact the editor at drsmawais@gmail.com



**Prof. Dr. Syed Muhammad Awais**  
(Sitara-e-Imtiaz)

**Editor**