

## **AMDAANA AMRITSAR PROJECT**

### **Executive Summary**

AMDAANA initiated a concerted effort to help our alma maters in late 2003. A task force named AMDAANA Task Force for liaison with Government Medical and Dental Colleges, Amritsar India (AMDAANA TF II) was formed to develop this initiative. Following a one-week site visit to our alma maters in the spring of 2004 to evaluate the situation first hand and discuss issues of joint interest with the faculty at these institutions, a plan and proposal was developed. We have fondly named it AMDAANA Amritsar Project.

**Objective** – The primary mission of AMDAANA Amritsar Project is to enhance education and patient care at these institutions.

**The Plan** - AMDAANA Amritsar Project is predicated on three principles – Identifying all stakeholders, networking amongst all of them worldwide and developing a true partnership amongst them for the betterment of our alma maters.

The principal stakeholders are – Current faculty and students of GMCA, retired faculty and non-faculty alumni of GMCA in India, GMCA alumni in USA, UK and other countries abroad, Punjab Government and local community of Amritsar.

**Networking** – besides AMDAANA in USA, UK has an alumni association named ADA. GMCA has formed a local alumni association called Amritsar Medical College Alumni Association (AMCAA) and many cities like Delhi and Chandigarh have an alumni association named AMCOL. We have encouraged alumni in Jalandhar and Ludhiana to do the same and the effort will be spread to all cities in Punjab. In addition, we have identified GMCA alumni in Kenya, Malaysia, Singapore and Australia and have encouraged them to form local GMCA alumni associations. We are also planning to develop a worldwide GMCA alumni network. A worldwide database will be created and maintained at GMCA AMDAANA office.

**Partnership** – We are striving to develop a true partnership between AMDAANA, ADA, AMCAA, AMCOL, Punjab Government and other stakeholders listed above. The basic premise is that through this partnership we will take on joint projects and by pooling our resources, expertise and finances, we shall be able to do a better job than anyone alone.

**Funding** - The funds for the project will be raised from various sources as follows. AMDAANA members have been urged to pay \$1000 each and to date we have collected over \$100,000. In phase two we will strive to develop a substantial endowment fund. The principal in this fund shall remain untouched and only the income from the endowment fund will be spent on an annual basis. AMCAA and AMCOL in India shall do their own fundraising. Similarly, alumni elsewhere in the world will contribute either through their own local alumni associations, through AMCAA or through AMDAANA as they please.

A major share of funding will come from Punjab Government. Currently, the funds generated in Amritsar through patient care and student fee are all transferred to Chandigarh. The Government then decides what fractions of those funds are sent back to GMCA. Furthermore, Punjab Government as the owner of GMCA is primarily

responsible for its buildings, maintenance, medical education and for providing healthcare to the poor and indigent. However, over the past several years Punjab Government seems to have abdicated this responsibility and has not done much for the college. Therefore, we have two tasks here – first to urge the government to do its share for supporting medical education and healthcare for the poor and indigent and second to ensure that the funds collected at GMCA Amritsar are spent on GMCA.

Tasks – After joint consultations with various stakeholders, specific tasks shall be chosen each year with well defined time lines. Tasks shall consist of small, focused, attainable projects and a larger flagship project that cuts across various disciplines and helps a large number of departments, faculty, students and patients at GMCA.

The dental member of AMDAANA TF II and dental members of AMDAANA at large shall develop a plan which is customized to the needs and the desires of the Government Dental College, Amritsar.

For this ambitious project to succeed, we need wide support of AMDAANians and GMCA alumni the world over. We are very happy to report that the response has been very positive so far and the future looks bright. With your continued support, we shall succeed in attaining our goals.