



PASTIC

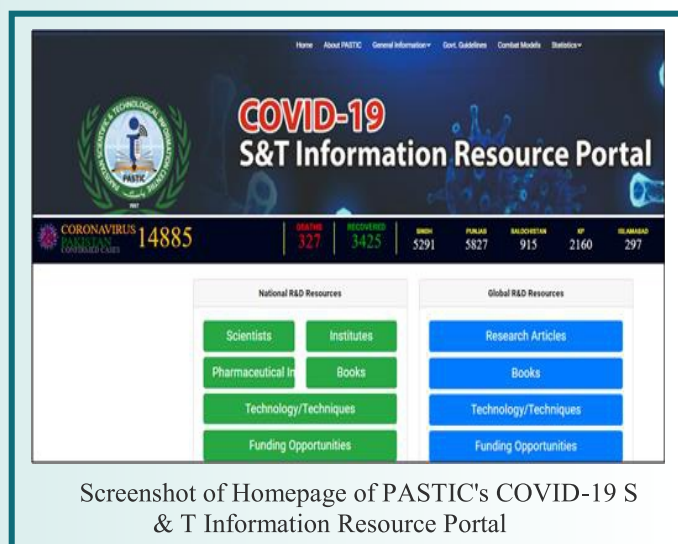
Volume 3, Issue 4

NEWSLETTER

April 2020

Covid-19 S&T Information Portal Developed

PASTIC as per its mandate of catering the S&T information needs of academia, R&D, industry and general community has developed a **“COVID-19 S&T Information Resource Portal”** (an online National Scientific and Technological Information Source on Coronavirus) <http://covid.pastic.gov.pk/funding-covid.aspx>.



Screenshot of Homepage of PASTIC's COVID-19 S & T Information Resource Portal

The portal provides latest information on national/international publications (research articles, books and book-chapters by various publishers); technologies/techniques (testing kits, ventilators, masks, gloves, medical clothing, disinfectants, sanitizers etc); calls for proposals announced by various funding agencies (to carryout R&D to cope with the crises); countries; dashboards showing various disease combating models adopted by different current statistics (confirmed & active cases, deaths and recovered); databases of local scientist/researchers, institutions and industry (available for R&D in domains of Microbiology, Biotechnology, Pharmaceutical, Health, Molecular Biology & Genetics, Biochemistry, Virology,

Zoology, Epidemiology, Biomedical and Engineering, etc); Govt. guidelines to manage the current situations as well as the general information including symptoms, precautions and treatment etc.

"Post-COVID-19 Showcase" to demonstrate Entrepreneurial capabilities to combat and Overcome covid-19

PASTIC presented the COVID-19 S&T Resource portal (covid.pastic.gov.pk) on April 27, 2020. Mr. Saifullah Azim, Principal System Analyst, was the Resource Person from PASTIC. Practical demonstration of the developed portal along with features/facilities was presented to the audience, and National TV channels for awareness purpose. Some pictures representing this activity are displayed below.



Mr. Saifullah Azim, Principal System Analyst, with Mr. Tahir Masoud, System Analyst and Mr. Nabi Bakhsh, Assistant Web Manager at Post Covid-19 showcase.

PASTIC has successfully subscribed to Trip Pro Database System which contains evidence based health and medical related articles for provision to clients free of charge. The initiative was taken by Dr. Syed Aftab Hussain Shah, Sr. SIO. We are grateful to Mr. Jon Brassey Director, Trip Database, Honorary Fellow at CEBM, and University of Oxford for providing access to the database. The database will be helpful for medical and health professionals.

PASTIC Report on COVID-19 (SARS-COV-2) : Global and Pakistan Perspective

A report titled “COVID-19 (SARS-COV-2): Global and Pakistan Perspective,” compiled by Dr. Syed Aftab Hussain Shah, Sr. SIO, PASTIC and edited by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akram Shaikh, Director General, PASTIC, has been presented to Secretary, Ministry of Science & Technology (MoST) on April 24th, 2020.

This report addresses the Global and Pakistan perspective in two parts to combat novel corona virus disease 19 (COVID-19) which is caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-COV-2). Part 1 highlights the disease epidemiology, viral kinetics, diagnosis, COVID-19 testing and preventive measures. Global Models of China and South Korea have also been drawn out and compared with Pakistan. Part 2 highlights Pakistan's perspective on COVID-19, funding calls for Research and Development, and PASTIC's initiative of web portal development hosting manifold databases. The report expects adoption of Triple-Helix Model involving Government, Universities, R&D Institutes, Industries and Funding agencies (HEC, PSF, MoST, IGNITE (MoIT) & DOST, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) to cater to the future S&T challenges. The recommendations are also provided to combat COVID-19 pandemic in Pakistan.

Social Welfare Activities of PASTIC Sub-Centre Quetta during Coronavirus Pandemic

PASTIC Sub-centre Quetta, in collaboration with government of Balochistan (Street Children

Development Program), stood by the poor persons and street children, in the hour of their need, distributed 200 Rashan bags door to door among them, provided them masks, and briefed them about “Social distancing”, “Stay home save life” and Ahsas programs. Some pictures representing this activity are displayed below.



Mr. Abdul Khaliq Sial, In-Charge PASTIC Sub-Centre Quetta, distributing rashes bags and masks among poor persons.



Stock of rashes bags being managed, before distribution among poor persons, by PASTIC Sub-Centre Quetta.