

December 7, 2020

Press Release

**US based world renowned immunologist Dr Rafi Ahmed delivers JMI Centenary Lecture on COVID-19 vaccine development**

The Department of Biotechnology, Jamia Millia Islamia(JMI) organised a centenary lecture on 'Immune memory: Remembering your infections and vaccines' on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 by Dr. Rafi Ahmed, Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar and Director, Emory Vaccine Centre, Atlanta, USA, as part of centenary celebrations of the university. .

The centenary lecture had lot of buzz with more than 1200 registration from across the globe including US, Canada, Germany, UK and other European countries. The lecture was well attended by various dignitaries of the scientific world who took prominent participation during interaction with the speaker. The online talk was webcasted on Webex platform and steamed live on YouTube.

Dr Rafi Ahmed emphasized on the role of India as international program partner for the design and development of vaccines against diseases like HIV, TB, Malaria and Dengue. He then explained the importance of immunological memory by T cell responses in viral infections. One of their discovery of Programmed Death-1 (PD-1) in T-cell exhaustion in chronic infection is translated into the clinical development of PD-1 directed immunotherapy for the treatment of human chronic infections and various cancer.

The third part of his lecture was focussed on COVID-19 vaccines. He explained the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 and the various platforms on which vaccines are prepared. He also updated on their clinical phase trials. On the one hand, Pfizer and Moderna has 90% effectivity and Oxford/Astrazeneca, the most hyped vaccine, on the other hand has overall 70% effectivity.

He also discussed various important issues on vaccine distribution and durability. In the last, he addressed the fear of pandemic and fear of vaccine but he asserted that at least 70% of the population should undergo vaccination to bring the pandemic under control.

In the virtual media interaction with the print and digital media persons after the lecture Dr Ahmed addressed the concerns of the side effects of the vaccines and discussed the challenges that India will face while distribution owing to its large population size and rural settings in India.

Dr Ahmed emphasized that the vaccines trials till now have not been conducted in the children as only adults and elders were enrolled in the program. Although, the observation of no serious concern of COVID-19 on children is the point of relief on this scenario. As per WHO, Dr Ahmed also consented on providing vaccines to frontline medical and health workers first followed by elderly and the individuals with serious illnesses.

The Chief Guest Prof Najma Akhtar, Vice Chancellor, JMI enlightened the participants with her thoughts on current Coronavirus pandemic and centenary celebrations and welcomed our esteemed speaker to share his remarkable scientific journey. She also shared the enthusiasm to continue the association of JMI with Dr Ahmed for his mentorship and guidance that will help the younger faculties, students and university to achieve the greater excellence and accolades in research & development.

Prof. Seemi Farhat Basir, Dean, Faculty of Natural Sciences concluded the lecture with vote of thanks.

The Convener of the event Prof Zahid Ashraf, Head of the Department, Biotechnology expressed gratitude to eminent speaker for his company and words and thanked all the participants and the organizing committee for their enthusiasm and engagement.

Link for recorded video on YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jP5yfu3\\_jdg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jP5yfu3_jdg)

**Ahmad Azeem**  
PRO-Media Coordinator



Windows taskbar showing search, task view, and settings icons. Application tray includes Microsoft Edge, PowerPoint, File Explorer, OneDrive, Word, and Outlook. System tray shows network, volume, and battery icons. Date and time: 18:18 Friday 04-12-2020.









Ajma Akhtar

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Prof. Khursheed Alam: Dear Organizers, Please take care of audio. We are getting broken voice.

Unmute Stop my video Stop video

SAMSUNG





Webex Meetings File Edit Share View Audio & Video Participant Meeting Breakout Sessions Window Help

# PD-1 blockade restores function in exhausted CD8 T cells

Naive CD8 T Cell → Viral Infection (Acute Phase) → Rapid Proliferation/Differentiation → Effector CD8 T Cell

Effector CD8 T Cell → Acute Infection (Antigen Cleared) → functional memory

Effector CD8 T Cell → Chronic Infection (Antigen Persists) → exhaustion

exhaustion → PD-1 Blockade → functional memory

*Barber et al. Nature 2006*

Meeting Info | Connected

Speaking: saif ahmad

Participants (206)

Search

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saif ahmad

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Chat

From Kashi Agar to Everyone 7:04 PM  
YouTube link is also not working

Send to: Everyone

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Participants | Chat

### Top chat

- S 6:35 PM Sagheer Ahmad Ansari welcome all 🧠
- I 6:42 PM Iram Bilal Good evening
- a 6:43 PM asimulislams Great going
- Tahir Chaudhary assalamualikum



Welcome to live chat! Remember to guard your privacy and abide by our community guidelines.

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- shahnawaz ahmad hello to everyone
- Dr. Neha Gupta Hello everyone
- Mehvish hello friends
- Ria Ghosh Good afternoon everyone
- SublimeKnight 📄ume bhi vaccination do
- SublimeKnight 📄brawl stars kon kon khelta

### Demonstration

Unlisted

67 watching now • Started streaming 7 hours ago



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## COVID-19 Pandemic

- > 65 million cases
- > 1.5 million deaths
- > 190 Countries/Regions

Largest Pandemic of the Century  
Why did so many people get infected?



rafi ahmed



Kashan Khan



Director IQAC Jamia Millia Islamia (host)



Almaz Zaki



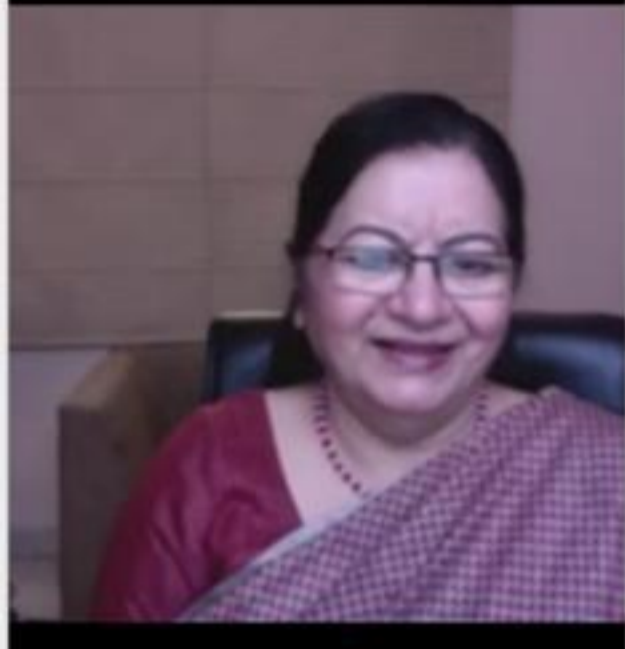
Director IQAC Jami...llia Islamia (cohost)



Mansoor Ali 🔴



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Najma Akhtar 🟢



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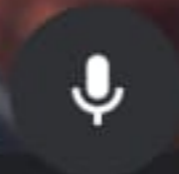
# Media Interaction with World Renowned Vaccine Expert- Dr. R...



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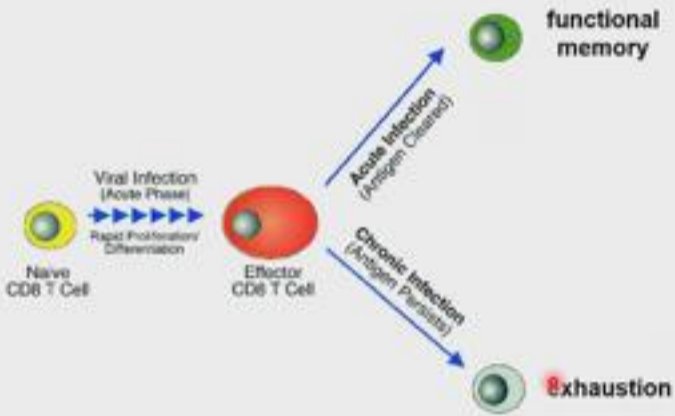


Rafi Ahmed





# CD8 T Cell Differentiation during Acute vs. Chronic Viral Infection



Zajac et al. J Exp Med 1998



rafi ahmed

