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## Proceedings

# #MedSafetyWeek at Aligarh (India) – A report

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## INTRODUCTION

Every year, #MedSafetyWeek brings together people from around the world to focus on one shared message: medicines are most effective when they are also safe<sup>1</sup>. This simple idea carries great importance, especially in countries like India where the use of medicines is widespread across diverse healthcare settings. This year, Aligarh, a small city in the state of Uttar Pradesh, contributed thoughtfully to the global conversation. A special programme was organised by the Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring Centre (AMC) at Ibn Sina Academy and Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College (JNMC), in collaboration with the Society of Pharmacovigilance, India (SoPI). The event took place under the guidance of the Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PvPI), coordinated by the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), which also serves as a National Coordinating Centre for Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PvPI).



The day's activities were designed to encourage healthcare professionals, students, and the broader medical community to think more actively about medicine safety. To set the tone, Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman, the Programme Coordinator of AMC at JNMC, opened the event with a reflection on why medicine safety is everyone's responsibility. He reminded the audience that medicines are intended to help patients live better and healthier lives, but when medicines cause harm, whether due to side effects, misuse, or lack

of awareness, the impact can be serious. Prof. Rahman encouraged participants to view pharmacovigilance not as a bureaucratic requirement, but as a compassionate service rooted in patient care.

Following this, Mr. Gufran Ali, Senior Pharmacovigilance Associate at AMC, spoke about the importance of reporting Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs). He explained that ADR reporting is not only about identifying what goes wrong, but also about learning and preventing similar issues in the future. Many healthcare workers hesitate to report because they are unsure whether a reaction is "serious enough" or because they fear blame. Mr. Ali reassured attendees that every report matters, even small or uncertain ones. Each report contributes to a much larger global safety database, where patterns can be identified and shared internationally. He emphasized that pharmacovigilance works best when the reporting environment is non-punitive, open, and education-centered.

In addition to discussions and presentations, the event as a part of tenth annual #MedSafetyWeek social media campaign featured a special exhibition of publications from the Uppsala Monitoring Centre (UMC), Sweden. These included all past issues of the Uppsala Reports magazine, which is widely appreciated for making pharmacovigilance stories accessible, relatable, and global in perspective. The exhibition allowed participants to explore case stories from around the world involving real patients, real challenges, and real solutions. The library of Ibn Sina Academy takes pride in maintaining a complete archive of the Uppsala Reports, from the very first issue to the most recent Issue 91-92. This archive served as a learning bridge, connecting local practice with international experience.



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Behind the scenes, the event was coordinated with the help of Dr. Rashaad Ahmad Khan, Materiovigilance Associate at the Regional Training Centre, JNMC. His support helped ensure that the programme was not only informative, but smooth and welcoming. His involvement also reflected a growing recognition that medicines and medical devices must both be monitored to protect patient safety. The collaboration between pharmacovigilance and materiovigilance teams is an encouraging sign for the future, demonstrating an integrated approach to healthcare risk monitoring.

The event concluded with open discussions where participants shared their thoughts and experiences from clinical practice. Several interns and nurses noted that they often came across situations where medicine reactions were visible, but they did not know how or where to report them. The session helped build confidence, offering clarity on the steps to report ADRs and reassuring participants that reporting is encouraged, valued, and supported. All the activities with the tagline #MedSafetyWeek, was shared through all the social medial platforms!

As the programme came to a close, one message resonated clearly: pharmacovigilance is not only a system rather it is a culture. The culture grows when people speak, share, and act together. This year's #MedSafetyWeek in Aligarh was a meaningful step toward nurturing that culture, ensuring safer treatment for every patient, every day.

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