

## Editorial

**Whither NICVD?**

*The greatest thing to have ever happened to Cardiology in Pakistan was the establishment of the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (Pakistan) in Karachi. Other great things have since happened in Cardiology all over Pakistan but none greater than the birth of NICVD. The NICVD has given to every province, federal territories and Azad Kashmir the trained manpower desperately needed to run departments of Cardiology. Every department of Cardiology in every federal or provincial government hospital owes it to the NICVD. Closely paralleling this very vital contribution was the fact that the NICVD provided the platform for foreign qualified Pakistani specialists to return to Pakistan with expertise in modern cardiology and set up teaching programs and patient care services in all areas of Cardiovascular medicine and surgery. These teachers grew with their programs and achieved fame and fortune and they owe it to the NICVD. Each one of the thousands, nay, hundreds of thousands, of patients who have received the most modern of treatments at no cost owes it to the NICVD. This bud, the NICVD had turned into a 'flower' the whole country and especially its staff and all who had been trained or treated at this institute were justifiably proud of. And then, something happened! The flower began to lose its fragrance and its petals have started to fall. The blossom is in impending danger of dying! How did all this come about? Why did the dedication of the staff, the commitment of the government and the trust of the patients and public disappear?*

*The natural cycle of birth, growth and decay applies to individuals but should not apply to institutions. Institutions are meant to live and survive the individuals who come and go within its confines. Why then the decay of the NICVD? Is it part of the decay and death of Institutions that is part and parcel of the general order of things in our beloved Pakistan? Perhaps! But, the time frame suggests that the demise of this Institute is occurring at a rate faster even for Pakistan. The disease eating away the NICVD is even more virulent.*

*Should we offer 'Fateha' and move on? One more casualty of the country's bad luck we may say! Or, should we fight to ensure survival of this mother institution of Cardiology in Pakistan. No heroes are needed. Certainly no need for martyrs! Just plain good old fashioned low profile hard work, integrity and commitment on the part of the staff and the 'powers that be' is needed. But, are the 'powers that be' willing to give the moral and material commitment required to salvage the NICVD? Will they do that which is their duty? For the country's and its people's sake, let's pray they do. Ameen!*

**Azhar Faruqui**  
Editor