



## THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

### **University of Washington and Aga Khan University sign agreement to further population health, research, service and education**



**Seattle, USA, 4 March 2019** - The University of Washington today signed a memorandum of understanding with the Aga Khan University to codify partnership activities already underway and to leverage complementary strengths to further expand research, service and education in low- and middle-income countries.

The agreement was signed by UW President Ana Mari Cauce and Aga Khan University President Firoz Rasul. Representing the Aga Khan Development Network were Prince Rahim Aga Khan and Princess Salwa Aga Khan, nee Kendra Spears, UW Class of '12, and AKU Provost Carl Amrhein. The Princess played a key role in encouraging the nascent partnership.

“We are honoured to partner with Aga Khan University to advance the health and well-being of communities around the globe. By combining our respective strengths and shared values, we can be a powerful force for creating access to healthcare and education, as well as supporting research and discovery,” Cauce said.

Early collaborative activities between UW and AKU have included the launch of a paid international internship programme with positions in Africa and Asia for UW students, joint projects to build research capacity in HIV/AIDs and HPV, and a range of other faculty collaborations.

“Ultimately, this partnership is about two universities based on opposite sides of the globe coming together on the basis of their shared values to advance knowledge and create opportunities for learning and discovery that benefit people in both the developed and developing worlds,” Rasul said. “Even prior to the signing of this agreement we have begun collaborating on several important projects, and I am confident that we will have a significant impact in multiple countries in the years ahead.”

Under the agreement, the UW will offer the AKU and AKDN technical advice and guidance in data science and implementation science, access to formal degree and training programmes, and advice and support in transforming the AKU into a research-intensive university. The parties will also seek to expand the number of joint research activities and student and faculty exchanges.

#### **NOTES**

The *University of Washington* was founded in 1861 and is one of the pre-eminent public higher education and research institutions in the world. The UW has more than 100 members of the National Academies, elite programmes in many fields, and annual standing since 1974 among the top five universities in receipt of federal research funding. Learn more at [uw.edu](http://uw.edu).

The *Aga Khan University* (AKU) is a pioneering institution of higher education that works to improve quality of life in the developing world and beyond. The University operates campuses and programmes in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and the United Kingdom, and treats more than 2 million patients per year at seven hospitals and more than 300 medical centres. For more information, visit [www.aku.edu](http://www.aku.edu).

AKU is one of 10 agencies of the *Aga Khan Development Network*, one of the world's largest private international development organisations. Working mainly in Africa and South and Central Asia, AKDN helps those in need to improve their own lives through a long-term, multifaceted approach to development that spans economic, social and cultural dimensions. For more information, please visit: [www.akdn.org/](http://www.akdn.org/)

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