

Symposium Profile: Dr. Huma Majeed Khan

In Fall of 2023, the 25th anniversary [Lynn Sage Symposium](#) brought together over 600 attendees in the field of breast cancer in what has turned into one of the largest meetings in the nation for breast oncologists. Doctors and clinicians from around the world gathered to learn from each other and the many experts provided by Robert H. Lurie Cancer Center at Northwestern Hospital. The Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Foundation is proud to have partnered with the Chicago Sister Cities Medical Initiative to fund the attendance of several key breast cancer doctors and researchers to the Symposium this year.

We were lucky enough to chat with one of the travel grant recipients, Dr. Huma Majeed of Pakistan, who shared her experience with us and what it means to attend the Lynn Sage Symposium.

Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Foundation: Dr. Majeed, tell us a little bit about yourself and how you got to this moment.

Dr. Majeed: While I trained in the United Kingdom, I now practice general and breast cancer surgery at Ittefaq Hospital in Lahore, Pakistan, where I am also in charge of the breast clinic. My training and interest lies in surgical management of breast diseases, especially breast cancer and its management. I am a skilled and trained physician, but I am also a humanist, and I am deeply committed to bettering health care in Pakistan and improving access to treatment and care. My path to the Lynn Sage Symposium has been interesting - I actually discovered it three years ago via LinkedIn and I recommended it to one of my trainees and she attended last year.

Because of her enthusiasm for the Symposium and her great experience, I applied for a travel grant for the meeting this year through Lynn Sage. Ironically Lahore is a sister city to Chicago, so it was a very smooth process. The economic situation in Pakistan is not such that I would have been able to afford it on my own, so I am grateful to the foundation for its financial and educational support.

LSBCF: What were your personal and professional goals going into the Symposium, and how did the Symposium meet your expectations?

Dr. Majeed: I mean, this was my first time in the U.S. for a meeting so there was a lot to take in! I know that there is no end to learning, so I knew professionally going into this Symposium, that even with all of the training I have, I would pick up new things, which is very important to me. I found out that the conference is much more holistic and relevant from a clinical perspective. It affects the day to day practice and detail in breast cancer management.

I also learned a lot about the toxicities of radiation and some of the survivorship issues that have developed recently. I received a lot of evidence-based education that I now can tweak my practice back in Pakistan because of these findings. It's so good to be able to continue to learn and think outside of the box.

LSBCF: What was your key takeaway from the Symposium that you brought back home with you?

Dr. Majeed: At the conference, I realized how important it would be to bring together learnings and research on a multi-national level, especially in the multi center trials in places like Pakistan and India, where there are a lot of hiccups. Even as an individual researcher you can treat many people and collect a lot of data. Joining forces with other countries and hospitals might be a very good idea.

Additionally, I would love to find ways to treat people in a way to honor their different ethnicities and backgrounds but not limit treatment because of them. It's a global world, but we have to have the same standard of care for everyone to improve health care all over the world. It is a global responsibility to take everyone alongside them.