PROF. DR. JAVED ASHRAF

BDS, M.Phil. (Community Dentistry), PhD (Oral Public Health, Finland) | CHPE | PGD in Artificial Intelligence (NUST)

Dean & Head of Department (Dental Public Health) | Professor of Oral Public Health / Community Dentistry
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Executive profile

Senior academic leader in Oral Public Health and Clinical Epidemiology with doctoral training in Finland and a track record spanning departmental leadership, curriculum modernization, research governance, and community-based service delivery. Research portfolio centers on causal inference, Bayesian clinical modelling, and applied machine learning for diagnostics and health systems decision-making, with publications across Q1/Q2 journals and experience in reproducible research and FAIR data practices.

Core expertise

- Academic leadership: dean-level governance, quality assurance, accreditation readiness, and competency-based curriculum design.
- Clinical epidemiology: observational and interventional study design, program evaluation, and evidence synthesis.
- Health data science: Bayesian modelling, causal inference using DAGs, predictive modelling, and reproducible analytics in Python/R.
- AI in dentistry: computer vision and decision-support approaches for diagnostics, risk stratification, and workforce/service-delivery research.
- Research integrity: FAIR data implementation, and supervisory capacity development.

Academic appointments and leadership

- Dean & Head of Department, Dental Public Health, Health Services Academy (HSA), Islamabad, Pakistan (January 2026–present).
- Assistant Dean, Dental Research & Academic Review (RARE), Riphah International University, Islamabad, Pakistan (Feb 2024–December 2025).
- Professor & Head, Department of Oral Public Health / Community Dentistry, Riphah International University, Islamabad, Pakistan (Feb 2024–December 2025).
- Associate Professor, Islamabad Medical & Dental College (IMDC), Islamabad, Pakistan (February 2023–January 2024).
- Associate Professor & Head (Founding Head), Community Dentistry / Oral Public Health, University of Health Sciences (UHS), Lahore, Pakistan (July 2011–December 2016).
- Doctoral Researcher (salaried), Institute of Dentistry, University of Eastern Finland (UEF), Kuopio, Finland (2017–2021).

Selected leadership achievements

- Built research governance and quality systems for ethics readiness, reproducibility, and supervisory capacity (RARE framework).
- Integrated biostatistics and machine learning into undergraduate dental education and assessment.
- Led community outreach initiatives including multi-site screening and Oral Health Care Week (600+ beneficiaries) in partnership with industry.
- Developed departmental research roadmaps with measurable KPIs and publication-quality improvement processes.

Education and professional development

Qualification	Institution	Year	Focus / relevance
PhD, Oral Public Health	University of Eastern Finland (UEF), Finland	2021	Clinical epidemiology; longitudinal data; causal pathways between TMD and primary headaches.
PGD, Artificial Intelligence	National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Pakistan	2024	Computer vision and predictive modelling for healthcare/dentistry.
Certificate in Health Professions Education (CHPE)	NUST, Pakistan	2024	Competency-based curriculum design and assessment.
M.Phil., Community Dentistry	University of the Punjab, Pakistan	2010	Epidemiology and population-based methods.
BDS	Baqai Medical University, Pakistan	2003	General dental surgery and patient care.

Research profile

Google Scholar metrics (as reported in latest CV): H-index 10; i10-index 10; citations 380+.
Primary themes include: (i) orofacial pain and TMD epidemiology; (ii) Bayesian and causal inference approaches for complex comorbidity questions; (iii) AI-enabled diagnostics and workforce/service-delivery analytics; and (iv) meta-research and open science practices.

Selected peer-reviewed publications (most recent)

1. Ashraf J. Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for Restoring Standards in Medical and Dental Education in Pakistan: Retrospective Lessons and Prospective Pathways. Journal of the College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan (JCPSP). Accepted/In press (2026).
2. Fahim A, Ashraf J. Perceptions of portable dentistry in Asia using machine learning models. Scientific Reports (Nature). 2025.
3. Ijaz H, Ashraf J. Capability of dental practitioners to identify condylar changes on orthopantomograms: a multicenter cross-sectional study. BMC Oral Health. 2025.
4. Qazi SH, et al.; Ashraf J (senior author). Effectiveness of auditory distraction on the management of dental anxiety in patients undergoing tooth extraction: a randomized controlled trial. Clinical and Experimental Dental Research. 2024.
5. Ashraf J, et al. Temporomandibular-disorder-related pain as a predictor of severe headaches. Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology. 2022.
6. Ashraf J, et al. Association of temporomandibular-disorder-related pain with severe headaches - a Bayesian view. Clinical Oral Investigations. 2022.

Full publication list and citation metrics: Google Scholar profile (link above).

Competitive funding and awards (selected)

- HEC NRPU (Pakistan): Project shortlisted/under review (2025–2026 cycle).
- ORIC Research Grants (Riphah International University): institutional clinical research capacity building (two grants; 2024–2025).
- Minerva Foundation Grant, Finland: awarded for advanced training in Bayesian methodology (2018; 2020).

Teaching, curriculum, and capacity building

- Curriculum modernization: embedded biostatistics, evidence-based dentistry, and AI literacy across undergraduate training.
- Faculty development: designed and delivered supervisory skills workshops for FCPS/MDS/PhD supervision quality improvement.
- Program leadership: led AI-focused training for clinicians (e.g., PGD-level modules in AI/health data science; per institutional assignments).

Professional service and engagement

- Peer reviewer: Frontiers in Dentistry; Journal of Oral and Facial Pain and Headaches.
- Invited speaker: ICME-IMEC 2025 (Kuala Lumpur); National FINDOS Seminar (Turku, Finland).
- Collaborative engagement: Global Burden of Disease consortium contributor/collaborator.

Technical competencies

- Programming and analytics: Python (pandas, scikit-learn), R; reproducible workflows and versioned analysis pipelines.
- Methods: Bayesian modelling, causal inference (DAGs), program evaluation, diagnostic accuracy study methods, evidence synthesis.
- Tools (as used across projects: MPlus (where applicable).

Languages

- English (professional working proficiency).
- Urdu (native).

References

Available upon request.