

## CARDIOLOGY CENTRES IN PAKISTAN

*After the United States made its National Heart Institute, there was a mad rush all over the world to build such Institutes. While the purpose of the NIH in the USA was well defined and meant to be a pacesetter and coordinator, many of the Heart Institutes around the world remained no more than ordinary departments of cardiology.*

*In Pakistan, the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (Pakistan) Karachi is built to be a centre of excellence, research leader and national coordinator. But because it happens to be the only facility offering advanced diagnostic facility and cardiac surgery on a large scale, it cannot escape becoming bogged down in routine, mundane work that should be the lot of the various departments of cardiology and cardiac surgery. But as these departments of Cardiology are no more than departments of clinical medicine, they are unable to perform even the basic diagnostic tests let alone cardiac surgery, leaving this entire burden on the available facility.*

*What we need to do is to develop full-fledged proper departments of Cardiology in every medical college in the country or in at least one or two major medical colleges in each province. Only when such provincial units will have complete cardiological diagnostic and cardiac surgery facilities that the National Institute of Cardiovascular diseases (Pakistan) will be released from its present burden and devote itself to its original purpose of pacesetting research and acting as a national coordinator. You cannot have an island of excellence survive in a sea of deprivation.*

*With an organized National Institute present in Karachi and fully developed departments of Cardiology in Quetta, Peshawar, Hyderabad, Lahore and Pindi, we shall have put Cardiology on a sound footing in Pakistan. When even a rich country like USA or a big but poor country like India has only but **ONE NATIONAL INSTITUTE**, why should we do otherwise. We shall have to learn from our own past and the world-wide experience if we are to get the maximum out of our limited resources. There appears to be no other way!*

EDITOR