

**Ambassador Olson Remarks**  
**Jinnah Post-Graduate Medical Center (JPMC) OB/GYN Complex Inauguration**  
**December 11, 2012**

Honorable Minister of Health, Dr. Sagheer Ahmad,

Secretary of Health, Aftab Ahmad Khatri,

Executive Director of the JPMC, Tansim Ahsan,

Dean of the JPMC, Dr. Ghulam Mehboob,

Joint Director of the JPMC, Dr. Seemin Jamali,

Head of Department of Gynecology & Obstetrics, Dr. Sheeren

Bhutta,

Members of the JPMC faculty and staff, distinguished guests, and

members of the press,

Assalamu Alaikum.

I am pleased to be with you today to dedicate this new OB/GYN Complex at Jinnah Post-Graduate Medical Center. It was an honor for the American people to construct and equip this \$4.5 million complex. This medical center will offer treatment to women suffering from the debilitating condition of fistula (**fis-choo-luh**) and other OB/GYN conditions. And there are many Pakistanis who are also playing a significant role in this noble cause.

I would like to recognize the Mariam Ali Mohammad Tabba Foundation and Mr. Ahmed Tabba. Their generous support of JPMC is well-known, and I congratulate them for undertaking the ongoing management of the facility we inaugurate today.

Also, I would like to recognize the Karachi philanthropic community for providing JPMC with additional resources to treat poor patients. I offer a special word of thanks to the JPMC staff. They provide quality patient care under difficult conditions. Finally, I congratulate CDM/Smith, the supervisory engineers and principle builders who constructed this fine facility.

The United States is working with Pakistan to improve the lives of average Pakistanis through initiatives in the energy, economic, education and other sectors. We are also actively supporting the health sector, and we are committed to improving access to quality health care for all Pakistanis, particularly for young mothers and children under five years old.

This facility delivers on this commitment by offering treatment for obstetric fistula, a debilitating condition resulting from childbirth complications. This condition that victimizes many poor women in Sindh and Balochistan.

The United States has a long history of partnership with the JPMC. Our support for JPMC dates back to 1959, when Basic Medical Sciences Institute of JPMC and Indiana University began cooperating. Since then, JPMC has continued to grow as an important teaching hospital and patient treatment facility. The U.S. government is proud to continue this long association with such a prestigious institution that serves the poor and underserved people of Sindh and Balochistan.

This complex will expand and upgrade JPMC's capacity as a first-rate center for graduate and post-graduate medical education in Pakistan. It will improve standards of patient care, provide an opportunity for faculty and trainers to maintain their own skills at an international standard, and make state-of-the-art training facilities available for more than 1,300 trainees, students, and officers.

This complex provides 60 beds for surgery and treatment of fistula and other OB/GYN complications. About 120,000 women per year will receive life-saving treatment here.

Yesterday concluded a global 16 days of activism against gender violence. The Embassy and our Consulates were among many organizations in Pakistan and around the world raising awareness of this important issue. As we inaugurate this OB/GYN Complex here at Jinnah Post-Graduate Medical Center, let us renew our commitment to working together to fight gender based violence and improve health care, education and opportunity for the women of Pakistan.

I would like to reiterate the U.S. government's commitment to supporting a healthier future for mothers throughout Pakistan; we are proud to be part of a project that will provide care for so many for years to come. Thank you.

Khuda Hafez.

Approved: A/DCM – Jonathan Pratt (ok)

Drafted: PAS Karachi – Richard Silver

USAID Karachi – Arif Pervaiz

Cleared: CG Karachi – Michael Dodman (ok)

PAO Karachi – Corina Sanders (ok)

USAID Karachi – Ed Birgells (ok)

PAS Islamabad – Matt Boland (ok)