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National Institute of Health organized an event regarding World Rabies Day

National Institute of Health organized a walk on World Rabies Day with the theme of “Zero Rabies by 2030”. The aim of the event was to create awareness about human and animal rabies and emphasize its control and prevention. Executive Director along with all chiefs, students of College of Medical Laboratories Technology (CMLT), fellows of Field Epidemiology Laboratory Training Program (FELTP) and senior officers of the institute participated in the walk. The Mobile Unit of NIH was sent to distribute printed awareness material to the educational institutes and general public.

On this occasion, Brig. Dr. Aamer Ikram, Executive Director, emphasized that Rabies is a preventable disease transmitted to humans through the bite of infected dogs, cats and wild animals. 99% of human cases are caused by dog bites in Pakistan. Mostly victims of rabies are children and rural communities. He emphasized that precious human lives could be saved through raising public awareness against rabies. NIH is presently producing Cell Culture Anti-Rabies Vaccine and Anti-Rabies Serum. Both products are supplied on demand to all provinces, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Armed Forces, Private Sector companies and other indenters. Sera processing laboratory of Biological production Division, NIH was established with initial annual production capacity of 30,000 x 10mls vials, and 1000 x 10mls vials for Anti-rabies Serum (ARS). Keeping in view the increased demands, NIH is in process to enhance the production capacity for ARS. NIH also provides diagnostic facility for Rabies Antibodies Titre (RAT) after vaccination.

He also praised the efforts made by the Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination and in particular Mrs Saira Afzal Tarar to strengthen the Public Health System including prevention & control of infectious diseases.

The participants and media personnel showed keen enthusiasm in the event.

