The Population Leadership Program held its fourth annual summer conference in Islamabad, Pakistan, from August 1 through August 5, 2005. The PLP partnered with the World Population Foundation to launch the conference, with Dr. Raana Zahid (WPF Senior Programme Office and PLP Cohort 3) playing an instrumental role. Twenty-one PLP Fellows spanning all six cohorts, along with seven staff and faculty members from the University of Washington attended the conference. For the first time, invitations were also extended to five alumni of other Packard-funded leadership training programs from Pakistan, of which four attended: three LDM Fellows and one IFPLP Fellow. Their involvement greatly enriched the conference.

The week included a combination of Fellow presentations, site visits, guest speakers, and small group sessions. Highlights included a presentation by Obet Ador and Mon San Pascual (PLP Cohorts 1 and 4 from the Philippine Legislators’ Committee on Population and Development) on policy advocacy; a daylong visit to the city of Peshawar, in the Northwest Frontier Province, where we met with the Provincial Minister of Population Welfare and Women’s Development and visited an NGO partnering with the WPF’s Adolescent Life Skills training program; and a final farewell dinner atop the Margala Hills overlooking the city as the sun set. Small group work yielded exciting results, with Fellows using the time to spearhead collaborative projects. Five Fellows worked on a policy advocacy panel they will present at the APCRSH conference in Malaysia this December, and another group met to further plans for a panel discussion and paper analyzing the effects of PEPFAR in Africa at the December ICASA meeting in Nigeria. Finally, a new “Asia Pacific Leadership Development for Global Health” group was formed to expand leadership development capacity in the region, including a possible pilot initiative in the Philippines.

After the weeklong conference on Saturday the 6th, the PLP, at the invitation of Yasmeen Qazi, partnered again with the WPF to host a half-day workshop for all Islamabad-based, Packard-funded leadership training Fellows (PLP, LDM, and IFPLP). The goal was to create an opportunity for dialogue and further collaboration between all members. Dr. Muhammad Tariq (LDM and IFPLP Fellow) from Family Health International expertly moderated the session.

An Executive Summary of the PLP summer conference will be available by August 26, 2005 and minutes from the Saturday Packard conference are available upon request.