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Mohammad N. Akhter, M.D. was appointed Executive Director of the National Medical Association in May of 2007. He has a long history of leadership in public health, including six years as Executive Director of the American Public Health Association (APHA). He has also served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Council for Voluntary International Action (InterAction), the largest alliance of U.S. based international development and humanitarian non-governmental organizations. He has held governmental positions as Director of Health for the State of Missouri, Commissioner of Public Health for the District of Columbia from 1991-1994; a Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and as a member of the United States delegation to the World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization.

A native of Pakistan, Dr. Akhter received his medical degree from King Edwards Medical College in Lahore, Pakistan. He received a Masters in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University in 1973. He is board certified by the American Board of Preventive Medicine (1976). Akhter's academic appointments include working for several years as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Global Health at George Washington University's School of Public Health, and as a Clinical Professor in the Department of Community and Family Medicine at Georgetown University School of Medicine. He was Professor and Chairman of the Department of Public Health and Hospital Administration, College of Community Medicine in Lahore, Pakistan.