

EDITORIAL

IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR N. A. JAFAREY (1929-2015)

Ejaz A Vohra

Chief Editor, Ziauddin University, Karachi Pakistan

May his soul rest in peace

Prof Naeem Jafarey was well known for his status as pioneer in medicine and eminent pathologist when he joined as director of postgraduate studies at the newly established Dr Ziauddin postgraduate institute of medical sciences. He was born on 4th of May 1929, in Allahabad in India, to an illustrious family. He graduated from King Edward Medical College in Lahore in 1955, the prestigious and the oldest institution in Pakistan. He showed his inclination towards medical research when he joined Mayo Hospital as medical officer of Pakistan Medical and research council in Lahore. He subsequently moved to USA and was trained at New York State University and obtained certification of American Board of Pathology. He retired as professor of pathology from Jinnah Postgraduate Center (JPMC) and he was also one of the founding members of Basic Medical Sciences institute at JPMC, which was established with collaboration with University of Alabama, USA. He retired from JPMC in 1989.

Prof Jafery was one of the founding fellows of college of physicians and surgeons Pakistan (CPSP), when WHO established a program of medical education and teachers training in Pakistan in 1978. He joined as a full time facilitator and as co-director after retirement from JPMC. According to Prof Nighat Huda who was his colleague at the above center, "he was keen on preparing physicians for local needs, and exposing them to local health situations. " He not only advocated but also introduced many changes in medical curriculum and evaluation of students. He was the pioneer in promoting in problem based learning. He introduced community based integrated curriculum as a major instructional strategy. His main emphasis was training undergraduates for primary care and public health. He had over 130 publications and contributed chapters to two books. His major research work was on carcinoma of the oral cavity.

He was the founding Vice Chancellor of Ziauddin Medical University and he introduced many innovations in medical training. Even after his retirement he took keen interest in affairs of Ziauddin University as professor emeritus and advisor on academic affairs to the university. He maintained his keen interest in research.

I came to know him as a colleague in 1994 and was inspired by his devotion and passion towards medical education. My previous experience in medical education as principal at Karachi Medical and Dental College (KMDC) was reinforced under his guidance. He was a very kind and affable character and would carefully listen to our differences and priorities. He had keen interest in continuing medical education and lifelong learning attitudes as part of the training of undergraduates and postgraduates.

The editorial and managing staff of the Pakistan journal of Medicine and Dentistry joins management faculty and students of Ziauddin University and offers their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and expresses their determination towards bringing excellence to medical education and research.