

TRIBUTE TO NA JAFAREY!

PROFESSOR N.A JAFAREY – MY HUSBAND A MEMORIAM

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Visionary, far sighted, strong willed, dynamic, honest, kind, noble, gentle and ethical, an excellent teacher, a person of impeccable integrity, a humble person with no single mean bone in his body, 100 years ahead of time.

These are some of the word by which my husband Naeem was remembered by his colleagues, friends, family student and all who knew him.

He describes himself as "a supporter of lost causes"

Born in May he was a typical Taurus – "strong and silent whose aim is to put the world right" a point on which we often had friendly discussion.

His concept of good individual was that the person should be fair, impartial, fearless , well informed, and non-controversial.

For me Naeem was a friend, a companion, an advisor. He guided and encouraged me in whatever I did. What I have achieved personally and professionally is to a large extent because of his constant gentle guidance.

Naeem was born in Allahbad, India into a highly educated family. He was the youngest of five children- one sister and three brothers. After partition of India they came to Karachi where he was admitted to Dow Medical College. Two years later he had to leave because his father Col. Aon Jafarey, Director General Health Services was transferred to Lahore. There he joined king Edward Medical College and graduated in 1955.

His interest in research was obvious even then. After completing his house job he worked on a Pakistan Medical Research Project on Chronic Intestinal Obstruction. Having completed the research he proceeded to New York and joined State University New York and Downstate Medical Centre and King's Country Hospital, New York for training in Pathology. He obtained Board Certification in Anatomic Pathology and returned to Pakistan where he joined Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) Karachi as Assistant Professor. He went on to be professor and retired in 1989.

Whilst at JPMC he, with Professor. Manzoor Zaidi received a six year grant from USPHS for conducting research on Oral Carcinoma. Their findings have been reported in various research papers. His major interest in his career apart from Anatomic Pathology were Cancer, research and Medical Education.

His achievements in life were many. In one of the obituary notes he has been described as an Icon. That, in short, sums up his achievements.

For several years Medical Education had become his passion.

He was critical of the present day teaching of medical students and felt very strongly that both undergraduate and postgraduate training needed a change. He strongly advocated preparing medical students for local needs, exposing them to lower level health facilities and even the community- hence the concept of the Family Physician. He spoke and wrote extensively on Medical Education and compiled a book which I believe is used by many.

He was one of the team of medical facilitator in the WHO initiated programme for promoting Teacher Training. This led to the establishment of Department of Medical Education at the College of Physicians and Surgeons Karachi in 1979, later designated as National Teacher Training Center (NTTC), were several doctors from all over Pakistan were trained.

His association with Ziauddin Hospital, later University , started in 1994 when he joined as Director of Postgraduate Studies. In 1995 Ziauddin Hospital received its University Charter and Naeem became the first Founder Vice Chancellor.

From the very beginning Naeem decided to make research a priority, for which he sought help from our friend, the late Dr. Sarwar Zuberi , a keen researcher.

After retirement as a Vice Chancellor he was designated Professor Emeritus and Advisor on Academics Affairs at the Ziauddin University, in which capacity he continued till the end.

Naeem had various other academics appointments including Professor of Educational Development (part time) at Aga Khan Medical College Karachi (1994-1995)

He was founder president of Pakistan Association of Pathologists, Editor (1962-72) and then Chairman of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Pakistan Medical Association.

He received WHO medal on "World No Tobacco Day" in May 1990 and The State of Kuwait Prize for the Control Of cancer, Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes, in 2009.

He has 142 Publications in various journals and wrote chapters in books and also a book on Medical Education.

Naeem was at peace with himself throughout his six months final illness. When diagnosed with the disease he had, he refused further investigations and treatment. "show me one case report in the literature where someone of my age has survived this disease" he would say to whoever suggested treatment.

Naeem spent his last days at home and passed away peacefully on 2nd November 2015. Life slowly ebbed away. He had no pain.

His final resting place in the Abdullah Shah Ghazi Qabarastan is hardly a stone's throw of our home on one side, and the Ziauddin University about a kilometer on the other.

"From where he is, he is keeping eye on both his home and the University" was a remark by one of our friends.