



Obituary

Prof. Dr. Arif Siddiqui

Vice Chancellor

Barrett Hodgson University Karachi, Pakistan



Arif Siddiqui, former executive director of Pakistan's National Institute of Health & Social Sciences, former Vice Chancellor of Barrett Hodgson University, an earnest physiologist and a fervent researcher, succumbed to acute myeloid leukaemia and left this world on May 15th, 2020. The editorial advisor to BLDE University Journal of Health Sciences on Medical Education, Prof. Arif is survived by not only his blood family but also the field of Physiology for which he worked his entire life. He was one of the founding fathers of South Asian Association of Physiologists (SAAP). Prof. Siddiqui had the privilege to work in the most prestigious institutes including Aga Khan University, Karachi, RIPHAH University, Islamabad, National Institute of Health & Social Sciences, Islamabad, Barrett Hodgson University, Karachi, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm & St. George's Hospital Medical School, London. Prof. Siddiqui's major research domains were neuroendocrinology, productive physiology and teaching methodologies. More than 35 research publications in aforementioned fields are on part of Prof. Arif Siddiqui.

Prof. Arif Siddiqui was not only a physiologist of international caliber, but he was also blessed with extraordinary administrative skills as is evident from his appointment on major administrative posts in different institutes all over the world. He was an influencer and this was the thing that made this great educationist reach the heights of glory. Prof. Arif established the Pakistan Physiological Society

straw by straw. He very enthusiastically welcomed the great physiologists of the era to enhance the building of Physiology in Pakistan.



The great leader of Physiology was very passionate in having physiologists from around the globe on-board in devising policies for the betterment of Pakistan Physiological Society, South Asian Association of Physiologists and Federation of Asian & Oceanian Physiological Societies, of which, he was the President educational committee. What I see most in Prof. Arif is his genuine commitment towards Physiology, Education and advancement of Physiology in the SAAP region," said Prof. Sharaine Fernando, University of Sri Jayewardenpura, Sri Lanka.



Besides being a great physiologist and a researcher, his wisdom knew no bounds and this was reflected in his ideas and views on issues. He was such an affable personality that his friends, colleagues, mentors and mentees are all drenched in sadness of his departure. "Prof. Arif walked on this planet with profusion of dignity and integrity leaving behind a rich legacy," said Prof. H. R. Ahmed, mentor of Prof. Arif and founder of Pakistan Physiological Society. Maj. Gen. Muhammad Aslam, Pro-Vice Chancellor National University of Medical Sciences, tributes Prof. Arif Siddiqui said, "I have found Prof. Siddiqui very righteous person. He was very selective in words. He never did backbiting against anyone but he meant business and he always talked about issues and not about people."

Prof. Amar. K. Chandra from University of Calcutta, India named Prof. Arif as a warrior who fought for the betterment of Physiology." Prof. Rooh-ul-Amin from Bangladesh vowed to complete the work that Prof. Arif Siddiqui had to complete. "I found him a reliable friend, a loyal and selfless brother, a perfect mentor, a keen researcher, a frontline leader of Physiology and above all, a born teacher," said Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ayub, President, and Pakistan Physiological Society. Prof. Dr. Mahwish Arooj, Vice President SAAP, remarked, "Prof. Arif Siddiqui was a great Physiologist, researcher, teacher, human being and a legend in the true sense."

"Prof. Arif was a down-to-earth tall person, a devoted mentor who would lead by delegation and would invest trust in his team. He is a man of integrity. He would do what he said. He believed in systematic approach and merit in societies," said Prof. Dr. Samina Malik, mentee of Prof. Arif.

Prof. Arif was a refined person. "He would know a person just by looking at him which is a quality lacked by many people," Prof. Dr. Salma remarked.

While sharing his memories about his life experiences with Prof. Arif, Prof. Shaikh Saeed from Saudi Arabia said that Dr. Arif Siddiqui was more like a brother to me. Prof. Arif and I grew together academically and professionally. "I feel I have lost a great mentor. Prof. Arif helped me establish Physiological Society of Nepal," said Prof. Dr. Rita Khadka, President, South Asian Association of Physiologists (SAAP).

Prof. Dr. Azeem shared how sensitive Prof. Arif was regarding the matter of the Pakistan Physiological Society and its connections with international bodies. Prof. Arif remained worried about PPS and talked about Physiology even in his last days. "It's an extremely sad incident. Prof. Arif was always helping and encouraging youngsters," Associate Prof. Dr. Adnan Kanpurwala, Vice President, South Asian Association of Physiologists. Indeed Prof. Arif Siddiqui was a blend of generosity, wisdom, dignity, humanity, a loving father, a loyal Physiologist, a passionate researcher and a diligent administrator. The loss of this great personality is irreplaceable and will remain so for centuries to come. We pray to God to ease him in his life hereafter.

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