Obituary

Tribute to Late Professor Hadad Omer Karoum and Dr Asim Zaki Mohamed Zaki

The medical profession had sad events recently with the loss of two pillars in the field of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Professor Hadad Omer Karoum and Dr Asim Zaki Mohamed Zaki. Their inputs and contributions to the welfare of the society at large was immense. They have founded and laid the basis for good medical practice. The specialty of Obstetrics and Gynecology was the first postgraduate degree in the University of Khartoum in 1952 and gained its recognition from the Royal College in UK as the earliest specialty to have this status.

Professor Hadad Omer Karoum
1930 - 30/05/2017

Professor Hadad was born in 1930 at El Matama, North Sudan where he attended his elementary schooling. His intermediate school was in Wadi Saida and secondary school in Hantoub where he was awarded the King Farough prize for the ‘Best graduate’ of Hantoub in 1960.

In the preliminary year of his entry to the Faculty of Medicine, University of Khartoum, he was given the award of the Hamilton and Steward prize for ‘Best performance’. and in 1956, he graduated from the Faculty and was given the highest award of Lord Kitchener Prize for being the ‘Top candidate’ plus prizes for two subjects in Medicine and Obstetrics & Gynaecology. In 1958, he was appointed as Teaching Assistant at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Khartoum. In 1961, got the MRCOG degree from the Royal College of Obstetrician & Gynaecologists in the United Kingdom as the highest degree of specialty in Obstetrics & Gynaecology. In 1967, he was appointed as Lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Khartoum. Then from 1980 to 1985 he was appointed as the director in Soba University Hospital.

Professor Hadad was the first to be given the title of ‘Professor’ in Obstetrics & Gynecology. His clinical and practical experience was extraordinary. Together with his other colleagues in the specialty, the postgraduate degree in Obstetrics & Gynaecology had gained its sound reputation; which of course was the first postgraduate clinical degree in 1952 at the University of Khartoum, Sudan. Professor Hadad had great presence in all
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academic and social events, not only in the medical field, but also in all walks of life. His knowledge and verse in Arabic language poetry was phenomenon that was as great entertainment for him and his close friend (the Late Professor Sidig Ahmed Ismail, the eminent cardiologist) every time they meet and exchange ancient Arabic poetry. His innocent social jokes were about the media criticizing the mishaps in a light way and non insulting manner.

I personally enjoyed his teachings in Khartoum North when I was a medical student.

May Allah grant his soul peace and tranquility and reward his as much as his inputs.

Dr Asim Zaki Mohamed Zaki
1937 - 05/12/2018

Dr Asim was born in Shandi North Sudan in 1937. He attended his elementary and intermediate schooling in Khartoum and his secondary schooling in Wadu Saidna. He was very well known in all types of sports and showed early leadership abilities and was appointed as head of the students’ residence committee.

He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine University of Khartoum in 1961 and had his MRCOG from UK and in his return to Sudan in 1971, he was appointed as Lecturer in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and as head of the department.

Dr Asim had enjoyed several faculties especially in the field of law. He was invited several times to participate in discussion on the ‘standing of the medical profession and legal aspects to the students’ in the Faculty of Law, University of Khartoum.

Dr Asim was a man of special personality with depth of knowledge and great ability for analysis and critical thinking. His sharp attitude may had been misinterpreted but underneath he was a good hearted spirit. I, personally, when I was a medical student was immensely impressed by his teachings and enthusiasm in obstetrics and gynecology to be my future line but that did not happened due to change of track.

I enjoyed his company when both of us were in Matar Residential area. I knew his ability and fondness of critical analysis of any issue. I used to put forward some topics and we sit together and discuss the matters in depth. He always unveils the hidden parts of the matter and gives logical analysis and concludes with various options.

Dr Asim passed on 15/2/2018 after a very short ailment.

May Allah bless his soul and grant him as much as he gave to his students, patients and the profession.

Mohamed ElMakki Ahmed
The Editor-in-Chief

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