



Prof. Syed Qasim MEHDI (FIAS, Pakistan)

It is with a sense of sadness and sorrow that the President and the Director General of the Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS) in Amman, Jordan, announce the passing away of the eminent Pakistani scientist Prof. Syed Qasim Mehdi (Pakistan), Fellow of the IAS. He was 75 years old.

Prof. Syed Qasim Mehdi was the Director General, Biomedical and Genetic Engineering Division, A Q Khan Research Laboratory, Islamabad, Pakistan. He was born on February 13, 1941. He was a visiting professor of Molecular Biology and Genetic Medicine at Hussain Ebrahim Jamal Research Institute of Chemistry, Karachi University, and the Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation, and Dow Medical College, Karachi, Pakistan. Dr Mehdi was awarded his PhD from the Department of Biochemistry, Magdalen College, University of Oxford, UK, in 1969. The title of his thesis was "Synthesis and Control of Bacterial Ribonucleic Acids." Before that, he did his MSc from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA, in 1966. During his stay at the MIT, he undertook a research project entitled, "Early Kinetics of Induced Enzyme Synthesis," for which he received the Sigma Xi Award for "Outstanding Research" from the American Society for the Promotion of Research. He got his first degree in Biochemistry from Lucknow University, India, in 1963.

Since 1991, Dr. Mehdi had been the Director General, Biomedical and Genetic Engineering Division, A Q Khan Research Laboratories, Islamabad, Pakistan (1986–1991); Head, National Institute for Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, Biomedical Division, Lahore, Pakistan (1980–1992); Director (Scientific), the Alexander Medical Foundation, CA. USA (1980–1986); Senior Research Fellow and Research Professor, Departments of Chemistry and Radiology, Cancer Biology Research Labs, Stanford University (1976–1980); and Senior Research Associate, Department of Radiology, Nuclear Medicine Division, Stanford University.

Dr. Mehdi was a visiting professor, Klinikum Steglitz, the Free University of Berlin, Germany (1974–1976); Welcome Trust Research Fellow, Department of Clinical Biochemistry, Oxford University, UK (1972–1974); Nuffield Consultant Biochemist, Children's Hospital, Boston, USA (1964–1965); and Research Assistant, Biology Department, MIT, USA (1963–1966).

Dr. Mehdi was Member/Fellow of the Biochemical Society (UK, 1972–1997); The American Thyroid Association; The Oxford Union Society (life member); The Oxford-Cambridge Society; American Society for Human Genetics; American Association for the Advancement of Science; Fellow, National Academy of Medical Sciences of Pakistan; Fellow, Chemical Society of Pakistan; Fellow, Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS); Fellow, Pakistan Academy of Sciences; Member, Human Genome Organization (HUGO), USA; and Member, International Executive Committee, Human Genome Diversity Project (HGDP), USA. Prof. Mehdi has published more than 120 research papers, of which many were published in international journals.

He was elected a Fellow of the IAS in 2000.

Prof. Syed Qasim Mehdi will be greatly missed by his colleagues and fellow scientists in Pakistan and the Islamic world. *"Ina Lillah Wa Ina Ilaihi Raj'oon."*

IAS President, Fellows, and staff offer their heartfelt condolences to his family and friends throughout the world.