

Obituary

Another Legend Lost: Prof. Muhammad Iqbal Butt**Prof. Muhammad Mujeeb**

February, 6th 2021 was a very heavy day for the medical fraternity of Pakistan when we lost our very dear, teacher of the teachers, Professor Muhammad Iqbal Butt. He suffered from Covid and could not come out of it and finally he left for eternal abode leaving behind not only his wife and children but also a large number of ENT surgeons all over Pakistan.

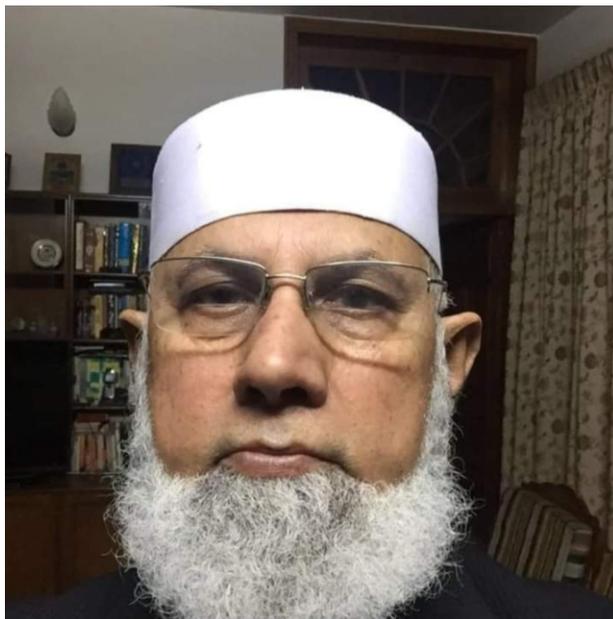
I was taught by Professor Iqbal Butt in 4th year and final year MBBS in 1983-84. His impressive personality and knowledge attracted me into ENT and so I ended up in ENT ward, where another master of ENT i.e. Professor Riaz Ahsan Siddiqi was heading the department.

I worked as house officer for full one year and later assisted Prof. Iqbal Butt in his private surgeries. Spending time with him was full of learning, not only clinical knowledge but also day to day life. I remember, once I was driving him, he taught me how to avoid a ditch on the road. Today, I still follow his advice while driving.

Professor Iqbal Butt served for short period at Nishter Medical College, Multan and then spent whole of his career working at Allama Iqbal Medical College. I wouldn't be wrong to say that he was one of the key figures in bringing Allama Iqbal Medical College to the status that it presently enjoys today. He was instrumental in compiling the PVMS list of Electro medical equipment's and I have the honour of being his assistant it for this job. This list of equipment was so comprehensive that all the purchase for various medical colleges and hospitals in Punjab was done according to it for at least two decades.

After his retirement from Govt. service, Prof. Iqbal Butt nurtured another ENT department from scratch i.e. at Lahore Medical and Dental College. This was the only department, amongst the private medical colleges, that was recognized by CPSP for FCPS training.

Professor Iqbal Butt was one of the most Non-controversial personalities in medical profession because of his dedication, commitment and faithfulness to his colleagues, the college and medical profession as a whole. He was amongst the most



learned personalities in ENT and his obsession of continued learning can be gauged by the fact that he would never miss any conference, course or CME activity and would keenly attend the Resident's class up until his last illness that claimed his life.

Professor Iqbal Butt was a true Muslim. This aspect of his personality was evident by his way of life and the time he spent in disseminating the teachings of Quran and Sunnah with the Tablighi Jamaat meetings. Many would cherish his qualities of a good Muslim as he would make sure that others around him, whether Junior Doctors or paramedical staff, feel comfortable in his presence. He always made sure to include everyone on the same dining table and enjoy the food that he frequently used to bring from home. He was very fond of eating good quality food and knew each and every place in Lahore where quality food could be found. Being very soft spoken, I always had to listen to him with great attention in order to grasp what he said.

In the end I would like to say that Professor Iqbal Butt had a full life and was a role model not only for his family members but also for everyone around him, in the particular the ENT surgeons throughout Pakistan.

We will all miss him very much.

I would like to end by praying that Allah Subhanahu wa Tala would grant him highest place in Jannat-Ul-Firdaus and grant patience to his family and friends. Ameen.