

## Obituary

**Embracing Martyrdom: Prof. Mustafa Kamal Pasha****Prof. Kamran Salick**

15<sup>th</sup> July was a tragic day for Nishtar Medical College as its serving Vice Chancellor (V.C.) and a frontline health worker, Prof. Mustafa Kamal Pasha embraced martyrdom in his fight against Covid-19.

An asset for his family, Nishtar Medical University, the medical fraternity in general and ailing humanity in particular, Prof. Kamal was the first Vice Chancellor of the newly created University. The loss to those who knew him in any capacity is infinite.

Mustafa Kamal Pasha was born in a family of doctors. His father, Professor Kamal was one of the earliest professors of medicine to work at Nishtar Medical College, Multan. Mustafa Kamal was a gifted student, with outstanding achievements throughout his academic career. Upon graduation he earned the well-deserved title of best graduate of 1984, batch number 27. His academic as well as professional achievements bear testimony to his extra ordinary brilliance. He was always a source of pride to his family.

He went on to complete FCPS and FRCS, and after training in Edinburgh as a general surgeon for 8 years, he decided to come to Pakistan. His motive was to give back to his country what he had achieved. After returning, he soon rose through the ranks as a great teacher and accomplished professional. As an exceptionally skilled general surgeon, he pioneered Laparoscopic surgery in the South of Punjab and established a Laparoscopic unit in Nishtar where thousands have since been cured.

His contribution towards undergraduate teaching and surgery, his supervision for postgraduates and his services for ailing humanity is a loss which cannot be filled. I had an opportunity to work more closely with the late Mustafa Kamal as a fellow teacher in Nishtar for 20 years. I came to value him most when I became Principal of Nishtar Medical College and hospital. In the academic council, he was my right-hand man in running the affairs of the college and hospital. I will forever remain indebted to him for his inputs in administrative affairs. He was a good advisor and helped me in many difficult situations including matters related to the department of general surgery, other internal problems and student affairs.

Unlike many in our profession, Mustafa Kamal Pasha



was an exceptionally well-groomed gentleman, a well behaved, soft spoken, congenial person who respected his fellows, juniors, coworkers and attending staff equally. The surgeon's office in general surgery theater complex at Nishtar is a fantastic place where fellow colleagues come for tea, coffee, rest and above all, gossip in a light mood. His sense of humor, wittiness and his loud and cheerful laughter will ring in our ears for days to come. He will be dearly missed by his colleagues who invariably enjoyed his company.

The set back to the infant Nishtar Medical University as VC, teacher, planner and executor is great and the loss to ailing humanity as a surgeon is immense. His legacy will live in the form of hundreds of post-graduate students who trained under his supervision and will spread the good work he initiated. His name will also live among the scores of patients he treated who are a Sadqa-e-Jaaria and will become a constant source of solace to the soul of our beloved brother.

I pray for his soul to rise to highest ranks in heaven. May Allah heap Pasha's soul in the gardens of heaven and bestow upon him His Rehmat. I pray for the patience and perseverance of his family, friends and all wishers.