

## Obituary

### DR. IFTIKHAR AHMAD MALIK

(1936 – 2008)

“Under the brown fog of a winter dawn – A crowd flowed over London Bridge – so many.  
I had not thought that death has undone so many”.

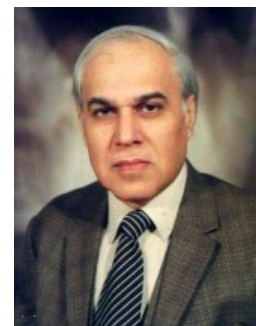
(T.S.Eliot)

Only yesterday, I had received a cordial and financially most hopeful letter (No.5-9/PAS/3349 dated 29th April 2008), signed by Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad Malik and today (May 12, 2008), I was shocked to receive a most dreadful letter No.6-20/PAS/3384 dated 8th May 2008, from my close friend Qasim Jan, who wrote to me as Associate Secretary General, Pakistan Academy of Sciences, about the sad demise of Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad Malik, Secretary General, Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Islamabad. Borrowing the phraseology of T.S.Eliot, I wish to ask him: Is this the way, the world ends? Not with a Bang but a Whimper! But Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad Malik cannot die as Hafiz Shirazi has clearly declared! “People who are endowed with the faculty of love do not die as their name is inscribed permanently in the annals of the universe”.

Professor Malik had some unique distinctions. Of all the existing Fellows of Pakistan Academy of Sciences, he was the only Fellow, born in the Province of Sindh (in Khairpur). He was the first to send Eid Greeting cards to Fellows. He was a true scientist, honest scholar and a thorough gentleman.

Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmed was magnanimous-mighty of heart, mighty of mind. He was loaded with highly commendable and worldly honors. But his main distinction was his highest moral values reminiscent of Fellows such as Salimuzzaman Siddiqui and Raziuddin Siddiqi.

I am indeed very grateful to Prof. Dr. M. D. Shami for promoting an intimate relationship with Dr. Malik Saheb. I found him great in life--in the life itself not in the trappings of it. He was always advancing in life and with advancement of time his heart was getting softer, his blood warmer, his mind quicker and he has rightfully entered into a life of a living peace. “Naff-say-mutmainnah”.



He was educated at Government College, Lahore, Pakistan: 1951-53; King Edward Medical College, Lahore: M.B.B.S. 1958; Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP), Rawalpindi, Pakistan: Diploma in Clinical Pathology (DCP), 1963; The Royal Free and St. Thomas Hospital Medical School, London: MRC Path, 1968; The University of London: Ph.D., 1971; FCAP, 1971; FRC Path, 1981; FCPS, 1987; FPAMS, 1988; Edinburgh: FRCP, 1993.

He held various positions including Distinguished National Professor, Higher Education Commission (HEC), Islamabad; Professor Emeritus and Dean, Faculty of Pathology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Pakistan (CPSP); Professor Emeritus, Baqai and Hamdard Medical Universities, Karachi and National Institute of Health (NIH), Islamabad; Professor of Medical Research, Pakistan Institute of Medical

Sciences (PIMS), Islamabad; Visiting Professor of Medical Colleges at Quetta, Jamshoro, Peshawar and Lahore; Principal and Dean, Foundation Medical College, Rawalpindi; Secretary General; Pakistan Academy of Sciences, 1996-1998, January 1, 2006 – May 7, 2008 and National Academy of Medical Sciences, 1988-1992; Dean of Health Sciences, Margalla Institute of Health Sciences, Islamabad, 1998-2001; Professor of Pathology; Army Medical College and Armed Forces Medical College, Rawalpindi, 1979-1992; Consultant, AFIP and Advisor to Medical Directorate, Rawalpindi, 1992-1994; Chairman Pakistan Medical Research Council (PMRC), 1990-1994; Consultant (STC), WHO (TMRO), 1996; Technical Doctor and Principal Research Investigator, Pak-US Laboratory for Sere-epidemiology (PULSE), Rawalpindi, 1989-1992.

His awards included Pakistan Medical Research Council (PMRC) Medal and First Prize in Biomedical Research, 1986; Distinguished Service Medal, Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences (USUMS), US Army, 1988; Pakistan Academy of Medical Sciences (PAMS) Gold Medal for Tropical Disease Research, 1992; Gold Medal for Services in Pathology, Pakistan Association of Pathologists, 1992; Gold Medal for Medical Research, Pakistan Academy of Sciences, 1993; Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military), 1981; Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military), 1992; Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Civil) in Medicine, 1993.

He has a formidable list of Fellowships/ Membership such as a **Fellow**: Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS), 1997; Islamic Academy of Sciences (IAS), 2000; Pakistan Academy of Medical Sciences (PAMS), 1988; American College of Pathologists, (FCAP) 1977; Royal College of Pathologists, London, (FRC-Path), 1981; College of Physicians & Surgeons, Pakistan, (FCPS), 1987; Royal College of Physicians (FRCP), Edinburgh, 1993; **Member**: Pakistan Medical & Dental Council, 1980-1994; Pathological Society of UK and Ireland, 1976; Association of Clinical Pathologists, UK, 1976; International Academy of Pathologists, 1984; Pakistan Association of Pathologists, 1980; Medical Research Society of Pakistan, 1986; International Editorial Advisory Board, “Tropical Doctors” JAMA-Pakistan and Journal of College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan (JCSP).

He was a functional scientist and his research areas included infectious diseases. But he was a real Masiha. There was fragrance of flowers in his talk and he was readily available for solving the problems of people not only connected with the Pakistan Academy of Sciences but also for those in dire need of help. To his family, he was a beacon of light. May his soul rest in peace in Junnat-ul-firdaus (ameen).

**Prof. Dr. Khushnood A. Siddiqui**

Fellow

Pakistan Academy of Sciences