

Obituary

Prof. Dr. Syed Qasim Mehdi

(1941–2016)

We are grieved on the demise of an eminent scientist and a senior Fellow of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Prof. Dr. Syed Qasim Mehdi, who breathed his last on 27 September, 2016 in Lahore after a protracted illness. Dr. Mehdi was a renowned molecular biologist and was elected Fellow of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences in 1999.

Dr. Qasim Mehdi was born in British India on 13th February, 1941. He obtained his MS in 1966 from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA and D.Phil. in 1969 from University of Oxford, UK. Prof. Mehdi served as Director General, Biomedical and Genetic Engineering Division of Dr. A. Q. Khan Labs; Head, National Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, Biomedical Division, Lahore, 1986-1991; Director (Scientific), The Alexandar Medical Foundation, Woodside, California, USA, 1980-1992; Senior Research Fellow and Research Professor, Department of Chemistry and Radiology, Cancer Biology Research Labs, Stanford University, California, USA, 1980-1986; Senior Research Associate, Department of Radiology, Nuclear Medicine Division, Stanford University, School of Medicine, California, USA, 1976-1980; and Visiting Professor, Klinikum Steglitz, The Free University, Berlin, Germany, 1974-1976. Currently, he was heading the Centre for Human Genetics and Molecular Medicine at Sindh Institute of Urology (SIU), Karachi.

Dr. Qasim Mehdi was recipient of *Hilal-e-Imtiaz* in 2003, *Sitara-i-Imtiaz* in 1998, Sigma Xi Award by American Society for the Promotion of Research in 1966, and Best Student Award by Lucknow University in 1962 and 1963. He was Nuffield Committee Fellow, Oxford University, UK, 1970; Wellcome Trust Fellow, Oxford

University, UK, 1972; Fellow, National Academy of Medical Sciences, Pakistan; Fellow, New York Academy of Sciences; Fellow, Chemical Society of Pakistan; Member, Biochemical Society, UK; Member,



The American Thyroid Association; Member (Life) The Oxford Union Society; Member, The Oxford-Cambridge Society; Member, Human Genome Organization (HUGO), USA; Member, International Executive Committee, Human Genome Diversity Project (HGDP), USA; Member, Governing Body, The Liaquat National Hospital, Karachi; Member, Prime Minister's Cabinet Committee for Evaluation of S&T Development in Pakistan, 1993; Member, Board of Governors, Shaukat Khanum Memorial Trust, Lahore, 1998; Chairman, Southwest Asian Committee, HGDP, USA; UNESCO Bioethics Committee, 2002-2005; and Uttar Pradesh Association for Science and Technology Advancement (UPASTA), India.

Dr. Qasim Mehdi's areas of research were Molecular Biology and Genetics with special interest in Molecular Biology of Diseases, Biotechnology and Human Genome Diversity. In the death of Dr. Qasim Mehdi, Pakistan has lost a stalwart in the area of human genomics.

May the Allah Almighty rest his soul in eternal peace and give fortitude to his family to bear this irreparable loss! Aameen.

Dr. Abdul Rashid, FPAS