

## OBITUARY

### **Prof. Dr. Abdul Ghaffar** (23<sup>rd</sup> August, 1932- 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2015)



Prof. Dr. Abdul Ghaffar, an internationally well-known scientist, an eminent Mycologist and a great scholar of University of Karachi passed away on August 10, 2015 at the age of 83. May Allah bless his soul through His infinitive mercy and place him in Heaven, and give courage to his grieved family to bear this loss, Ameen! His demise has saddened everyone in the university and the scientific community of Pakistan, especially the staff of National Nematological Research Centre (NNRC) of the University of Karachi was shocked by the sad news. Dr. Ghaffar had a long-standing association with the Centre.

Born in Allahabad, India, in 1932, Dr. Ghaffar did his graduation in 1950 from Allahabad University, India and M.Sc. in 1955 from the University of Karachi, Pakistan. His Ph.D. degree was earned at the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom in 1960. He served the Department of Botany, University of Karachi as an Assistant Professor (1962-1970), Associate Professor (1971-1977) and Professor (1978-1992). He became twice the Chairman, Department of Botany during 1978-1982 and 1986-1992 till his retirement. Dr. Ghaffar also served as Director, National Nematological Research Centre during 1987-1989 and of the M.A.H. Qadri Biological Research Center during 1990-1992 at the University of Karachi. Though, Dr. Ghaffar's major contributions have been focused on fungi of Karachi, he also taught the course of Plant Nematology with immense affection for over 10 years. His celebrated lectures, books and research articles in the fields of Mycology, Plant Pathology and Plant Nematology are master pieces and stunning success of the writer's skill; and will remain unique treatise which will surely serve as an inspiration to Plant Protection professionals for many decades to come.

Dr. Ghaffar did a remarkable job as Editor-in-Chief of "Pakistan Journal of Nematology" continuously from its initiation in 1983. He contributed immensely in the carrier development of thousands of students and served as mentor to scores of students; many of them currently are outstanding Nematologists. He had an infectious enthusiasm for science of Mycology and Nematology, which inevitably had a lasting impact on those who interacted with him. Dr. Ghaffar had more than 250 research publications, author and co-author of 6 books and written several articles related to Nematology and Plant Pathology. He always nurtured his associates and students with love and affection, encouraged them to make contributions to the study of the subject and shared his vast knowledge and experience with the young researchers including Nematologists. His ability as a major Professor, writer and editor has been great contributing factors in the growth of Nematology at early stage in Pakistan. Dr. Abdul Ghaffar had been the longest serving Chief Editor of a very popular and highly rated scientific journal- the "Pakistan Journal of Botany".

He was winner of various awards and recognitions; he was a senior Fellow of Pakistan Academy of Sciences. He was bestowed upon the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Pakistan Society of Plant Pathology in 2014. Dr. Ghaffar was an amicable, cheerful and pleasant personality. His pragmatic nature, inquisitive mind, scientific ability and commendable teaching skills will always be remembered by his associates, students and the scientific community. Professor Abdul Ghaffar is no more in this world, but his name will remain alive through his scientific and academic contributions; may Allah bless the departed soul- Ameen!

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