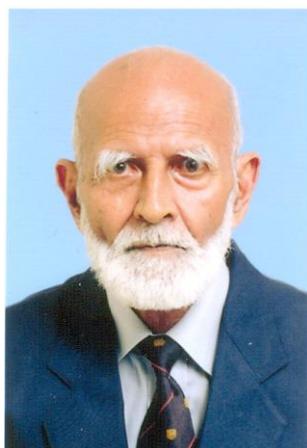


OBITUARY



Professor Dr. Abdul Ghaffar –Plant Pathologist (August 23, 1932 – August 10, 2015)

Professor Dr. Abdul Ghaffar, a world renowned plant pathologist, has passed away on August 10, 2015 at his residence in PECHS, Karachi (We all have the same destiny). He was buried in the graveyard of the University of Karachi. He left two sons and a daughter and many friends and students to mourn his demise.

Born in Allahabad, on August 23, 1932, he received his early education in Allahabad. He obtained degree of B.Sc. from University of Karachi in 1950 and joined Department of Plant Protection, Govt. of Pakistan as Assistant Mycologist and Plant pathologist. He obtained M.Sc. degree from the University of Karachi in 1955. He was awarded Research Scholarship under Colombo Plan at the Department of Botany, University of Birmingham, UK (1957-1959). He worked with Dr. C.J. Hickman on the biological control of *Sclerotium cepivorum*, the cause of white rot of onion for his Ph.D. degree from University of Birmingham, England. He joined Department of Botany, University of Karachi as Assistant Professor in 1962. He was again awarded Post Doctoral Research Fellowship under SEATO at the Department of Plant Pathology, University of California, Riverside, USA (1967-1968) where he worked with renowned plant pathologists Prof. Dr. G.A. Zentmyer and Professor D.C. Erwin. He got first merit award in 1968 for outstanding research contribution at the University of Karachi. In 1971 he was promoted to Associate Professor. He was Chairman of the Botany department from 1975-1978. He has been awarded Post Doctoral Fulbright Hays Scholarship at the Department of Plant Pathology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, U.S.A. (1976 to 1977) and worked with Professor R. Baker and Professor Henis.

He once again served in the department of Botany, University of Karachi as chairman from 1986 to 1992. During this period he also served as Director of National Nematological Research Centre (1987-1989) and Director of MAH Qadri Biological Research Centre (1990-1992) of University of Karachi. He was Chief Editor of Pakistan Journal of Botany from 1971 to 2007 and from 1983 to 2015 for Pakistan Journal of Nematology. He edited six books, completed several research projects and organized, participated and presented his research work in many International and National Science Conferences and journals of international repute. He was member of several scientific societies like British Mycological Society, American Phytopathological Society, Pakistan Botanical Society, Pakistan Nematological Society, Scientific Society of Pakistan, etc.

His scholastic attainments – elegant and impressive – made anybody envy. In 1985, he was awarded Gold Medal and Certificate of merit by USDA/PARC in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the field of Agriculture. Fifteen students completed their PhD and three students their M.Phil theses under his supervision. He published more than 250 research papers.

Dr. Ghaffar was an upright person - Man-loving, God-fearing and affectionately gentle like a saint. He was a keen observer of nature, an efficient teacher and dutifully dedicated to education. The utmost simplicity and regularity, learned and systematic planning, and fearless truthfulness and self-accountability characterized him throughout his life. He was a virtuous and insightful person with great creative and imaginative penetration. His demise is an irreparable loss to us and to science. He made me understand – *We live in a world of infinite possibilities – We get what we strive for.* May God shower him with His choicest blessings! Aameen!

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Javed Zaki
Department of Botany, University of Karachi