



Obituary

Prof. Dr. Abdul Ghaffar (1932-2015)

Prof. Dr. Abdul Ghaffar was born in Allahabad, British India on 23rd August, 1932. He obtained his M.Sc. degree from University of Karachi, Pakistan, in 1955 and his Ph.D. from University of Birmingham, UK in 1960.

Prof. Dr. Abdul Ghaffar had a long association with the National Nematological Research Centre (NNRC), University of Karachi, Karachi. He served as Professor and Chairman, Department of Botany (1975-77, 1986-1992); Director, M.A.H. Qadri Biological Research Centre (1990-1992); Director, National Nematological Research Centre (1987-1989); Professor, (Botany) (1979-1992); Associate Professor, (Botany) (1971-1979); and Assistant Professor, (Botany) (1963-1971) at University of Karachi; Assistant Mycologist/ Assistant Plant Pathologist at Department of Plant Protection, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Pakistan (1950-1963). Prof. Dr. Ghaffar acted as Director of National Nematological Research Centre during 1987-1989, served as Emeritus Editor of "Pakistan Journal of Botany", and Editor-in-Chief of "Pakistan Journal of Nematology" since the inception of this Journal in 1983. Though, Dr. Ghaffar's major contributions concerned fungi of Karachi, he also taught the course of Plant Nematology with immense affection for over 10 years.

Prof. Abdul Ghaffar's ability as a professor, writer and editor has been the major driving force in the growth of Nematology at early stage in Pakistan.

During his long and active scientific career period over five decades, Dr. Ghaffar made significant contributions in research and academics in Mycology and Nematology.

Prof. Abdul Ghaffar won many prestigious honors and recognitions including National Award of Republic of Brazil "Ordem Nacional do Merito Educado – Classe Comendador", 2000 and "Ordem Nacional do Merito Cientifico – Classe Gra Cruz, 1997; Doctor Honoris Causa, Universidade de Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1997 and Universite Catholique de Louvain, Belgium, 1995; N. van Uden Lecture Award, University of Coimbra, Portugal, 1993; Chemistry Award, Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), 1986; and LAFI Award, Pharmaceutical Industries, Brazil, 1978. He was elected Fellow of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences in 1992.

Prof. Dr. Abdul Ghaffar 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, Aameen!



Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, FPAS
Dr. Abdul Rashid, FPAS