

Haematology Warriors – Played Well

Nadeem Ikram

¹*Department of Pathology
Akhtar Saeed Medical College,
Rawalpindi*

Address for Correspondence

*Dr. Nadeem Ikram
Department of Pathology
Akhtar Saeed Medical College,
Rawalpindi
drnadeemikram@gmail.com*

In the recent past, the hematology community has mourned the loss of numerous esteemed individuals who made exemplary efforts to establish and fortify hematology as an independent medical discipline. It is challenging to truly fathom the greatness of these illustrious and magnanimous figures, but the hematology fraternity is duty-bound to pay homage to these revered souls.

The pioneering figures in the field of hematology were Lieutenant General Saleem Ahmad and Prof Abdul Hayee. General Saleem Ahmad left behind a galaxy of haematologists, who no doubt have a strong imprint of General Saleem's training on their professional careers. As the person responsible for laying the foundation of hematology and bone marrow/stem cell transplantation in the armed forces, he provided a solid footing for Pathology in general and Hematology in particular within the Armed Forces. His exceptional leadership abilities and charismatic personality were evident to all.

Prof Abdul Hayee will be remembered as an outstanding teacher and mentor, whose trained hematologists not only established hematology in Punjab but also in other provinces. Regardless of the role he played or the vantage point he occupied, he always stood out as a compassionate individual, never seeking undue credit for his genuine contributions—that was the essence of his character.

Prof Moeen Uddin, from Karachi will be missed as an excellent teacher. His State of the Art lectures were always near to a TED Talk for haematology students, throughout the country. He possessed a unique ability to explain complex hematological topics in an easily understandable and straightforward manner. Whenever he taught, a pin-drop silence enveloped the room. True to his style, he authored numerous books to make the subject of hematology more accessible. Among the many titles to his credit are "Bedside Hematology," "G6PD Deficiency," "Blood Products," "Chronic

Lymphocytic Leukemia," "Stains in Hematology," "Red Cell Inclusions," "Macrocytosis," "Thrombocytopenia," and "Undergraduate Basic Hematology."

In the South of the country, another haematologist, who left us way too early, is Dr Tahir Shamsi. He can easily be taken as an institution in himself. He could easily be regarded as an institution unto himself. Dr. Shamsi established the National Institute of Blood Diseases (N.I.B.D), which swiftly emerged as a prominent center for training and service across the nation. He was exceptionally versatile and can rightfully be considered one of the pioneers of bone marrow/stem cell transplantation in Pakistan. He and his residents actively participated in hematology conferences, always brimming with innovative ideas and a dedication to serving the afflicted. His comprehensive workshops on hematology analyzers' histograms, held across the country, later materialized into an informative manuscript. His impressive publications and research articles serve as valuable sources of knowledge for hematology students. Some noteworthy titles include "Interpretation of Histograms," "Problem-Based Hematology," "Hematological Issues in Gynecology and Obstetrics," "How We Manage Hematological Disorders with Limited Resources," and "Practical Hemostasis: Basic Concepts and Practical Application." and many other. Shamsi sahib's early departure left all in a state of trance. He kindled the candle from both ends to achieve a lot over a short span.

From a remote area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K.P.K), Prof Fazal-e-Raheem was a one-man army who left a significant impact on hematology activities nationwide. His research papers addressed indigenous and fundamental hematological issues, reflecting his exceptional skills and keen interest.

Major General Muhammad Ayub is another notable haematologist who left us untimely. He was very close to people and used to go an extra mile to help patients. He was bestowed with a unique teaching style, where

medicine is akin to an art. In teaching sessions his concluding comments were always like pearls of wisdom, like an icing on cake, very well reflecting his lifelong exposure and experience. His book “Case Based Hand Book of Transfusion Medicine” very well reflects his interest in transfusion medicine. The book encompasses difficult issues, related to transfusion, in an eloquent way. In addition to his wit and wisdom, we will miss his god-gifted habitus of tailored and born general.

All the aforementioned individuals contributed in various ways to propel hematology in Pakistan to new heights. While they will be missed, their work and contributions will live on in the annals of hematology. They led lives well-lived—determined, visionary, and goal-oriented, with boundless enthusiasm to serve and make a difference. The best way to honor their memory is to remain united and follow in their footsteps, alleviating human suffering to the best of our abilities and capabilities.