



## First Death Anniversary of Prof. Dr. Muhammad Aslam Khan (1932-2023)

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Prof. Dr. Muhammad Aslam Khan died peacefully on February 20, 2023, in Lahore, Pakistan. Prof. Aslam Khan was the founding head of the Human Genetics and Molecular Biology Department at the University of Health Sciences Lahore (UHS). He was also the Director of Sports and cocurricular activities at the UHS. His services to UHS were brought by the Higher Education Commission's project entitled "strengthening of basic medical sciences at UHS" commonly known as SBMS as a project director. This project not only brought a lot of funding for the establishment of research facilities at the UHS but also employment opportunities for young people.

Prof. Aslam Khan received his Doctorate of Science (D.Sc.) in Genetics and Anthropology from Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany, in 1963, after his master's degree from Punjab University (1953). He was among the founding fellows of the Biological Society of Pakistan (1956) and Zoological Society of Pakistan (1968). In 1968, he was awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, London. The Pakistan Academy of Medical Sciences awarded him a fellowship in 1985. His professional services included academic and research affiliations with the provincial bodies of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and East Pakistan (now Bangladesh).

He served as Deputy Chief for the Division of Medical Entomology of the International Center for Medical Research and Training (ICMRT) at the Pakistan Medical Research Center in Lahore. Later, he became the Chief of Malaria Vector Research at ICMRT. This was the time when he studied the bionomics of mosquito species in Pakistan, which served as a reference (1). While affiliated with the University of Maryland School of Medicine, he extended his research to vector-borne diseases of public health importance (2-10). After retirement from the University of Maryland, he worked as an independent consultant for several national and international bodies. Later, he joined the Higher Education Commission's SBMS project as a project director. During this affiliation, he launched the first department of Human Genetics in the country at UHS Lahore. This department is still operational and produces many PhDs in human genetics, working at various reputable organizations in and outside the country. The department's objective was to study the basics of genetic diseases in the country, and it has been doing very well to date. Prof. Khan's research on genetic diseases has mainly focused on the role of consanguinity in gene pooling in the Pakistani population (11-13). Over the past several years, he has voluntarily offered genetic counselling to patients with hemoglobinopathies at the Sundas Foundation Lahore.

He also studied the public health dynamics of blood donors at the Sundas Foundation in addition to genetic counselling (14, 15). He was also recognized as an Eminent Professor of Genetics by Higher Education Commission.

In 2017, he founded The International Journal of Frontier Sciences and became its first editor-in-chief, until he died last year. I am publishing this obituary at his first death anniversary on February 20, 2024, praying for eternal peace.

I wish him to rest in peace in his life in hereafter. Ameen!

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