

Professor Faisal Masud, a legend, a friend and the founder editor of the Journal of Pakistan Society of Internal Medicine (JPSIM)



On 16th of August 2019, we lost a legend Prof. Faisal Masud. It is my profound privilege to pay tributes to him. While we all still share the grief of his sudden demise, I would like to share my special sentiments for him.

I am fortunate to have a close association with him for over 35 years. First time we met was when he came back from England and joined AIMC as an AP. I was already working there in a junior capacity. He had grey hair even then. During this long period, we worked together, and also in different institutions but never lost contact. By a good fortune, I was able to work with him wherever he went. He has been a teacher, a mentor, a senior colleague, and as he said a friend. I had started to look up to him as an unspoken friend and a guardian angel to bail me out of any tricky situation. I knew I could never match his energy and versatile knowledge but all the same, I felt honoured and encouraged by his respecting my academic opinions, very few seniors would be gracious to do.

I know, and everybody knows, how extraordinary a man he was. Intelligent, knowledgeable, sharp, witty, passionate researcher, great teacher, upright, untiring and utterly honest. Always supercharged. I never saw him tired. He strived to challenge himself and those around him to seek excellence to the highest level. He had been, and will continue to be, my source of inspiration. He was indeed my ideal. We had some common passions including black coffee & NEJM.

I would like to share some of his qualities that everybody may not know. He was very patriotic. He had a lot of empathy for patients. He had a lot of interest in history, art, poetry, literature and music. He had love for humans and animals. What he did not have was greed,

dishonesty and hypocrisy. He would say whatever he had to, right on your face. That is why he made thousands of friends but few enemies also. I remember him say, I will fight for the cause and take the bullet on my chest, never on my back.

He had (and he used to admit it) some eccentricities and idiosyncrasies. In fact that is what made him unique. I believe all extraordinary people have these traits. He was stubborn, somewhat arrogant and very adamant. All this because he was a human. An almost perfect human. Nobody could afford to be his enemy as he always outsmart him.

Some of his professional contributions include

1. He established Diabetes Management Center which was later upgraded to a full-fledged Endocrinology unit accredited by CPSP for fellowship training.
2. He literally built the Services Institute of Medical Sciences with its state of the art building and equipment.
3. He learnt computer language and developed Hospital Management System & Diabetes Management Systems for SIMS and DMC respectively.
4. He played an instrumental and leading role in fighting Dengue epidemic and developing guidelines for future.
5. He also played a crucial role in identifying the culprit contaminant which resulted in many deaths amongst patients of PIC with heart disease.
6. As a VC, KEMU he restored the old glory of library hall and Patila block.
7. As a VC, UHS he revamped the old examination system and conducted a fair entry examination in a very difficult time.
8. As a Director General Punjab Human Organ Transplant Authority (P-HOTA), he developed and implemented the system to eradicate illegal kidney transplantation.
9. He trained numerous fellows and followers like me who will continue his mission.
10. He was also the founder editor of The Journal of Pakistan Society of Internal Medicine (JPSIM). Unfortunately, the fate did not allow him to publish the first issue.



Prof. Faisal Masud,

Thank you for what you have given us. You are a great professional loss. You have lived a life that everyone would want to live. You have died a death that everyone will wish for. And you have left a legacy that everyone dreams of. I feel a deep personal loss that time may not be able to fill, and a deep personal grief which will take long time to heal.

Prof. Faisal Masud,

Now that you have gone home, we want to tell you, that you will be remembered for ever.

Rest in eternal peace.

Sincerely yours, ever.

Aziz-ur-Rehman