

EULOGY

Dr. Khalifa Borashid – Great Loss

Recently, in June 2004, the medical community had lost one of its founding members. The patients too had lost an excellent neurosurgeon, who had given a service to Bahrain's population for over 25 years through Salmaniya medical complex. The Ministry of Health had lost an excellent administrator, who approached every problem with a smile and humane influence. Bahrain medical society had lost one of its prominent members who served as vice president from 1994 to 1996. During his tenure, he was the great catalyst. His family had lost a caring husband and dedicated father.

Dr. Khalifa was the most sympathetic person to his colleagues and his patients. Compassion was one of his great assets, it should be a feature of every doctor, but unfortunately, quite many in Bahrain lacks it – may be due to 'burnout' syndrome. He never hurt anybody; he never had grudge against anyone. He is always pleased to give help to his colleagues and patients. He looked after his senior and junior colleagues equally. He was always a guide and an idol to them. Dr Khalifa should be remembered for his compassion and his benevolence to everybody.

We lost Dr. Khalifa Borashid because of terminal cancer. This should spark an initiative within the ministry of health, Bahrain medical society and Bahrain cancer society to start a strong drive for donation to collect minimum of two to three million Bahrain Dinars to establish Dr. Khalifa's Cancer Centre, which will be dedicated to medical research in cancer. That center would keep Dr. Khalifa's memory alive for generations and it should participate in finding the causes of some cancers in the region because some factors, which are involved in cancer initiation are different and specific to certain areas. Postnasal carcinoma epidemic and factors attributed to its causation in China could not have been discovered without research. Without research many preventive measures could not have been adopted in several types of cancer.

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Dr Khalifa Borashid was born on 20th September 1947. He was the sixth child in a family of eight. He died at the age of 57 year. He graduated from the faculty of medicine, Alexandria University, in July 1971. He was a distinguished student for being loved by most of his classmates because of his amiable character. He did his specialty study and training in Neurosurgery in the American University of Beirut and was certified in June 1984.

Dr Khalifa Borashid did fellowship training in Mayo clinic and Allegheny general hospital from August 1984 to November 1984. During his fellowship training he excelled and he was recommended to a consultant position.

He was appointed as the Consultant Neurosurgeon at Salmaniya medical centre in June 1985. He almost alone established neurosurgery in Salmaniya medical centre. Before his time, neurosurgery was attempted by interested general surgeons and on occasions, the interested and the interest are not available.

In May 2002, he was appointed chief of medical staff at Salmaniya medical complex. He was the most successful and lovable chief of staff in the history of the hospital. He was loved by his colleagues, patients and all those who dealt with him.

He made immense efforts in establishing the neurosciences department at Salmaniya medical complex. The fruit of his hard work came into existence in February 2002.

He was married to a gentle, beautiful lady, Dr. Mona Mohamed Hijris, distinguished family physician herself. He had a daughter of one year old 'Khulood' and a foster son called 'Omar'. He was fond of both, to the extent no conversation with him without their names cropping up.

I was always interested in cancer, in fact my subspecialty is cancer of head and neck; in Feb 2004, I met Dr. Khalifa and I discussed with him his condition and the stage of his cancer. To alleviate his fears and cheer him up, I brought him many cancer studies, which shows that many patients could recover from the stage he was in. He looked at me and said, "I lived my life deeply, I released myself to the people, I lived

a useful life, I have always loved my family, my colleagues, and people of Bahrain; therefore, I have absolutely no fear of death."

He reminds me of what Voltaire said, "The safest course is to do nothing against one's conscience. With this secret, we can enjoy life and have no fear from death." Certainly, Dr. Khalifa did not do anything against his own conscience and therefore had no fear of death

Dr. Khalifa is deeply missed in Bahrain and at Salmaniya medical center. He touched our lives; he is remembered by thousands of patients he saved. All who knew Dr. Khalifa admired his dedication to preserving life, his determination to serve the under-privileged of Bahrain and his love and devotion to his family.

Finally, I would like to present the following poem by Melinda Sue Pacho to his family and to his colleagues. This poem truly represents Khalifa who gave and gave to the community but took little. I believe in all honesty that Dr. Khalifa did not die but emigrated to another star. It is said by Al-Ghazali, "The happiness of the drop is to die in the river."

I Did Not Die

Do not stand at my grave and forever weep.
I am not there; I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.

I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn's rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush

Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and forever cry.
I am not there. I did not die.

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