

Obituary
Professor Dr. Taheer Al-Gailani 1926-2009



Prof. Dr. Al-Gailani who born in Heet, Iraq, a well known rural area as old as the history, had his primary school there, then he moved to Al-Ramadi governorate to continue the intermediate teaching, then he moved to the central final school in Baghdad from where he was graduated in 1942.

In 1943, he started his medical studies at Baghdad Medical College, the only medical school in those days.

In 1950 he had his M.B.Ch.B. in Medicine, after which he joined the Obligatory Military Service then in 1950-1953. He became a resident doctor in the General Hospital in Baghdad in his favorite field, the General Surgery. In 1953 he moved to U.K. for training.

In 1956 he became a fellow the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, then in 1958 he became a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

He had a very good British training and he proved himself, well disciplined hard working gentleman with a strong desire to improve his surgical capabilities. In 1958 he came back home to have a teaching position in Baghdad Medical College and consultant general surgeon in the central general hospital in Baghdad.

He showed so many humanistic activities including a visit to Algeria to help the war wounded, he was full of national feeling it was a real pride that he refused to leave the country despite all the difficulties and suffering, and he insisted to die in his country and he was buried in his birthplace Heet.

He feed his students honestly by his vast experience and he was very much eager to teach all what he learned. Also he left behind him several published articles in international journals. His field of interest was the colorectal surgery and hydatid disease.

He was very keen supervisor for so many postgraduate students. Moreover he was very much interested in teaching undergraduate students even after his retirement.

He had active participation in so many national and international conferences all over the world, and also was given so many medals and honorary gifts because of his distinguished scientific activities. In 1968 he became a professor of general surgery because of his outstanding work in general surgery.

He was very fond of his career in addition to other social and hopes activities like music, poems, drawing and paintings so he was really enjoying a life despite the heavy surgical burden.

It is really bitter and difficult to feel that he left this earth to be in the heaven, we shall pray for him to be in a better state.

Sadly he left us on the fourth of January 2009 after a short illness.

All his colleagues and friends appreciate very much his personality and his humanistic feeling in particular and he was bitterly missed by his patients. He is survived by his son, Omar (gynecologist), his daughter Raya (civil engineer), his younger son Yousef (A newly graduate doctor) and his very faithful wife Dr. Hana. We shall continue remembering him and also praying for him.

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