

Professionalism Par Excellence - Prof. Saadiya Aziz Karim

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We recognize the outstanding services that have been carried out in the field of Obstetrics and Gynaecology for over twenty-eight years by Dr. Saadiya Aziz Karim. Having significantly contributed to the field of medical education as well as Obstetrics and

Gynaecology, she has proved to be a role model for all those aspiring to build a better understanding to medical education, as well as serving patients and students alike.

Dr. Saadiya Aziz Karim graduated from Dow Medical College, one of the top tier medical universities in Pakistan in 1979 with the Roll of Honour in Physiology and a merit position in her first and third professional M.B.B.S Examinations. She then moved on to get her membership of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) from the United Kingdom in 1985. Dr. Saadiya worked as Asst. Prof of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Dow Medical College, Civil Hospital Karachi 1986 to 1988, and as Asst. Prof Gynaecology and Obstetrics, The Aga Khan University from 1989 to 1996.

She then worked as the Professor and Chairperson, Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department, Karachi Medical and Dental College & Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, a post that she held from June 13, 1997 and honoured with her presence, till her retirement in September 2015. Within a few months of Dr. Saadiya joining KMDC, the college was recognized by the PMDC. Also the RCOG (UK) recognized Abbasi Shaheed Hospital / KMDC for

MRCOG training. This was only after a detailed inspection by the RCOG team, initiated by Prof. Saadiya Aziz.

Dr. Saadiya Aziz received Fellowship from Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in 1999. Due to her tremendous achievements and persistent hard work, she received an Honorary Fellowship from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Pakistan in 2005.

Due to her meritorious work in her field as well as commitment to education, she was announced the Director Clinical Rotations of the fourth and final year students of KMDC in 1999, and later served her students as the Principal of KMDC (from 2002 to 2005). Throughout her tenure, she brought about numerous positive changes in medical education which included the organization and standardization of academic sessions of all five years of MBBS and four years of BDS. These changes reflected in the high pass percentage and achievement of top merit positions in the annual MBBS/BDS students in their examinations. She also initiated the Community Oriented Medical Education at KMDC, which became the only college of Pakistan where this programme was successful, along with a Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme comprising monthly state-of-the-art lectures.

Her position at Abbasi Shaheed Hospital was a multidimensional job, which constituted commitment to clinics, teaching undergraduates and postgraduates, as well as research activities and administration. Abbasi Shaheed Hospital is a government, tertiary care hospital that is usually extremely busy due to the catering to the underprivileged community. The Gynaecology department, under Dr. Saadiya's care, looked after Gynaecological oncol-

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ogy, high-risk obstetrics, Gynaecological urology and infertility, apart from the basic Gynaecology and Obstetrics patients. Apart from these duties, she was also responsible for planning the curriculum of undergraduates (she was part of HEC Undergraduate Medical Curriculum Committee), postgraduate student training for MRCOG as well as for FCPS, MCPS and MS programs. Moreover, being the Chairperson of the department, she was responsible for being a part of numerous committees of KMDC such as Academic Council, Ethical committee, Postgraduate selection committee, Internship Committee, Departmental promotion committee and Abbasi Shaheed Hospital purchase committee.

Apart from providing her services at KMDC, she was also a part-time consultant at The Aga Khan University Hospital and Medical College since 1998. The Aga Khan University Hospital is ranked as the topmost medical institution of Pakistan, equipped with state-of-the-art technology and expertise. There Dr. Saadiya has a busy clinical Obs/Gynae practice and is actively involved in teaching and training postgraduates.

Dr. Saadiya was selected on merit as Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Karachi from 2005 to 2010. Throughout her tenure she was responsible to oversee the curriculum, academic activities and evaluation system of the students of the affiliated colleges. Additionally, she supervised the M.S., M.D and PhD programmes affiliated with University of Karachi. She re-structured the MS, MD programme of the University introducing an entrance exam, one year basic sciences, 3 years clinical training and an Objective Examination System. She was also the Chairperson of Board of Medical and Dental Studies, Board of Faculties at University of Karachi, a member of the PMDC, University of Karachi, Academic Council, Dean's Committee, Board of Advanced Studies and Research to name a few. As Dean, Dr. Saadiya introduced the new exam methodology, Short Essay Questions (SEQ), and Best Choice Questions (BCQ) for each subject and organized training of all medical and dental colleges faculty for the said methods by means of workshops.

Throughout her career, Dr. Saadiya has been involved in numerous research projects and medical journals. During her tenure as Principal, KMDC she made significant contributions by serving as the Patron of journal, Annals of ASH & KMDC. This journal was first indexed on WHO Regional Index medicus during her tenure as Principal. She also provides her services as

* Adjunct Professor, Dr. Panjwani Centre for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research (PCMD).

* Research Reviewer for articles published in IJGO [International Journal Gynaecology Obstetrics], JPMA (Journal of Pakistan Medical Association) and JCPSP (Journal of College of Physician & Surgeon, Pakistan), both indexed journals and JPMRC (Journal of Pakistan Medical Research Council).

* Associate Member at PAME (Pakistan Association of Medical Editors)

* Assessor of Research synopsis and Dissertation of FCPS trainees of the CPSP Pakistan and MD trainees of University of Karachi.

* Advisor/supervisor of research programmes carried out by trainees of FCPS and MRCOG and undergraduates

* Research supervisor and advisor of MS and MD programmes, University of Karachi.

With over thirty-five publications in national and international journals, five research grants, chapters published in international books, commitment to undergraduate, postgraduate training, and research supervision, these are a few of the achievement attached to her name. Dr. Saadiya received the "Best Research From Developing World" Award from the International Journal of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (IJGO) in 2011. Dr. Saadiya has outshone her tenure in the fields of both medicine as well as education. Amidst those who strive towards excellence, she has proven to possess the qualities of an excellent professional!

Thank you, Dr. Saadiya for your valuable contribution in the field of Medicine. Your efforts will always be appreciated hereafter and ever.