

## OBITUARY



**DR. JAMIL AHMED**  
(1934-1992)

Prof. Jamil Ahmed died of heart attack on 30th April 1992 at 9.30 p.m. near the NED University while driving his car with his wife on the main Karachi University Road. May Almighty Allah shower His blessings upon the departed soul and may his soul rest in peace in heaven. Ameen.

Dr. Jamil Ahmed s/o Late Muhammad Abdullah was born on 19th November 1934 at Piparia, a small town of Distt. Pachmari in Madhya Pradesh province of India. He obtained his early education in his native town and then went to the Muslim University Aligarh, from where he obtained the B.Sc. degree in 1957. After teaching for three years in a local school he came to Pakistan in 1960 to study at the University of Karachi, from where he obtained the M.Sc. degree in Botany with specialization in Plant Physiology in 1962 in the first division securing third position in order of merit. He joined the Department of Botany, University of Karachi together with the undersigned on 3rd September 1962 as a member of teaching staff, at that time called Instructor later designated as Lecturer. In 1964 he went to England on a COT scholarship of the Govt. of Pakistan and stayed at Lilian Penson Hall in London. He worked with Prof. I. Morris at the University College, London on the nitrate and nitrite assimilation of *Chlorella* and obtained the Ph.D. degree in Botany (Plant Physiology & Biochemistry) from the University of London in 1968. After his return to Pakistan Dr. Jamil Ahmed was promoted as Assistant Professor at Karachi University. In 1971 Dr. Jamil Ahmed was awarded a research fellowship (Dozenten Stipendium) of Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and worked with Prof. H. Spiller at the University of Erlangen, F.R. Germany (1971-73). Dr. Jamil Ahmed became Associate Professor in 1973 and Professor in 1982 at the University of Karachi.

Dr. Jamil Ahmed is author of over 20 research papers on various aspects of plant physiology & biochemistry, most of them appeared in the international journals. His main interest has been on the nitrate and nitrite assimilation of *Ankistrodesmus* and *Chlorella* and their nitrate reductase and peroxidase activities. He also worked on the mass cultivation of algae, physiology of seed germination of wheat, cotton, jute, and expression of heterosis in radish. He also investigated algal flora of fresh water reservoirs and sewage ponds of Karachi, Pakistan and Tripoli, Libya.

Dr. Jamil Ahmed was a dynamic person both academically as well as socially. He was member of Japanese Society of Plant Physiologists and Society for Experimental Biology. He was elected several times executive member of Karachi University Teachers' Society and Unikarians, was member of the Academic Council and Senate of Karachi University. He was a member of the editorial board of Pakistan Journal of Botany (1978-85), Secretary cum Treasurer, Pakistan Botanical Society (1978-82) and organized the first National Conference of Plant Scientists at Karachi (1982). He also helped in the organization of US-Pakistan Biosaline Research Workshop at Karachi (1985). Dr. Jamil Ahmed helped in setting up a laboratory to carry out work on mass cultivation of marine phytoplankton at Marine Biology Research Centre of Tajura, Tripoli, Libya (1978-88). At the time of his death Dr. Jamil Ahmed was holding four important offices: Member of the Syndicate, Incharge of Engineering Section, Registrar of the University and Professor at the Department of Botany, University of Karachi.

Dr. Jamil Ahmed loved to play foot-ball, hockey, volley-ball, table-tennis and cricket. He was a melodious singer of Urdu lyrics and folk songs and helped in bringing music trophies to Botany Department during his student days. He had a keen interest in literature and fine arts. Above all he was a good muslim, regularly performed his prayers and kept fasts irrespective of being a patient of *Diabetes mellitus*. Dr. Jamil Ahmed was often found narrating jokes amongst his friends and colleagues. The news of his sudden demise was a great shock for his friends and colleagues at home and abroad. Dr. Jamil Ahmed is survived by his wife (Dr. Zubaira Ahmed), three sisters, five brothers, an eleven year old daughter (Sana Ahmed) and a nine year old son (Usman Ahmed).

(MUSTAFA SHAMEEL)

(Received for Publication 20 September 1992)