EDITORIAL

FAREWELL TO THE FORMER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The former Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Syed Riaz Baquar (T.I.) was the lonely combatant who continuously struggled for a long time in keeping the journal alive. With this Editorial, I would like to pay tribute to his hard work and dedication in respect of the Baqai Journal of Health Sciences.

Prof. Baquar received his Bachelors degree in Botany and Zoology from the University of Karachi in 1953 and Masters from the same university in 1955. He did his Ph.D. in Pharmacognosy from University of Kiel, Germany in 1964 on a scholarship awarded by Deutscher Akademischer Austauch Dienst (DAAD). He did post doctoral research from University of Bonn, Germany during 1969 to 1971 by receiving a fellowship of Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. He was awarded D.Sc. degree by Baqai Medical University in 2011. He worked in PCSIR as Senior Research Officer from 1964-1971. Later he went to Nigeria, where he initially served as the Chairman of the Department of Crop Sciences and then as Dean at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Sokoto, Nigeria (1981-1987). He was the Founder Chairman of the Department of Botany at Moi University, Kenya from 1987 to 1995. He joined Baqai Medical University in 1996 as Professor in the Department of Pharmacognosy at the Baqai Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Baqai Medical University. He was among the pioneers, who laid the foundation of Baqai Cadet College and Baqai Veterinary College. He has supervised 5 Ph.D., 2 M. Phil. and 35 M.Sc. students. He has nearly 100 publications to his credit in both national and international journals. He has also written six books with two more under publication. All his books have been widely acclaimed and are considered as definitive books in their respective subject areas. One of his forthcoming books, “Textbook of Pharmacognosy” which he has co-authored with Prof. Syed Fazal Hussain, is already in press and will be available in the third quarter of 2016. He was awarded a “Certificate of Honor” by the German Government in 2007. This was the first time that any Pakistani scientist was conferred with this award. Furthermore, he has been awarded Tamgha-e-Imtiyaz this year by the Governor of Sind, Dr. Ishrat ul Ibod, on behalf of President of Pakistan on his tremendous academic and research contributions over the last 50 years.

Prof. Syed Riaz Baquar was the Editor-in-Chief of the 17 volumes of the BJHS from 1998 to 2014. The retirement of Prof. Baquar is truly a setback as it would be very difficult to match the literary class and talent of his caliber. With this farewell note, I would like to welcome two new members on board, Dr. Sofia Ahmed as Associate Editor and Dr. Qurat E Noor Baig as the Technical Editor of the Journal. I hope with their efforts we would be able to soon achieve the desired goals for this journal.

Muhammad Ali Sheraz, Ph.D.
Editor-in-Chief