



Late Prof. Masood Ahmad Cheema is seen recording his impressions after the Academic Block at Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology was named after him during the Cardiac Surgery Conference held at Faisalabad. This unique gesture by Prof. Anjum Jelal Executive Director of FIC was very much appreciated by all. Prof. Anjum Jelal is also seen standing in the row on extreme right while on extreme left is Cardiac Surgeon Salman Hassan.

Prof. Masud Ahmed Cheema MBBS, FRCS (1938-2019)

**By Prof. Anjum Jalal FRCS, FCPS(CS), FRCS-CTh
Executive Director,
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Professor Emeritus, retired Lt. Colonel, Dr. Masud Ahmed Cheema died on January 17, 2019 in Lahore at the age of 81 years. He was one of the pioneers of Cardiac Surgery in Pakistan. He made phenomenal contributions in developing new institutions, motivating and training surgeons and developing indigenous surgical techniques.

Professor Cheema was born in 1938 in Lahore. He did MBBS in 1960 from King Edward Medical College and joined Pakistan army as General Duty Medical Officer. He did his training in General Surgery and served as graded surgical specialist till 1971. In 1972 he did FRCS from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in UK while he was training in the field of cardiac surgery in London. In 1973, he returned back to Pakistan and was appointed as a Cardiac Surgeon at the Military Hospital (MH), Rawalpindi. In 1977 he left army and joined King Edward Medical College as Head of Cardiac Surgery. From here he played a key role in the development of Punjab Institute of Cardiology which he served from 1990 to 1998 as Chief Cardiac Surgeon. On his retirement he was appointed Professor Emeritus in recognition of his services. In the next five years he made untiring efforts and helped the young surgeons at Children Hospital Lahore in developing the field of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery. In 2003, his pioneering capabilities were again

needed when he was appointed the Project Director of Multan Institute of Cardiology. He established this new center within a very short period of time. He also served College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan as its Dean in the specialties of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery. He was the founding member of the Pakistan Society of Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgeons and has been its President for several years. He also had the honor of being the Ex-President of the Association of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons of Asia. He was well known in the community of pioneer cardiac surgeons of Asia Pacific region and had great respect for his academic contributions.

Professor Cheema made his mark in challenging areas of cardiac and vascular surgery including Mitral Valve Repair, Pediatric Cardiac Surgery and the surgery for Portal Hypertension in liver diseases. He has been a great teacher of cardiac surgery. Most of the cardiac surgeons in Punjab have worked directly or indirectly under his supervision. His autobiography (*Dil Rawan Dawan*) published by Sung-e-Meel publishers in 2017 is a great source of inspiration for young surgeons.

Professor Cheema was a role model of modesty and high moral values. He was great patriot and always had big dreams for future generations. The dynamism and optimism of Professor Cheema's personality had its roots in the teachings of Allama Muhammad Iqbal. His unfaltering optimism has pushed the frontiers of cardiac surgery in Pakistan which appeared impossible when he took the leadership of this challenging field. He always emphasized upon his students that: "The Value of a Good Deed is Never Lost".

Knowledge

Knowledge flows to those who are capable of receiving it, respecting it, protecting it, preserving it and promoting it.

*Late Maj. Gen. Mohsin Pal
Former DG Health*