

## In Memoriam

### Dr. Ahmad Elkadi, an IMANA Founder, Leaves this World

Dr. Ahmed Elkadi, one of the past presidents of IMANA and a life member, died on April 11, 2009, in Tampa, Florida. Besides being an active cardiothoracic surgeon who treated innumerable patients, he spent a great deal of his time serving Islam and Muslims worldwide, but particularly in North America. He was 69 years old.

IMANA offers its sincerest condolences to Dr. Elkadi's family and the Muslim community-at-large.

Dr. Elkadi immigrated to the United States some 44 years ago in 1965 after completing his medical education in Austria. He is remembered for his dedication to Islamic work, both in the United Kingdom as a student and later in the United States. He was instrumental in helping the fledgling Muslim Students Association of the United States and Canada in the 1960s. He was a founding member of the Islamic Medical Association of North America (IMA) in 1967, which later became IMANA. He was its president from 1974-1975. He recognized the importance of the developing field of ethics in medicine and believed that Muslim physicians should make an effort to know the Islamic views on the various aspects of the practice of medicine. He thus was a strong, early proponent of the concept of Islamic medical ethics.<sup>1</sup> He formed and chaired the Ethics Committee of the IMA. He was helped by Dr. Wahaj Ahmad, who subsequently assumed the chairmanship of this committee. Dr. Elkadi was also a member of the JIMA editorial board for many years.

Dr. Elkadi was instrumental in founding the Federation of Islamic Medical Associations (FIMA), a federation of Islamic medical associations in 22 countries, which was launched in 1981. He served as its first secretary.

Dr. Elkadi was a strong supporter of the Muslim Youth of North America (MYNA) and a keen supporter of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA). In 2002, he was honored for his service to the community with ISNA's Mehboob Khan Community Service Recognition Award.

Dr. Elkadi, an Egyptian-born surgeon, was a visionary Muslim physician. He was a pioneer of developing the concept of Islamic medicine.<sup>2</sup> He established the Akbar Clinic, based in Panama City,



**Dr. Ahmed Elkadi**

Florida, and later the Institute of Islamic Medicine for Education and Research. Dr. Elkadi was active in Islamic medicine research and education.<sup>3-5</sup> He presented his results at national and international meetings of Muslim physicians and published his work in medical journals, particularly in the Journal of Islamic Medical Association of North

America (JIMA).

Dr. Elkadi was well-liked and respected by all those who knew him. He was gifted with a quiet unassuming personality and a deep knowledge of Islam. He will be remembered for his soft-spoken and caring demeanor and constant service to Islam and Muslims. He will be sorely missed.

May Allah ﷻ have mercy on him, admit him to paradise and give his family patience to bear their loss.

#### References

1. Amine ARC, Elkadi A. Islamic code of medical professional ethics. *J Islam Med Assoc.* 1981;13:108-10.
2. Elkadi A. Islamic medicine in North America. *J Islam Med Assoc.* 1984;16:8-10.
3. Albibi R, Elkadi A. Effects of Islamic fasting on lipoproteins and immunity. *J Islam Med Assoc.* 1985;17:84-5.
4. Elkadi A, El-Menshawi A, Khorshid L. Ginger: the natural tranquilizer. *J Islam Med Assoc.* 1993;25:30-7.
5. Elkadi A, El-Menshawi A, Kandil O et al. Response pattern of deficient T-lymphocyte subsets in patients undergoing treatment with natural immune enhancers. *J Islam Med Assoc.* 1993;25:54-9.

**Hossam E. Fadel, MD, PhD, FACOG**

**Clinical Professor**

**Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology**

**The Medical College of Georgia**

**Augusta, Georgia**