

## Khalid M.H. Butt, MD: Renal Transplant Pioneer

**B**orn in Amritsar, India, during British rule, Dr. Butt and his family migrated to Pakistan after its independence. The eldest of 12 children of a dedicated civil servant, he diligently pursued his studies, receiving numerous academic honors and graduated from King Edward Medical College, Punjab University, Lahore, in 1962. Influenced by the British tradition of medicine, Dr. Butt was impelled to seek fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and was awarded the coveted Hallet Prize for standing first in the fellowship examination. Desirous of obtaining the best possible education, he came to the United States for post-graduate training in general and cardiothoracic surgery in Brooklyn, NY, at University Hospital, State University of New York, Health Science Center/Kings County Hospital, where he remained for over 20 years. He earned certification by the American Boards of both General and Thoracic Surgery.

Dr. Butt accepted a position in the rapidly emerging field of kidney transplantation with the late Dr. Samuel Kountz, himself a pioneer in the field. He became Director of University Hospital's Division of Transplantation when Dr. Kountz became ill in 1977 and was later promoted to Professor of Surgery. Under Dr. Butt's guidance, that program continued to prosper, recovering more organs for transplantation in the Brooklyn-Staten Island area than the entire rest of the New York City metropolitan area. For many years, his program was among the nation's top 50 kidney transplant centers, most often number one in New York State. Long an outspoken proponent of living donation, he became the first President, in 1978, of the fledgling New York Regional Transplant Program, later to be called the New York Organ Donor Network (to which he was re-elected President in 1995). This became the major organ recovery agency in the New York metropolitan area. Through thousands of hours in the operating room dedicated to perfecting his craft, he was able to improve upon several surgical techniques for both transplant and vascular access, and his reputation continued to grow as an innovative, compassionate doctor and generous humanitarian. In 1986 he was



**Khalid M.H. Butt, MD**

awarded the prestigious Mayor's Liberty Award of the City of New York.

In 1989, Dr. Butt came to Westchester Medical Center as Director of the Divisions of Transplantation and Vascular Surgery, accepting the position of Professor and Vice Chairman of the Department of Surgery at New York Medical College. Starting from scratch, he was aided by a team of dedicated health-care professionals in cultivating the Medical Center's transplant program and again leads one of New York's, and the nation's, most active kidney transplant centers, performing more than 110 transplants a year. In 1995, he was awarded "Physician of the Year" Award by the American Association of Kidney Patients, and in 1999 he was chosen to be a Representative to the New York State Transplant Council, and as Chairperson of the Organ Donation Advisory Task Force of the Medical Society of the State of New York.

Dr. Butt has won recognition in the comprehensive surgical care of end-stage renal disease patients, particularly in the development and maintenance of angioaccess for hemodialysis. He has gained a reputation for performing successfully both vascular access and transplant surgery on patients whose cases were considered too complicated for other sur-

---

geons. A member of numerous national and international academic and professional societies, Dr. Butt has been bestowed many awards and honors both in his personal and professional life. These include the Upjohn Achievement Award for Outstanding Surgical Research, election to the Honor Medical Society (A.O.A) and the Lester Hoenig Award of the National Kidney Foundation of New York/New Jersey. He has an impressive bibliography and is a frequently sought speaker for professional and public audiences alike. An admired teacher and role model for doctors in training, he emphasizes that, above all, compassion and concern for the best interest of the patient must be a physician's primary focus.

When asked what advice he would offer IMANA members, Dr. Butt said:

"I have worked and lived in this wonderful country for more than 40 years and offer a few words of advice, particularly for the young physicians and new arrivals from foreign lands:

The U.S. is recognized as technologically superior, and this holds especially true in the field of medicine. Medical schools, university hospitals and affiliated community healthcare centers are fine institutions, with dedicated professionals dispensing first rate patient care, offering students and younger colleagues the benefit of their experience, and serving as role models. These institutions are great fountains

of knowledge providing unparalleled opportunities for learning and research. Academic and professional societies offer scholarly lectures and conferences at local, regional, and national levels and provide a venue for face-to-face interaction with some of the most illustrious personages in our field. There are unending opportunities for anyone seeking new information. And in this age of the "information superhighway," the Internet, all this is available 24/7.

So pack your bags and begin the most exciting adventure of learning and serving and achieving personal satisfaction in the noblest of all professions. God speed."

Dr. Butt has been a frequent attendee and speaker at IMANA meetings and has also been a very generous contributor to the various organizations and institutions in New York Area.

### **Profile submitted by**

**Faroque Ahmad Khan, MD**

**Member, IMANA Board of Regents and ISNA Majlis  
Chairman, Islamic Center of Long Island, Board of  
Trustees**

**Professor of Medicine, SUNY at Stony Brook  
Master, American College of Physicians**