

In Memoriam

Professor Muhammad Azhar Ali Khan: Dedication to FIMA Is Key to Association's Accomplishments

Professor Muhammad Azhar Ali Khan served FIMA (Federation of Islamic Medical Associations) with passion and dedication since its inception in 1981. He held the following positions while on the executive committee:

- 1983: secretary-treasurer
- 1985: reelected to secretary-treasurer
- 1987-1995: executive member
- 1997: president
- 1999: reelected president
- 2001-2007: executive director

Professor Khan either established or initiated the following projects, now central to the function of FIMA:

1. FIMA Accreditation Council for Certification of Continuing Medical Education (ACCCME), which was established to enrich, organize, and standardize continuing medical education programs of various Islamic medical associations and hospitals to ensure that the conventions and scientific meetings of these associations meet a minimum standard as forums for high-quality education.

2. FIMA Health Policy, which coordinates the principles and policies of health practices in countries where there are IMA memberships.

3. FIMA Special Consultation Status on the United Nations Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)/Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

4. FIMA Consortium of Islamic Medical Colleges (CIMCO), which has goals and objectives as follow:

- Incorporating Islam into the existing medical education system in member institutions to prepare Muslim health professionals; and
- Promoting health-related research to serve humanity in the light of Qur'an and Sunnah;

and

- Fostering collaboration in the field of Islamic medical education, training, and health service.

Professor Khan's work was exemplary and served as an inspiration to all. He demanded service and excellence and encouraged those he encountered to meet these objectives.

He continuously emphasized the value of effective communication, which is critical to the successful functioning of an organization, as is evident by him simply acknowledging receipt of an email. He recognized the value of cyber communication and especially the effective use of the FIMA website as a communication tool to facilitate discussion between the members and distribute critical information about the FIMA projects and other functions of the association.

He served as a mentor and role model to many of us in FIMA with his quiet, unassuming manner, yet large presence.

I leave you with his final words before his departure to Madinah and Makkah exemplifying the man's humility:

I will pray in *haram* (the sanctuary in Makkah) and (give) thanks to Allah, the things we did together for the benefit of mankind. Our mission will continue and we will continue to seek His Rahma.

Submitted by

**Musa bin Mohammad Nordin, FRCP, FAMM
President, FIMA**