Obituary

Professor Zain Alabedeen Jamjoom, FACHARZT (1952–2022)

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It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of our legend in neurosurgery in the Arab world, Professor Zain Alabedeen Jamjoom, on October 17th 2022. Prof. Jamjoom was one of the founders of our society, the Pan Arab Neurosurgical Society (PANS), who met in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in 1996. Over a 40-years career, Prof. Jamjoom played an instrumental role in advancing neurosurgery not only in his home country Saudi Arabia but also regionally and internationally.

The late Prof. Jamjoom was born in Jeddah in March 1952 (Rajab, 1371 After Hijrah). He studied at Althager Model Schools in Jeddah where he obtained his high school diploma (1969). He was ranked second at high school in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). He started studying medicine with the first batch at King Saud University (Riyadh), but two years later, he preferred to complete his study of medicine in Germany. He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Tübingen, Germany (1977). He completed his training in neurosurgery at the University of Essen, Germany, and was awarded the Facharzt in 1984.

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In the same year (1984), Prof. Jamjoom returned to his country Saudi Arabia. Along with the late Prof Almutairi, both were the first national Saudi neurosurgeons starting practicing in the country. Undoubtfully, Prof. Jamjoom played a leading role in the development of the field of neurosurgery in KSA. He started his practice at King Khalid University Hospital, King Saud University in 1985, where he progressed to become a professor of neurosurgery there. He retired from his academic career in 2015 and moved to Jeddah, where he served as a consultant of neurosurgery at King Faisal Specialist Hospital in Jeddah until the year 2020. In addition, he practiced as a locum or part time consultant at different hospitals in Riyadh like Securities Forces and Dallah Hospitals.

A meticulous and thoughtful surgeon, he performed thousands of procedures and cared for countless patients over his career. He was an adept clinical scientist publishing over a hundred research articles and went on to become the first Saudi professor of neurosurgery in the country. He had a vital role in training generations of Saudi neurosurgeons and contributed significantly to the establishment of the Saudi Neurosurgical Board Training Program as the first president of the scientific council for neurosurgery in the Saudi Council for Health Specialties (SCFHS) for more than 10 years. He was the founding president of the Saudi Association of Neurological

Surgeons in 2006, which he led for six years.

A man of many talents, he was an intellectual, a skilled artist and a linguist. He spoke three languages fluently and translated several neurosurgical textbooks into Arabic language. He left behind a loving wife, four children (Dimah, Mohammed, Faris, Hasan) all are progressing very well in the medical field, and his younger brother Prof. Abdulhakim and a nephew Aimun are neurosurgeons.

On behalf of the Pan Arab Neurosurgical Society board and all members, we would like to express our profound condolences to the family of Prof. Z. Jamjoom, his colleagues, friends and students in Saudi Arabia, Arab countries, and all over the world.

List of abbreviations

KSA: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
PANS: Pan Arab Neurosurgical Society.
SCFHS: Saudi Council for Health Specialties.

REFERENCES

1. Jamjoom AAB, Jamjoom AB. Obituary for Zain Alabedeen Jamjoom (1952-2022). *World Neurosurg.* 2022;169:31.