

## Tribute to Dr. Yasmeen Akabani

Pakistan Pediatric Association lost a senior member Dr. Yasmeen Akbani in an unfortunate PIA plane crash that happened on 22nd of May 2020 at Jinnah International Airport in Karachi just 5 minutes before landing, in which 95 out of 97 passengers including 7 crew members lost their life. Dr. Yasmeen has been a senior member of Pediatric community in Pakistan in the days when there were very few qualified pediatricians in the country. She has been affiliated with Pakistan Pediatric Association for almost half a century and had led PPA as member of executive committee of PPA Sindh, treasurer, Gen Secretary of Child Rights conference of 1998. Her work reflected dedication, sincerity, resilience and going all the way out to help children, parents, students, colleagues that she encountered in her professional life.

As child right advocate she strongly believed in Breast feeding, as a right of a newborn and always fought for discouraging the advertisement of infant formulas and sponsorship of physicians by pharma.

In addition everyone is aware of Yasmeen's voluntary contribution to NGOs like Child Aid, ACLP and HOPE, her zeal of social work involved distributing rations to needy during Ramzan. She attended Quran and Tafseer classes to understand Quran from Ulema and scholars and practiced it the most modest way.

Yasmeen was a rare human being with angelic smile on her face all the time. Her resilience, empathy and being helpful to others, especially poor children was extraordinary and her unique sense of humour and a very prominent laugh was light of every gathering where she was. Her ever smiling face, but at the same time very assertive and disciplinarian attitude when it came to teaching, administration and clinical responsibilities were admired by her students and colleagues. She was an inspiration and mentor for many members of PPA

Dr. Naeem, a senior member of child Rights committee of PPA gave credit of him pursuing career in CRC after attending 1998 conference of PPA on child Rights/ abuse as an inspiration from dr. Yasmeen. Personally my own journey in PPA was an encouragement from Dr. Yasmeen and I personally owe her this tribute

Yasmeen was a legend not ever to be forgotten by her colleagues, friends and students. She was resilient and super honest person and was able to succeed in her personnel and professional life which is and was never easy for a woman physician. Mr. Jaleel, her spouse was has always been supportive and strength behind her success and participated fully in all activities of PPA along with Yasmeen.

Yasmeen never worked for name or fame, but for a cause and in a very diligent manner. She lived a full life and helped others by putting smile on their faces by her unique sense of humor. . She has left her legacy for others to follow specially for woman physicians. Her two accomplished children are very socially conscious young adults carrying further her legacy. R.I.P Dr. Yasmeen. You will be missed forever by Pakistan Pediatric Association.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mumtaz Lakhani". The first letter "M" is large and stylized, with the rest of the name written in a cursive script.

**Dr. Mumtaz Lakhani**

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