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Obituary

Within the pioneer group of Nematology at National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi we are sad to lose a number of some renowned Nematologists and highly esteemed colleagues during the last few years. Those were a great bunch of people who shared the same vision and worked tirelessly to pursue and promote Nematology and devoted their whole lives to Nematological research and education. May Allah accept their endeavors for the field of Nematology in Pakistan and beyond. We pray to God Almighty that the departed souls may rest in eternal peace in heaven, Ameen! Lately two Nematologists of Pakistan origin departed for their eternal abode; brief notes on them are presented below.

Dr. Ghazala Hashmi

Dr. Ghazala Hashmi, one of the earlier Nematologists joining NNRC, University of Karachi, passed away peacefully at the age of 61, in December, 2019 in USA. She spent the early part of her career as Nematologist at NNRC as "Research Officer" in the PL-480 project making numerous contributions to plant parasitic nematodes taxonomy but later moved to USA for advanced studies with her husband. Her studies included applied research on biological control of insect pests through entomopathogenic nematodes (EPN), their molecular biology, genetic diversity, mass development and other aspects of EPNs and other plant parasitic nematodes. She was a hard working researcher, a good colleague and a pleasant personality.

Dr. Muhammad Qasim

Dr. Muhammad Qasim departed this world for the eternal abode during the Holy month of Ramzan, 2020 at Karachi after a brief ailment. His career in Nematology began under PL-480 project as Research Officer; he spent a long period in research on nematodes at Quetta and at NNRC, University of Karachi. Afterwards he joined Pakistan Seed Certification and Registration Department of the Government of Pakistan in Islamabad working as Senior Research Officer. He earned his Ph.D. entitled "Use of *Bacillus thuringiensis* in the Integrated Control of Root-knot nematodes of vegetable crops" in 2012 under the supervision of Prof. Dr. M. Javed Zaki.

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Council of Pakistan Society of Nematologists (PSN) held on 16.05.2020 by video conferencing on Microsoft Teams

A meeting of the Executive Council of Pakistan Society of Nematologists was held on 16.05.2020 by video conferencing on Microsoft Team at 11.00 AM in the committee room of the department. After recitation from the “Holy Quran” by Dr. Farman Ali, the meeting started under the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Tariq Mukhtar. The following members attended the meeting:

1. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro Patron-in-Chief & Ex-President
2. Dr. Tariq Mukhtar President
3. Dr. Muhammad Ismail Bhatti Vice President-Federal Capital Area
4. Dr. Muhammad Shahid Vice President-Punjab
5. Dr. Erum Iqbal Vice President-Sindh
6. Dr. Farman Ali Vice President-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
7. Dr. Abdul Mubeen Lodhi General Secretary
8. Dr. Raees Ahmed Joint Secretary
9. Dr. Sabhooi Raza Permanent Secretary/Treasurer
10. Dr. Firoza Kazi By special invitation

Agenda of the meeting

Item No. 1. To offer condolence on the sad demise of Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz and Dr. Muhammad Qasim

Resolution No. 1. The Executive Council offered condolence on the sad demise of Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz and Dr. M. Qasim. May Almighty Allah put their soul in comfort and peace and give strength to their families to bear this untimely loss, Ameen. The Executive Council highly acknowledged the services of Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz for the cause of education and research in general, and for Nematology in particular. Dr. Shahina was very kind, humble and brave lady. She served National Nematological Research Centre meritoriously towards new dimensions and new peaks. For PSN, she was highly committed and devoted leader, working day and night till her death, for the promotion of science of Nematology as well as PSN. We are all highly indebted to Dr. Shahniah for her unforgettable services.

Item No. 2. To acknowledge the services rendered by last Executive Council of PSN

Resolution No. 2. The Executive Council highly appreciated and acknowledged the services of the last EC of PSN. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro (Ex-President) also welcomes the new body and thanked all the members of the last body for their dedication.

Item No. 3. Development and issuance of PSN newsletter, dedicated to Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz

Resolution No. 3. Resolved that a special issue of PSN Newsletter dedicated to Dr. Shahina Fayyaz will be issued at the earliest. Dr. Sabooi Raza and Dr. Erum will look after this matter.

Item No. 4. Writing of obituary for Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz and submission to different journals

Resolution No. 4. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro informed that an obituary submitted by him has already been published in Journal of Nematology, the official journal of the Society of Nematologists. Moreover, senior colleagues are requested to write and submit the obituary for Dr. Shahina Fayyaz for journals published from Pakistan like Pakistan Journal of Nematology, Pakistan Journal of Botany and Pakistan Journal of Phytopathology.

Item No. 5. Amendment/modifications in PSN bylaws as decided by the last PSN General Body

Resolution No.5. Resolved that Dr. Abdul Mubeen Lodhi will finalize the PSN bylaws in consultation with Dr. Saboohi Raza and Dr. Tariq Mukhtar. The same will be presented in the next meeting of Executive Council of PSN for finalization and approval.

Item No. 6. Issues related to PJN

Resolution No.6. The Executive Council thoroughly discussed many issues related to the Pakistan Journal of Nematology and resolved that:

- i. Prof. Dr. Saleem Shahzad will be the Managing Editor of PJN in place of Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz
- ii. As soon as the paper would complete all procedural requirement (reviewing, proof reading, composing, and publication fee) it will be available online with DOI number.
- iii. All colleagues are requested for early review of PJN papers.
- iv. All colleagues will provide names of foreign reviewers of reviewing PJN papers.
- v. Efforts should be initiated to switch PJN on Open Journal Systems (OJS).
- vi. Dr. Erum and Dr. Firoza Kazi informed that they have already submitted the proposal to HEC for PJN recognition.

Item No. 7. Appointment/Selection of five Councilors as PSN bylaws

Resolution No. 7. Resolved that members of EC will sort out names of potential councilors. These names will be presented and approved in the next meeting. Emphasis should be given that the nominate person from such organization who lacks presentation in present EC.

Item No. 8. To discuss the mechanism to recognize the contribution of Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz and Dr. Maqbool Ahmed in the field of Nematology e.g. Gold Medal, Scholarship etc.

Resolution No. 8. After thorough discussion, it was resolved that to salute the contributions and services of Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz and Dr. Maqbool:

- i. A laboratory at NNRC will be named after Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz
- ii. A Seminar Hall at NNRC will be named after Dr. Maqbool Ahmed
- iii. A fund will be established for the issuance of Gold medal with the name “Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz” which will be given every year to young scientist (age limit: 45 years), who have outstanding contribution in the field of Nematology.
- iv. For this purpose, a committee comprising of senior scientists will be constituted.
- v. Dr. Saboohi Raza will open the separate bank account for this purpose or maintain separately the collected funds from rest of PSN and PJN.
- vi. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro informed the consent and committed support of family of Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz for this fund and gold medal.
- vii. The issuance of Dr. Maqbool Gold medal is conditional with the consent of Dr. Maqbool Ahmed family.
- viii. At this time the following contribution to this fund was announced by the EC members:

Name	Amount
1. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro	100,000.00
2. Dr. Tariq Mukhtar	15,000.00
3. Dr. Muhammad Ismail Bhatti	20,000.00
4. Dr. Dr. Muhammad Shahid	10,000.00
5. Dr. Erum Iqbal	10,000.00
6. Dr. Farman Ali	10,000.00
7. Dr. Abdul MubeenLodhi	10,000.00
8. Dr. Raees Ahmed	10,000.00
9. Dr. Sabhooi Raza	10,000.00
Total	1, 95, 000/=

ix. In this regard, all members of Pakistan Society of Nematologists are requested to contribute generously in this fund. It will not only be the way offer tribute to Dr. Maqbool Ahmed and Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz, but it will also encourage our youngsters.

At the end Dr. Tariq Mukhtar, President PSN and Dr. Abdul Mubeen Lodhi, General Secretary thanked all the members for their valuable time and inputs.

Appointment of Prof. Dr. Saleem Shahzad as Managing Editor, Pakistan Journal of Nematology

It is indeed a pleasure to announce that Executive Council of PSN unanimously selected Prof. Dr. Saleem Shahzad, Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Management, University of Karachi, as the Managing Editor of the Pakistan Journal of Nematology. His endeavors for extending assistance towards the Pakistan Society of Nematologists are admirable. It is expected that likewise he will work towards further upgrading and publicizing the Journal.

Visit to NNRC

Some 30 students of Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam under the guidance of Dr. Zuberi visited NNRC on 26 February, 2020. The visit was a study trip. The students were shown the videos about nematodes and the damage caused by them on agricultural crops. They then visited different labs of NNRC and were briefed about the nematological research being carried out at the National Centre. Lectures were delivered about the symptoms of nematodes on plants and roots; sampling techniques; processing of soil samples; analysis of soil and roots for cyst and root-knot nematodes; morphological identification of different plant parasitic nematode genera and preparation of perineal pattern of RKN and cyst cone.



Snapshots of Tandojam students during the visit

Conference Attended

Four-day International Symposium on 'Plant life of South Asia' was jointly organized by Centre for Plant Conservation, University of Karachi & Department of Botany, University of Karachi on February 24-27, 2020 at KIBGE, University of Karachi. Local and international scholars from eight countries participated in the symposium. The former vice chancellor (VC) of University of Karachi (KU) Professor Dr. Muhammad Qaiser speaking to the audience said that the project, 'Flora of Pakistan' had been completed. He said it was a matter of great pride not only for the university but for the whole country. The principal objective of Flora had been to provide means of identification of the plants growing in the area. Pakistan is blessed with unlimited biological wealth, he said. "We have a very rich Flora, and to utilize this wealth properly and scientifically, the plants should be correctly identified," explained the former VC. Staff members and Ph. D. scholars at NNRC attended the symposium.

Future Events

October 09, 2020

International Conference on Environment, Agriculture and Biotechnology (ICEABT), ASANSOL WEST BENGAL, INDIA

<http://academicsconference.com/Conference/9475/ICEABT/>

E-mail: papers.academicsconference@gmail.com

October 21, 2020

International Conference on Agriculture (ICAG), VADODARA, GUJARAT, INDIA

<http://asar.org.in/Conference/13773/ICAG/>

E-mail: papers.asar@gmail.com

October 31, 2020

International Conference on Biological, Agricultural & Environmental Science (ICBAES), NAGPUR, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

<http://isete.org/Conference/6112/ICBAES/>

E-mail: info.iseteconference@gmail.com

November 11-12, 2020

Asian Applied Microbiology

International Conference on Applied Microbiology, TOKYO, JAPAN

<https://appliedmicrobes.conferenceseries.com/>

E-mail: asianappliedmicrobiology@globalconferences.net

December 29-30, 2020

International Conference on Agricultural and Biological Science (ICABS), NEW DELHI, NEW DELHI, INDIA

<http://iser.co/Conference2020/India/9/ICABS/>

E-mail: info@iser.co

April 25-30, 2021

7th International Congress of Nematology (ICN), ANTIBES JUAN-LES-PINS, FRANCE

<https://www.icn2020antibes.com/congress-venue.php>

E-mail: icn@alphavisa.com