

Obituary
Professor Dr. Ezzidin Shkara 1929-2013



Departed to heavens in the 15th of September 2013, the Professor of Medicine and the leader of all Iraqi doctors, Dr. **Ezzidin Shkara**. Although he died far away in Britain, but he was too close to homeland Iraq by his continuous work and advices to promote the health services in his country.

The deceased was born in the 17th of October 1929 in Baghdad, Iraq, his father was one of the great men of law. He was graduated from Baghdad College of Medicine in 1953 and worked at the Royal Hospital in Baghdad in neurology wards. In 1959, he worked as manager of Al-Diwania Hospital south of Iraq so he mixed both managing and medicine and he was perfect in both.

He insisted to have a specialty in internal medicine specially neurology, so he traveled to Britain and studied in London, Glasgow and Edinburgh and got many certificates including; Diploma in Tropical Medicine from London University in 1959, MRCP from Glasgow Royal College and MRCP from Edinburgh Royal College in 1964. In 1974 he got FRCP from Edinburgh Royal College and in 1978 he had MRCP from London Royal College. In 1979 he had MRCP and in 1983 got FRCP from London Royal College. It is said that Prof. Shkara is the first Iraqi doctor who got certificates from all the Royal Colleges in Britain. Really he deserved the title; Doctor of the 20th century.

In the seventies of the previous century, he was the head of Department of Medicine in Mosul College of Medicine and was a member of the university council as a representative of his colleagues in the College of Medicine

Serving Mosul College of Medicine, the late had great curriculum vitae as he had a touch in everything regarding teaching and health services. He established in Mosul, a Diabetes Centre, Physiotherapy Centre and Renal Dialysis Centre in addition to organize the work in the outpatient departments so to make them suitable for teaching medical students and training junior doctors. In the continuous medical teaching, he had a great work in scheduling weekly clinical conferences and he played a role in changing teaching programs in medicine.

Professor Shkara encouraged scientific researches and he thought that it is one of the doctor duties. He published many papers about organic mercury poisoning and its neurological effects, multiple sclerosis, heart diseases and tropical medicine. He also published books in Arabic language.

Professor Ezzidin Shkara was a member of many medical societies inside and outside Iraq.

All his colleagues, students and friends appreciate very much his personality and his humanistic feeling in particular and he was bitterly missed by his patients. He is survived by his five offspring, three of them are doctors (Zainab, Ali and Amna), and his very faithful wife Dr. Anisa. We shall continue remembering him and also praying for him.

T.A. Hamdan