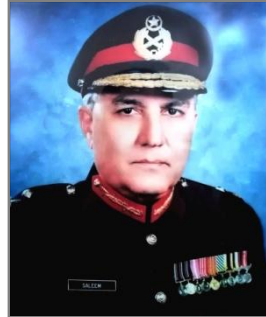


## OBITUARY

### LT GEN MUHAMMAD SALEEM HI (M) (LATE)

(1937 - 2019)

The sad demise of Lt Gen Muhammad Saleem on 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 2019 has robbed the, medical profession of one its foremost luminaries in the field of pathology/haematology in Pakistan.



Born on 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 1937, Gen Saleem passed his MBBS examination from Nishtar Medical College, Multan in 1959. He was commissioned in the Army Medical Corps on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1960. He served various field medical units including a stint of active service in 1965 Indo Pakistan War. He opted for training in pathology at Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) Rawalpindi and became a classified specialist in 1965. Later he proceeded to United Kingdom on study leave for higher training in haematology. He completed his MRC Path Examination in the subject of haematology in 1975 from the prestigious Hammersmith Hospital London.

On return to Pakistan, he was posted to AFIP Rawalpindi where he gave his best shot to develop haematology. He harnessed his freshly acquired experience and un-ending initiative to introduce new techniques such as cytogenetics, electrophoresis and investigations for thalassaemia. He kept on counselling patients as well as peripheral laboratories engaged in thalassaemia studies. His research work on thalassaemia in

Northern Pakistan has been published in a number of articles and theses by his past graduated students.

Gen Saleem can be rightly credited for his initiation of Bone Marrow Transplant Center by his zest for innovation. He had foresight enough to select doctors for bone marrow transplantation training abroad, some of whom are proudly heading and running the present Armed Forces Bone Marrow Transplant Centre at Rawalpindi.

He was promoted Maj Gen in 1992. After spending a brief period as Professor of Pathology at Army Medical College Rawalpindi from 16<sup>th</sup> Mar 1992, he went back to AFIP in Jun 1993. He took over the command of AFIP in Aug 1994 and served there till 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 1996. He supervised the postgraduate training of doctors for M.Phil, FCPS and few PhD scholars. He was an eloquent speaker and a dedicated task master. He won the hearts of his students and juniors by his easy accessibility and placid temperament. On 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 1996, he was promoted Lt Gen and took over as Surgeon General DGMS (IS) of Pakistan Army.

On retirement from the Army, he took over as the Executive Director of National Institute of Health (NIH) from where he eventually retired after two years of dedicated service in preventive medicine, serology and vaccines manufacturing.

He will be missed by his friends, service colleagues, students and his patients.