IN MEMORIAM


Dr. Said A. Awad

Dr. Said A. Awad passed away peacefully on June 19, 2021, at the age of 84. Born in pre-war Cairo, Egypt, Said emigrated to Canada in 1961 after graduating from Cairo University. He was 25 years old and quickly embraced all the opportunities Canada had to offer as he dedicated himself to his urology training. After a four-year residency in Kingston, Ontario, Said moved to Toronto for additional specialization. A few months later, he met the love of his life, a nurse named Sharon Jones. They were engaged after six weeks and married a few months later.

Said moved back to Kingston after four years of private practice in London and Kitchener and developed an excellent neurourology program. He established the first urodynamics laboratory at Queen’s University in Kingston. In 1980, Said moved to Halifax, where he served as the Head of the Department of Urology, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University for 17 years (1980–97). Said built a remarkable department, including clinical, academic, and research areas, especially in functional urology.

He retired in 2003 as a professor emeritus of Dalhousie University. Said thrived with a mix of teaching, research, and clinical responsibilities throughout his career, and he was repeatedly recognized for his accomplishments in all three areas. He loved teaching and mentoring urology trainees. His legacy includes a large, worldwide diaspora of medical practitioners who graduated from the urology programs at Queen's and Dalhousie between the 1970s and the 2000s.

Said’s contribution to the Canadian Urological Association was enormous since he became a member in 1969. He was Secretary of the association from 1982–1987, and was Scientific Chair of the CUA meeting in Halifax in 1988. He was especially proud to have served as President of the CUA in 1989–1990, with the annual meeting held in Vancouver, BC. For his contribution to the CUA and Canadian urology, Said received the CUA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2002. Said also significantly contributed to international associations and was named as one of only 75 members of the American Association of Genito-Urinary Surgeons. He was elected President of the Northeastern Section of American Urological Association in 1990–91. Said contributed considerably to the International Continence Society and was the Chair of the annual meeting in 1992, which was held in Halifax.

Said was always an early riser. He had energy, dedicated himself to his work, and had a remarkable ability to focus. He was humble, respectful, and sincerely grateful for everyone around him, recognizing the blessings of his life and rarely complaining (even when his golf ball went in the water). Said strived for excellence, but not accolades. We will forever miss his warm smile, compassion, curiosity, and support.

Said is survived by Sharon, his spouse of 55 years, his daughter Michelle (Jack Graham), son Brian (Catherine McKellar), grandchildren Paige (David Owens), Elias, Amelia, and Ephrem, step-grandchildren Hannah (Gabriel Rose), John, and Mac, and step-great-granddaughter, Hadley.

Contributed by Dr. Jerzy B Gajewski