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Obituary

It is with great sadness to announce the loss of Professor Fateh El-Samani, who passed away in December 2020. Professor El-Samani enjoyed a long and distinguished career with the World Health Organization (WHO) as Representative and Head of Mission in Saudi Arabia (1996–1999), the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean in Cairo, Egypt (1999–2001) as Regional Adviser, infectious disease surveillance and preparedness of epidemics, followed by WHO Representative in the Islamic Republic of Iran (2001–2004) and Oman (2004–2007).

Professor El-Samani graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Khartoum, in 1967. His first appointments were in White Nile and Kordofan regions, Sudan, before continuing to postgraduate studies at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Liverpool University, United Kingdom, where he was awarded a Higher Diploma in Preventive Medicine (1975) and a Master's degree in Community Medicine (1976). Further studies followed at Harvard University, USA, where he was awarded a Master's degree (1981) and doctorate in epidemiology (1985).

From 1978 to 1990, Professor El-Samani held academic posts at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Khartoum, and at the Gulf University in Bahrain where he taught epidemiology, biostatistics, population sciences and methodology. In addition, Professor El-Samani was a research fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1980–1982), Harvard University (1985–1986), and the International Food and Nutrition Policy Programme of the United Nations University.

After retirement from WHO, Professor El-Samani returned to his native Sudan and taught in many institutions, including the University of Khartoum, Al Jazeera University and Juba University, while retaining the position of permanent professor and member of the Academic Council and Research Committee at the School of Medicine, Ahfad University for Women (November 2007–December 2020). In addition, Professor El-Samani was a senior member of the Sudan Medical Specialization Board, where he supervised and offered guidance to many PhD and medical graduates. In addition, he did not spare any effort to be part of the official and governmental efforts during epidemics, where he technically supported the Federal Ministry of

Health, WHO Sudan and UNICEF, which recently included the national response to COVID-19 pandemic.

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