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Obituary

1935-2023

With hearts deeply saddened, the Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal offers its sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the wife and two sons of Professor Mahmoud Fahmy Fathalla, a long-standing member of the Editorial Board of the Journal.

Dr Fathalla assumed his role as Director of the UN's Special Programme on Human Reproduction (HRP) from 1989 to 1992, after two years as a researcher with HRP and the World Health Organization (WHO) and years of work as a renowned doctor and Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at Assiut University, Egypt. He was known for his focus on women rights that contributed to the shift from "population control" thinking to a "choice and rights-based approach".

He held several positions during his career. He was the Chairman of the Global WHO Advisory Committee on Health Research (2000–2004) and the Eastern Mediterranean Advisory Committee on Health Research (2020–2023). He was the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Assiut, Chairman of the International Advisory Committee of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (1986–1994), and the President of the International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (1994–1997). He received honorary doctorates from the Universities of Uppsala in Sweden (1991), Helsinki in Finland (2000), Toronto in Canada (2001) and Hasselt in Belgium (2011). He received international awards, including the 1995 Award of World Academy of Art and Science and the WHO Award of Family Health in 2001. He authored more than 130 scientific papers. We will miss his knowledge, wisdom, clearance of mind and advice, and his gentle heart and humanity that was visible to anyone who the opportunity of working with him through his long career.

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