



Dr Yasmin Bhurgri

22 June 1953 - 24 January 2012

It is with great sadness and regret with which we inform you that Dr Yasmin Bhurgri passed away on 24 January 2012.

In addition to her clinical practice as a pathologist, Dr Bhurgri (known as Dr Yasmin in her own culture) was the driving force behind cancer registration in Pakistan. In Karachi, she established (1995) and successfully led the first population-based cancer registry in Pakistan. Data for South Karachi were published in *Cancer Incidence in Five Continents* volumes 8 and 9 covering the years 1995-2002 and these remain the only data from Pakistan ever published in this series. Dr Bhurgri was working on a dataset for volume 10 at the time of her death.

Recently, Dr Bhurgri also established a population-based childhood cancer registry for the city of Karachi in the framework of the *My Child Matters* programme supported by UICC and Sanofi-Aventis. She was an active member of the IACR, as well as the Asia Pacific Organisation for Cancer Prevention (APOCP) for which she was the country representative.

Dr Bhurgri acquired an M. Phil degree in 1985 in Histopathology at Karachi University and a Ph.D degree in 2000 in the fields of Epidemiology, Experimental Pathology and Cancer Registration.

She was Associate Professor and Head of the Pathology Department at the Sindh Medical College in Karachi, Director of the Aga Khan University Pathology-based Cancer Registry, research pathologist at the Aga Khan University Hospital and Director of the Karachi Cancer Registry.

During her professional career she also served as Chairman of the Advisory Body to the Director General WHO for Global Cancer Control and as a Member of the Technical Group for Global Cancer Control, at WHO Geneva during 2005-2006. She was also a key person for Cancer Control, 'NAP-NCD' Government of Pakistan since 2003 and a Member of the Health Policy Forum in Pakistan. Dr Bhurgri recently retired from government service and moved to the Liaquat National Medical Hospital where she had been promoted to Professor of Pathology.

She received awards in June 2003 from the US Armed Forces Institute of Pathology for setting up the first cancer registry in Pakistan; in February 2007 from the Pakistan Society of Clinical Oncology for her valuable contribution in setting up the first cancer registry in Pakistan; and, in March 2007, from the Rotary Club for outstanding services to research and statistics on cancer in women.

Dr Bhurgri visited IARC in 1999 on an UICC ICRETT fellowship. She was extraordinarily dedicated to cancer registration in an often unstable civil environment and not readily daunted by the many obstacles that she encountered. Dr Bhurgri deserves admiration for her energy and professional achievements. Colleagues and friends will remember her for her enthusiastic, warm and generous personality.

Eva Steliarova Foucher