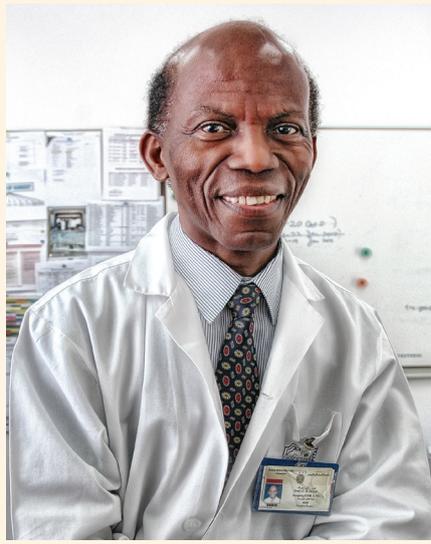


# Professor Christopher Sapara Grant

MB.ChB, FRCS, FACS  
1942–2013

## *The Epitome of Humility and Hard Work*



Professor Grant, Head of the Department of Surgery at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) for 15 years, died in SQU Hospital on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October aged 71. Prof. Grant, who joined the College of Medicine & Health Sciences just four years after SQU opened in 1986, was one of the pioneers who made immense contributions to both medical education and the healthcare sector in Oman. Many of his former students now occupy senior positions in the Ministry of Health and the medical colleges in the country.

After medical studies in Ghana and the UK, and then teaching and clinical work at King Faisal University College of Medicine and King Fahd Hospital of the University in Saudi Arabia, Prof Grant was appointed as Associate Professor of Surgery and Consultant Surgeon at SQU in 1990. He became Full Professor in 1997 and Head of Department a year later. His clinical interests included gastrointestinal, thyroid and

parathyroid surgery. He played a key role in developing the General Surgery Department at SQU into a state-of-the-art facility with a number of specialisations including cardiothoracic, trauma, orthopaedic, paediatric, ENT, and urology surgery.

Dr. Hilal Al-Sabti, a former student and now cardiothoracic surgeon at SQU Hospital said: “He was a skillful surgeon with a sound knowledge of the discipline. Many physicians approached him for his expert opinion on various medical and surgical issues. His wisdom and his dedication to his profession were amazing.” Dr. Al-Sabti added, “As a medical educator, Prof. Grant played a key role in creating excellent physicians. He helped a lot of Omani graduates to go abroad for higher studies at prestigious medical schools. He was also a well-recognised researcher. As an individual, he was humble and modest, showing great respect to his colleagues and students. He treated them as equals without even a hint of arrogance.”

For Dr. Abdullah Al-Harthy, trauma surgeon and Deputy Director General of SQU Hospital, Prof. Grant was instrumental in his choice to specialise in trauma surgery. “Prof. Grant was a great role model. He taught us that surgery is the medical specialty which has a direct effect on the patients—where the doctor can see immediate results.” He added, “Prof. Grant dealt with patients in an exemplary manner. Originally a paediatric surgeon, he dealt affectionately with child patients and maintained the same courtesy with adult and geriatric patients. He always tried to understand the problems of each of his patients and never belittled their concerns”.

According to Dr. Hani Al-Qadhi, Head of the Department of Surgery at SQU and also a former student, Prof. Grant was someone who showed the utmost selflessness in all his duties and responsibilities. “As a medical educator, Prof. Grant taught us how to face the stressful work situations of a surgeon with calmness and patience. When we did our higher studies abroad, he called us quite often to check on our welfare and study progress. He was a legendary figure who offered great services to patients, students, medical students, and the healthcare sector of Oman at large”.

Prof. Grant is survived by Edith, his wife of 45 years, and his son, Cobby.

*This obituary is based on an article published in the SQU Horizon magazine in September 2013.*

*Photograph courtesy of Amir Hussain, Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Postgraduate Studies & Research, SQU.*