

*EDITORIAL***The Right Model**

We were privileged and honoured as paediatricians to be visited by Professor Mohammed Ibraheem Ali Omer, one of the founders of child health services in the Sudan. Now he is a professor of child health in the University of West Indies. Professor Omer has major contribution in teaching the undergraduate in Khartoum Medical School. In the seventieth of the last century together with his colleagues they designed the postgraduate programmes for medical studies in the University of Khartoum, not only in paediatrics but also in the other four major disciplines i.e., Internal Medicine, Obstetric and Gynaecology and Surgery. They faced this challenge at a time when everybody was heading toward United Kingdom to obtain his postgraduate degree. He stood firm with his colleagues and proved that we can train our postgraduate in the Sudan. Their role extended beyond the border of the Sudan when they put basis for the Arab Board which is now becoming a recognized postgraduate degree in almost all the Arab countries. It is sad that we failed to sustain this lead in the Arab Board.

Professor Mohammed delivered several talks during his visit to the country touching on different aspects of child health. However, in Gezira Medical School he decided to draw our attention to the issue of medical ethics, which has currently come to be very strong on services in medical practice in the Sudan. The talk was very comprehensive he spoke about the history of medical ethics worldwide, the definition and different laws and acts which govern the practice of medicine and patient doctor relationship. One question which came into his lecture was are we really playing the right model for our junior staff and students. Traditionally before the revolution of innovative medical education medical ethics were not taught as module for medical students. The role model played by our beloved teachers and seniors used to be the only source for us in learning about patient doctor relationship. This has faded out with the disappearance of our predecessors and the recognition of the fact that medical ethics should be part of the students' curriculum. Students are taught now not only medical ethics but communication skills, professionalism, patient doctor relationship and social accountability of the medical schools. All these put huge burden on us so as to play the right model. With these our minds and are we really ready for that?

**Professor Ali Babikir Habour**

Editor