

Dr El Sawy Mahmoud Habib

Amal F. Radwan

Late Associate editor of the Egyptian Journal of Internal Medicine, Prof. of Internal Medicine Cairo University, Egypt

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Correspondence to Dr. Amal Fathy Radwan, MD, 38 street 77 Maadi, Prof. Internal medicine, Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt; Tel: +201005244912; e-mail: amal_fathyradwan@yahoo.com

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Dr El Sawy Mahmoud Habib was the chief editor of the *Egyptian Journal of Internal Medicine* since its debut in 1990 until 2016. Owing to his dedicated efforts, the publication appeared regularly for 26 years.

The journal, which he founded in 1989, is a quarterly that was registered in 2014 among international publications. In 2014, it was approved to be enrolled in Scopus and Medline links.

The journal features the latest in internal medicine. Over the years, it has been a platform for many university lecturers to publish their research and as a result be promoted at their institutions.

Dr Habib also founded and headed the *Egyptian Society of Internal Medicine* for over 24 years starting from 1993. He had sought approval for its establishment in 1989.

A board member of the Egyptian Medical Society, Dr Habib was also a member of the Specialized National Councils, an advisory state body, from 1985 to 2014.

He served as a medical officer at the Egyptian army from 1956 to 1964.

In 1961, Dr Habib was appointed at the presidential medical department. Six years later, he was chosen as the private physician of Egypt's then president Gamal Abdel-Nasser.

Over the years from 1971 to 1985, Dr Habib was the Head of the Internal Medicine and Cardiology Department at the presidency. During those years, he was a consultant physician of Internal Medicine and Cardiology at hospitals of the Islamic Medical Charity Society, Al-Goumhouria, and the Nasser Institute.



In addition, Dr Habib was an eminent academic, working as a visiting professor in several Egyptian universities.

From 1972 to 1989, he taught at Al Azhar University's Faculty of Medicine. From 1990 to 1991, he was seconded to the Faculty of Medicine at the provincial Menoufia University.

From 1991 to 2000, he taught at the Faculty of Medicine of Minya University in southern Egypt. Besides teaching postgraduate studies, Dr Habib was an external examiner of a number of dissertations for Master's and Doctoral degrees from the years 1992 to 2000.

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He also participated in research papers not only in Egyptian universities and the Specialized National Councils, but also for foreign medical magazines published in the USA, the UK, and France.

In 1974, Dr Habib was awarded a visiting fellow certificate from the UK-based Cardiothoracic Institute of the University of London. He was also awarded fellowships from the Council on Clinical Cardiology of the American Heart Association and Charing Cross Hospital in London.

In 1979, Dr Habib received honorary letters from the Hospital of University of Pennsylvania, USA, and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Public Health Service of the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, USA. He was also granted a letter of appreciation by Mount Sinai Hospital in New York.

Apart from earning a Doctoral degree in internal medicine from Cairo University in 1969, Dr Habib obtained a number of diplomas in different specializations. They included a diploma in cardiology and cardiovascular diseases from Ain Shams University in 1968, a diploma in internal medicine from Cairo University in 1964, a diploma in neurosurgery from the same alma mater in 1958, and a diploma in general surgery from the same university 2 years earlier.

Dr Habib was decorated with several orders of merits from different countries in the 1960s and 1970s, such as by Denmark, Greece, Congo, Nigeria, and Yugoslavia among others. He was also feted by Assiut University in southern Egypt.

Dr Habib had a gift for writing. He penned a book on the health of late president Gamal Abdel-Nasser. Published in 2007, the book traces the medical status of Abdel-Nasser from 1967 until his death on 28 September 1970. The English-language newspaper *The Egyptian Gazette* and the Arabic-language weekly *Al Abram Al Arabi* carried reviews for the book.

In 1979, he published '*A psychological study in angina*', a book looking into the psychological effects experienced by angina patients.

Dr Habib has to his name a collection of miscellaneous articles published in daily newspapers. They deal with a wide range of topics, including healthcare, scientific research, hospitals, private universities, and organ transplantation.

Dr Habib, who passed away on 30 July 2016, had an illustrious medical and academic career that spanned more than five decades. His contributions, including research and articles, have left a strong mark on a generation of academics and laypeople.