

# David Morley Tribute<sup>1</sup>

*By: Hassan Bella<sup>2</sup>*



Late Professor David Morley

I was deeply saddened by the shocking news of Professor David Morley's death. The news came while I was writing a reply to an e-mail message from him. I had known David for over thirty years; first at the London School of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene and later at Institute of Child Health, University of London.

I had the honor and pleasure to be in his close company for about eight years at the Tropical Child Health Unit. I witnessed how he strived and persevered to establish and develop the Tropical Child Health Unit from a small cottage in Coram Fields to a full floor at the Institute of Child Health. I had known David even more closely when I traveled with him to Africa. It was an opportunity to realize that in his daily personal life he strictly followed what he taught and preached.

David will always be remembered with gratitude and affection by all those who came in contact with him, specially his students for his unlimited help. He will be remembered for his integrity, devotion and dedication. He will be remembered as a great teacher, mentor, innovator, communicator and motivator. I clearly remember how – before the e-mail era – he used to wake up 3 am in the morning to dictate letters to doctors, nurses and village health workers in remote parts of Africa and Asia.

To me, David was fatherly, friendly and affectionate and I am proud to have been one of his beloved. He helped me establish Sudan Support Program (SSP) and, till the last minute, following up with me consignments of books, CD's and other training material for nurses, midwives and medical assistants in the Sudan.

David was ahead of his time. He was a pioneer in areas such as 'distant learning', 'communication skills' and many other areas that are considered nowadays modern innovations. For him these were like old music, New Harmony.

It is a great honor for David's family and for me as one of his disciples that he was the author of an outstanding book described in a British Pediatrics Association in York as the most important book ever written in medicine in the twentieth century; *Pediatric Priorities in the Developing World*. I was greatly privileged to have translated and co-authored with David a Middle Eastern version of his book.

David lived for a great mission which he fulfilled. His departure created void because he is difficult to replace. But he left his living legacy. I send my sympathy and condolences to his widow Aileen, his children and grand children.

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<sup>1</sup> *David Morley has been among our International Advisory Panel for this journal. He kindly accepted the invitation to serve on this panel with the help of Professor Hassan Bella, a member of the panel and the author of this tribute*

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