

THE BEST EXAMPLE



Rare are those who leave an indelible mark on every human interaction they have—those who do not have to say a word, but their mere presence moves people. They speak from their hearts through their actions, and they command a level of respect that not many can attain. I was blessed to train with, to learn from, and to know Alan S. Crandall, MD, and he was undeniably one of these extraordinary people who somehow just had *it*.

But what was *it*? No doubt, Alan's surgical prowess was unparalleled. More importantly, his generosity in passing on these skills to his residents, fellows, and colleagues from around the world made him one of the great surgical teachers in ophthalmology. Perhaps it was his dedication to humanity, traveling to help patients in the world's most remote regions, and supporting major work in developing countries. Or maybe it was his innovative and groundbreaking work in our field, whether navigating the early days of phacoemulsification, handling the most complex cases on the planet, or pushing glaucoma surgery forward. I may have coined the term MIGS, but Alan inspired interventional glaucoma from the very beginning.

There was something more to this treasure of a human being, who was deeply loved and respected by so many. Despite his notoriety, countless awards, and achievements, Alan was a selfless, unassuming man who was humble and approachable to all. He was the quiet one in the group but had the most experience and thoughtfulness when he spoke. He had the highest integrity and credibility and immeasurably influenced our field. He was a tireless and resilient man who persevered despite pain and hardships and was never one to complain. Alan used sheer will, positivity, and kindness to make his patients better and to effect change in the world. He loved so much—the people, the places, and the work around him—and he never passed up a chance to show that with a hug—not just any hug, but a tight squeeze around your neck that confirmed you were in the presence of an angel.

We all have something to learn from the loss of Alan in this world. Compassion and character are what count. Humility and kindness command respect beyond knowledge and achievements. Every single human interaction should be cherished and valued. That was the *it* that Alan had. He truly led by example—the best example. ■

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping 'A' followed by a few vertical strokes.

IQBAL IKE K. AHMED, MD, FRCS

CHIEF MEDICAL EDITOR