

Dr Mahdi Mabruk Jibani, MBE



Dr. Jibani is a recently retired consultant nephrologist at Ysbyty Gwynedd Hospital, Bangor, North Wales, who was born in Libya to a father who was a diplomat in the former regime of King Idris [overthrown by Gaddafi in 1969] and a mother whose problems with her sight prompted him to want to be a doctor. He has said, *"My mother had chronic illness with her eyes. It's something I was intrigued about and made me want to learn. That's what made me think of medicine."*

When he was in Libya, he was involved in political demonstrations and was briefly put under arrest at one point and injured in one of the demonstrations. In his late 20s, Dr Jibani had qualified as a doctor a year before moving to the UK for training in intensive care medicine.

Then, as a newly qualified doctor in the UK, his ex-diplomat father and family rang to tell him not to return, as they were worried he was at risk and would be arrested for his opposition to the Gaddafi regime. He said, *"Like a lot of Libyans, I stayed away because of Gaddafi."*

While working in Lancashire, he met a local woman, Carol. The couple married and moved to Wales. They have two adult sons, the youngest of whom has followed his father into medicine. Dr Jibani, has lived and worked in Wales for about 40 years and his interest in kidney disease emerged from his intensive care training.

For patients living in rural North Wales he has led the establishment of a satellite renal unit and has been the driving force in promoting an extensive home dialysis programme. This has improved both the quality of life and the sense of normality of dialysis patients. He has said, *"Kidney disease is an underestimated condition. It is far more common than people realise. It is a specialty where you can cure patients from acute illness or if you cannot curtail it, you can provide them with a better quality of life. It also covers practically every spectrum of illness."*

He was named in the 2013 New Year's Honours List and awarded an MBE for Services to Medicine.

In the citation for the honour it said, *"He has a level of compassion that has led many of his patients to regard him as a friend as well as a doctor"* and *"he has raised money for the Welsh Kidney Patients Association by leading the annual ramble through Snowdonia."* He has said, *"I believe that trust is the basis of medicine. If we have trust we can go to the next stage"* and *"that's how I practise. I don't think of this as something exceptional. It was how I was brought up. Maybe it's not normal everywhere."*

He has also contributed to interfaith understanding through the North West Wales Inter Faith Network and the North Wales Muslim Council. He was also a finalist at The Inaugural British Muslim Awards 2013 in the Services to Medicine category.

Black History Month Wales October 2020 – 2000 Nations | Celebrating Diversity

