

Dr. Faizi Siddiqui Memorial

February 10, 2024

Comments of Eric Scaife-General Pediatric Surgeon, Friend, and Colleague

Over 20 years ago, Faizi Siddiqui joined the faculty of the University of Utah after completing his craniofacial fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. He came to serve as a specialist in Pediatric Plastic Surgery. He brought to the hospital not only world-class pediatric plastic surgical expertise, but also a presence. A presence of grace, style, dignity, artistry, and humanism that made the Children's Hospital a finer place to be.

I first came to know Faizi over a memorable case on the trauma service. The established pediatric plastic surgeon in the Children's Hospital was a private practice surgeon with an excellent reputation but at a stage in his career when he had little interest in providing trauma support. The trauma service admitted a 10-year-old girl who had been horribly disfigured by the viscous acts of an evil adult. Faizi was not on call that night, but he promptly came in to see the child. Over months, he performed a series of difficult operations that helped this young girl restore some semblance of her youth.

As a professional he was gifted and extraordinarily generous with his time. I would often tease him during long cases that he should hurry up and his response was always: "Eric, you cannot rush art." Faizi was an artist and not simply as a surgeon. He lived as an example of professionalism and elegance. He was, as the rock singer Sting said, "An Englishman in New York." And while he radiated style and good manners, he did not give off the scent of elitism. He was exceptionally kind and good humored. He loved his colleagues and his team, and we loved him back.

His family knows what a great man he was, but I want his parents, his brother, his children, and his wife to know that his family at the Children's Hospital thought of him as a beautiful person, and we are all so saddened by his loss.