



Ahmad Massoud (1943-2014)

Ahmad Massoud, professor of immunology in School of Medicine, Tehran University of Medical Sciences died on August 18th, 2014, at the age of 71. We were terribly shocked when we heard the news of his sudden passing away. Although he has been suffering from some illnesses since a year ago, he was working continuously until the day of his death, when he prepared himself to come to the University for Regular Activities in the School of Medicine.

Prof. Massoud was born in the Sowme'eh Sara County in Gilan Province, Northern Iran, in 1943. Having completed his primary and secondary educations in Sowme'eh Sara County, he moved to Tehran, the capital of Iran, to study Pharmacy in the Tehran University, which he successfully graduated and he was awarded the PharmD degree in 1967. He continued his education in the fields of immunology and microbiology in the Université Claude Bernard Lyon, France, and graduated in 1974; and then he spent a short period of time in Institut Pasteur in Paris, focusing on immunohematology and immunopathology. He had also the chance of visiting several centers in UK and USA in addition to France. Upon returning to Iran, he started working as a faculty member in the Department of Immunology, School of Medicine, Tehran University of Medical Sciences in Iran. Finally, he was granted full professorship in this department at Tehran University of Medical Sciences, when he used to be the head of this department during 1985-1996.

Professor Massoud was one of the editorial board members of the *Acta Medica Iranica*. In addition to writing several papers for this journal, he served as a reviewer for the journal. His first paper in this Journal was dated back to more than three decades ago, when he presented a paper on possible effect of levamisol on potential of cell mediated immunity in rheumatoid arthritis (*Acta Med Iran*. 1981;23(1):1-16).

He loved teaching, while his students cannot forget his voice. He was always supportive for students, not only in education, but also in other matters, while he was kind enough to hear the problems. I cannot forget his words in our last meeting of the department just a couple of days before his death on importance of attention to all

students. When we discuss scores of medical students, he said "We are not here just for teaching! A teacher in medical school should hear the voices of students. We should act like parents of our students. A good mentor who knows students very well could actually help them to be good physicians in the future."

He wrote several scientific papers and books, presented hundreds of lectures in a number of meetings. He edited a book on immunology of aging in Farsi language few years ago. I remember well, when he gave me a copy of his book, he encouraged me to edit such a book in this field in English; and I feel he believed that this is on time to publish such a book. Consequently, we started together edition of a book, entitled "Immunology of Aging", which was finally published by Springer just early this year (<http://www.springer.com/medicine/internal/book/978-3-642-39494-2>). In the University Media interview with him before publication of the book, he said "We should respect the scientists. To reach an acceptable outcome from our research, the following elements are necessary: educated human resources, physical environment, budget for materials, and finally management of process".

Professor Massoud was an outstanding academician, who paid a great deal of time and love for his students. He was a prominent immunologist who made many valuable contributions to the field during his career. He was committed to helping students, as well as young scientists. He was a truly wonderful man who has influenced the attitude of many colleagues and friends who all love him. One of his key sentences was: "The faculty persons in the university should not stop their working. The people that are to train should stay at work until death and try to keep the talent persons there". He showed that he believed on what he said.

We must not forget that this remarkable scientist was also a caring family man. He always showed his love for his family as well as for his students, colleagues and friends. The loss of such an outstanding personality has been met with great sorrow by the scientific community. We will always remember him with great affection and respect.

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