

## Mohammad-Reza Bassami: In Memoriam (1961-2016)

**M**ohammad Reza Bassami had a preeminent career in both university and industry. His passing was mourned by his family, many friends, colleagues, students, and even people who had met him once. He was a lovely man, a loyal friend, a successful scientist, a great teacher, an entrepreneur, and a brilliant clinician. He passed away on July 17, 2016. He was 54.

He graduated from University of Tehran with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree (with highest honors) in 1987. Then, Dr. Bassami worked for 4 years in Iran Veterinary Organization in Ilam. He joined the newly established Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Ferdowsi University of Mashhad and worked as a lecturer in the Poultry Disease Section, Department of Clinical Sciences from 1992 to 1995. In 1996, he was awarded a PhD Scholarship in molecular virology, funded by the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education of Iran. In 2000, he completed his PhD in Murdoch University, Australia. He then completed two periods of Post-Doctorate fellowships in molecular virology in Division of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences of Murdoch University, and Molecular Immunology in Institute for Child Health Research affiliated to the University of Western Australia.

Dr. Mohammad Reza Bassami returned to his country, and Ferdowsi University of Mashhad in 2003 and was re-employed in Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. Having a PhD degree and two post-doctoral fellowships and great

clinical experience in the field of poultry medicine, Dr. Bassami effortlessly tried to make closer links between the industry, the university, and the governmental body of veterinary medicine in Iran.

His membership in several professional commissions of Iranian Veterinary Organization responsible for registration of veterinary medicines or vaccines indicates how highly he valued the close relationship between academia and industry.

Dr. Bassami as an academician published more than 70 peer-reviewed research papers, actively participated in scientific congresses and symposia worldwide, directed many workshops, gave many talks as invited speaker, and performed numerous research projects funded by industry.

Dr. Bassami was also one of the founding members of Biotechnology Section in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, a section that soon started to accept PhD students and to house important research projects in the field of veterinary vaccines, therapeutics, and recombinant products.

Among all of his accomplishments, perhaps the most salient was to foster industrial productivity by applying novel molecular biotechnology techniques, and to bring the industrial dynamism and diversification back to the university. The legacy he has left behind continues to encourage and nurture his students. He will be greatly missed. ■

### Hesam Dehghani

Department of Basic Sciences,  
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, and  
Research Institute of Biotechnology,  
Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad, Iran  
Correspondence: dehghani@um.ac.ir

