

Obituary



Dr. Amir Masoud Emadi

“My beloved children, I have achieved all my personal wishes and goals in life and I am ready for my final trip . . . , do not cry for me . . . , in my 38 years of public health service to my beloved Iran, I have traveled to every corner of this country, sat down with its beautiful and decent people, listened to them, learned from them and tried to work on improving their health and life style. . . , I have lived more than one thousand years in these thirty eight years”. These are a few words from Dr. Amir Masoud Emadi’s living will. Dr. Emadi’s death on December 17, 2015 was a great loss to the Iranian health community. Dr. Emadi was born in 1933 in Tehran, Iran. After receiving his doctorate from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Tehran University, he was among the first group of scientists who joined the national malaria eradication program.

He dedicated his life to the improvement of public health in Iran in many different capacities. As an outstanding field epidemiologist and an exceptional leader, he served as the head of Malaria Eradication Units in Kermanshah, Kordestan, Ilam, and Mazandaran for many years. In the mid-1970s, he moved to Khoozestan and served as the chair of the Emergency System, and vice chair of the entire health system in the province. He stayed there until the Iran-Iraq war broke out, which gave him the privilege to touch and save many people’s lives during the first days and months of the war until he himself became injured.

Subsequently, he was appointed as the vice chair of the Center for Malaria Eradication and Communicable Diseases Control, Ministry of Health and Medical Education. The endless efforts and devotion by Dr. Emadi along with Drs. Zaim and Manouchehri and several other scientists from the Center and the Department of Medical Entomology and Vector Control, Tehran University of Medical Sciences culminated in excellently controlling malaria during eight years of war and thereafter in most of the country except the southeastern corner of Iran. Even though

the eradication strategy was officially changed to malaria control in 1987 due to serious technical problems and administrative difficulties, malaria eradication remained Dr. Emadi’s passion. He established an outstanding and productive relationship and network between the centers in Tehran and local Health Research Stations particularly in south of Iran. He knew by heart the sensitivity of different *Anopheles* mosquitos to different pesticides, or different plasmodiums to various anti-malaria agents at the level of villages of Iranshahr or Khash in Sistan and Baluchistan, or Minab in Hormozgan or Kahnouj in Kerman, or Kazeroon in Fars, etc. Dr. Emadi was the co-author of several articles, and scientific reports. He also participated and delivered many lectures in scientific meetings.

Dr. Emadi had a deep and enduring life-long commitment to scholarship and to the humanitarian ideal of alleviating human suffering through the development of improvement in the understanding of communicable disorders. He is already missed immensely.



He will continue to live in the name of his daughter Mojgan, a computer engineer, and Dr. Ashkan Emadi, his eldest son, a physician scientist and currently an Associate Professor of Medicine, Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and the Director of Hematology and Medical Oncology Fellowship Program at the Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Cancer Center at University of Maryland School of Medicine, USA.

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