



Professor Subhash C. Basu, Ph.D., D.Sc.
(May 28, 1938 – November 14, 2021)

It is our sad duty to inform the Calcutta University Alumni Association community that one of our beloved board members, Subhash C. Basu, Ph.D., D.Sc., Professor Emeritus, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana passed away in the early morning of Sunday, November 14, 2021.

Professor Subhash Chandra Basu, a biochemist by training and a glycobiologist by profession was born in Kolkata, India on May 28, 1938. He came from an educator family. His father late Sunil Basu was a Professor of Botany at Vidyasagar College in Kolkata.

Professor Basu completed his B.Sc. (Hons) degree in Chemistry in 1958 and M.Sc. in Biochemistry in 1960 from Calcutta University. Immediately after that he left India and joined the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in the fall of 1961 to pursue his graduate studies. He earned a Ph.D. degree in Biochemistry in 1966 under the mentorship of late Professor Saul Roseman, Ph.D., a member of the US National Academy of Sciences. After a successful postdoctoral training at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, Professor Basu joined the faculty of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana in 1970 as an Assistant Professor and attended the academic rank of a full professor. After his retirement in 2009, Professor Basu remained in the faculty as a Professor Emeritus.

Over more than 50 years as a faculty member at Notre Dame, Professor Basu achieved international renown as a researcher, educator, and mentor to a large number of trainees, including Ph.D. candidates, post-doctoral associates, undergraduate students, and visiting scholars. Professor Basu has contributed significantly to the advancement of science, particularly within the realm of glycobiology. The primary focus of his laboratory was the biochemistry of sphingolipids and DNA replication and has made a seminal contribution in these areas. Professor Basu was a pioneer in establishing many intricate details of ganglioside, blood group glycolipid, and globoside biosynthetic pathways, as well as the role of glycosphingolipids in the development of human diseases. He was active on many fronts, including serving on the editorial board of multiple international journals, *viz.*, Glycoconjugate Journal (Springer-Nature Publication), Current Drug Targets, and established the Cancer Drug Delivery Research Foundation to continue his efforts to find effective therapies against a range of cancers.

Throughout his long career, Professor Basu achieved numerous distinctions and awards, including a D.Sc. degree from Calcutta University, the Helen Hay Whitney Research Fellowship, the Jacob Javits Neuroscience Research Award from the NIH, and the NSF-CSIR TOKTEN

Visiting Fellowship to India. He was elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and inducted as a member of The Johns Hopkins University Society of Scholars. He also served as a Treasurer of the Society of Glycobiology. Professor Basu believed strongly in supporting the efforts of scientists across the world and helped co-found the International Symposium on Eukaryotic Cell Surface Macromolecules (ISCSM) with late Professor Bimal K. Bachhawat, Ph.D. in 1987. This meeting is held every three years in India and continues to the present day. Professor Basu was able to attend the last meeting held on February 17-20, 2020 in Pune, India.

Professor Basu was a poet and loved Indian music. His creative mind gave the world the design of the Speed VacTM.

Professor Basu is survived by his wife and a long-time scientific partner Manju, sons Sanmit and Rajit, daughter-in-law Anjali, and two beloved grandsons Tejus and Jayan.

On behalf of the Alumni Association, we send our deepest condolences to his loving wife Manju, and the rest of Professor Subhash Basu's family. All who knew him as a friend, colleague, and mentor will miss him.

We pray for his soul to rest in peace.

Sincerely,

Dipak K. Banerjee, Ph.D., Secretary
Salil K. Das, Sc.D., D.Sc., President & Treasurer
Calcutta University Alumni Association