Obituary

Ahmad Iqbal Bukhari

Ahmad Iqbal Bukhari, our colleague on the editorial board of "Molecular and General Genetics", died Saturday November 19 of a heart attack at the age of 40 near his home on Long Island.

Ahmad Bukhari, a native Pakistani, was born in 1943 in Punjab. After receiving a master's degree from the University of Karachi in 1963, he went to the United States as a Fulbright-Hays scholar at Brown University. He received his Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Colorado Medical Center in 1980. In the same year he joined the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, where he was appointed to the staff in 1972.

Dr. Bukhari's research centered on structural and functional analysis of the bacteriophage Mu-1. This phage was discovered in 1963 by A.L. Taylor. Dr. Bukhari's contributions to the understanding of the lytic and lysogenic life cycle of phage Mu were numerous. Together with D. Zipser he showed the randomness of Mu insertion within a single bacterial gene as early as 1972. Subsequently he established that the maps of prophages are always identical, i.e. integration of the phage is not permuted. Events following prophage Mu-induction were studied in 1975. The influence of host DNA sequences covalently linked to the phage DNA on the packaging of phage Mu was analysed in the same year. In 1976 an internal segment of Mu, the so-called G-loop, was shown to be identical to a corresponding segment of phage P1. The G-loop of phage Mu was found to be invertible, and in 1978 Dr. Bukhari related the inversion of this DNA segment to the specificity of phage adsorption, that is, to the host specificity of phage Mu. The analysis of the fate of Mu DNA after induction was another area of Dr. Bukhari's research. His studies on DNA rearrangements that occur during the life cycle of phage Mu culminated in 1981 in the formulation of a model accounting for these rearrangements.

During his stay at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Ahmad Bukhari trained and educated many students.

In addition to research Dr. Bukhari was actively involved in enhancing communication within the international scientific community. Since 1981 he served as an expert advisor to the United Nations International Development Organization (UNIDO) in order to promote an international center for genetic engineering and biotechnology. The aim of the center, which is now in the final stages of planning, is to increase the flow of biotechnology to developing countries. Dr. Bukhari was also a scientific advisor for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and played a key role in establishing a national biotechnology center for Pakistan, located in Lahore.

Dr. Ahmad Bukhari has left us. The scientific community has lost an energetic and inspiring young member, to whom we are all indebted.

Heinz Saedler