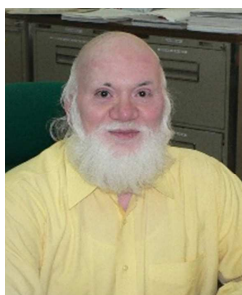


# OBITUARY



**Prof. Surendra Pal Verma**  
(1945–2021)

Prof. Surendra Pal Verma, born on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 1945 in Agra, India; breathed his last on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in Mexico. He obtained his Bachelor's degree and Master's degree in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics from Agra University, Agra, India (1961–1965). His Ph.D. degree was from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India, awarded on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1971.

He joined the Institute of Geophysics of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) in 1971 as a young Junior Researcher, within 10 years he made tremendous progress and became one of the leading and senior most researchers in the Mexican academic system in the year 1981. During these years, his areas of interest were geochemistry, geochronology, palaeo-magnetism, and nuclear geophysics and was responsible for installing the first laboratory of palaeo-magnetism and nuclear geophysics in Mexico.

Later in 1982, he joined the Department of Geothermics of the Electrical Research Institute at Cuernavaca, Mexico, as senior most researcher and Coordinator of Geochemistry. He developed the first laboratory of radon measurements in geothermal fluids. During 1982–1995 he worked extensively on Mexican volcanoes and reinforced his research on rock geochemistry involving studies of fluid geochemistry and radioactive isotopic geochemistry and their applications especially to exploration of geothermal energy resources. He has also worked in several U.S. institutions, such as the University of Minnesota (1979) as a visiting Associate Professor, University of Rhode Island (1979–1980) as a research associate, and U.S. Geological Survey (1986) as a visiting Scientist, as well as in the Max-Planck-Institut für Chemie (Mainz), Johannes-Gutenberg Universität (Mainz) and Universität Trier (Trier) in Germany (1986–1988), as an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow. In 1995 Prof. Verma moved back to the National Autonomous University of Mexico, as a “senior most researcher” and “Coordinator of Geochemistry”. This time, he created and coordinated a research group of geo-energy in the Energy Research Centre (now Institute of Renewable Energy).

He has been instrumental in forming a National Association of Geochemistry in Mexico called “Instituto Nacional de Geoquímica” (National Institute of Geochemistry) in 1990. As the first President

(1990–1992) of this association, he was able to strengthen this newly created geochemical society in Mexico. During his productive career, he guided 12 master's and 7 doctoral thesis pertaining to different areas such as geology, geochemistry, geophysics, physics, chemistry, engineering, and computer geosciences.

During his long and outstanding academic career, he published around 339 peer-reviewed articles in scientific journals, including three articles in the most prestigious multidisciplinary science journal “Nature” and several book chapters, conference proceedings and edited books or journal special issues. He has written a single-author book on basic statistics, being used as a textbook in Mexico, and another single-author book on advanced statistics for experimental data handling. Recently, in 2020, he authored a book entitled “Road from geochemistry to Geochemometrics” published by Springer-Nature. The impact of his scientific contributions has been very high, as his work has already received a total of 9874 citations, being a very respectable number of citations in the field of geosciences. The very high *h*-index (53) of his research infers about the credibility and popularity of his extraordinary research contribution to geosciences.

His departure is an immense loss to the geoscientific fraternity around the world. His invaluable contributions to geosciences will be remembered forever. He is survived by Mrs. Teresa Aguilar Sánchez (wife), Viresh Verma Aguilar (son), Sarika Devi Verma Aguilar (daughter) and many friends around the globe.

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