

Musa A. Haxhiu, M.D., Ph.D. (1939-2007)



Musa A. Haxhiu, M.D., Ph.D. last was Professor of Pediatrics, Medicine and Anatomy at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. He died after a long illness and a fight with leukemia on September 17th, 2007.

Dr. Haxhiu studied medicine at Belgrade University Medical School in the former Yugoslavia. After his graduation in 1963, he accepted a fellowship in pulmonology and completed postgraduate studies in cardiology in 1968. He received a Ph.D. degree in 1973 from the University of Zagreb. Subsequently, he spent time in London, England at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital to investigate regulation of peripheral airways. He was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study control of breathing and airways at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia from 1975-1976. Later on he worked in Bochum, Germany in 1978 and 1980. In 1982, he accepted an invitation to Case Western Reserve University to continue the studies that he had begun in at the University of Pennsylvania and pursued later his home institution, the University of Prishtina, Yugoslavia. At that time, he held a professorship at the University of Prishtina, where he was also Dean of the Medical School and President of the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosovo. In 1991, he left Prishtina to join the Cleveland group permanently. In 1999, he was invited to Howard University in Washington DC to set up a Specialized Neuroscience Research Program (SNRP-1), and he subsequently served as its Director. After renewing the SNRP at Howard University for another five years (SNRP-2) in 2005, he returned to Case Western Reserve University to continue his work on the neurobiology of airway control and regulation of breathing until 2007. Even after having been stricken with illness, Dr. Haxhiu worked ceaselessly on his scientific projects and experiments. He was an inspiring scientist, a great scholar and an educated and kind discussion partner. He fervently supported junior faculty and students to strengthen their research concepts and experimental skills in order to further their scientific development and build competitive and self-sustainable research groups. His generosity, vast knowledge and intellectual prowess is a great loss to all who had the possibility to have worked and interacted with him.