

Anwar A. Khan

October 16, 1934 — June 28, 1997

Dr. Anwar A. Khan, a world-renowned scientist in the fields of Seed Physiology, Biochemistry, and Molecular Biology, died suddenly on Saturday, June 28, 1997 at Geneva General Hospital. He suffered a heart attack at his home on White Springs Road in Geneva. Funeral services were held on June 30, 1997 at the Islamic Center in Rochester, New York. A Memorial Recognition attended by many of his colleagues, friends and family was held on July 8, 1997 in Jordan Hall at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, New York. His wife, Tamken, and two children, Karim and Zeba, survive Dr. Khan.

Professor Khan was borne in Monghyr, Pakistan. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Karachi, Pakistan, in Chemistry, Biology, and Physiology in 1956 and 1957, respectively. He was awarded his Doctorate degree from the Department of Biology at the University of Chicago in 1963. He was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Biochemistry at Michigan State University from 1963-65. Dr. Khan was appointed Assistant Professor at Cornell University on the Geneva Campus in 1965. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1971 and to Professor in 1980.

Dr. Khan was one of the most highly respected scientists in his field. His work on dormancy and germination of seeds, on hormone physiology, on stress physiology, and physiological and chemical seed treatments was known throughout the world. He was looked to by his peers for advice from throughout the world. He spent his life learning everything he could about the dormancy period of seeds and also how they germinated. He was concerned about seed quality and being sure that when seeds germinated they would establish themselves as well as possible under varying soil and climatic conditions. Professor Khan collaborated on various aspects of seed physiology and seed treatments with many colleagues at Cornell and elsewhere. He was a great collaborator to all, always a delight to work with, always pleasant and very generous with his time and efforts. He will be sorely missed by many of his colleagues in the scientific community as well as by his wonderful family and numerous friends.

A prolific writer, Professor Khan had more than 170 refereed scientific journal articles to his credit. He also was editor of three books in the areas of seed physiology and biology that were published in 1977, 1982, and 1992. Additionally, he was awarded a U.S. Patent in 1994 that covered some of his more critical work on inducing dormancy in non-dormant seeds.

Besides his work at the Geneva Station, Khan spent sabbatical leaves at the International Rice Research Institute, Los Banos, Philippines (1985-86); the Agricultural University, Wageningen, Holland (1978); the University of Liege, Belgium (1971); the University of Ghent, Belgium (1971-72); and the University of Clermont-Ferrand, France (1972).

Because his research had application on a worldwide basis, Dr. Khan was a frequent invited speaker to international symposia, special workshops, research projects reviews, and other involvements and consultancies. Most recently he was an invited speaker at the 1995 Annual Meeting of the Korean Society of Horticultural Science. He presented results of his research at symposia in such countries as Brazil, Honduras, Denmark, Saudi Arabia, China, India, Karachi, Pakistan, Turkey, Poland, Russia, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, as well as at many different meetings in the United States.

Khan received many research grants from throughout the world to help support his research. Major grants included those from the United States Agency for International Development, the American Seed Research Foundation, the Herman Frasch Foundation, the New York Seed Association, the National Science Foundation, the New York Beet Research Association, the New York Snap Bean Research Association, the New York Sweet Corn Research Association, and many others.

Khan was a member of the American Society of Plant Physiologists, American Society of Horticultural Sciences, American Society of Crop Science, American Society of Agronomy, Weed Science Society of America, International Plant Growth Substance Association, and Sigma Xi.

George Abawi, Gary Harman, Hugh Price