

IN MEMORIAM

Esmail Meisami (1942–2013)



Associate Professor of Molecular and Integrative Physiology and Neuroscience Esmail “Essie” Meisami died in Urbana on January 22, 2013, at the age of 70. Meisami was born on November 19, 1942, in Tehran, Iran.

He received a bachelor’s degree in 1967 at the University of California, Berkeley, and then went on to receive his Ph.D. from UC Berkeley in 1970. After graduating, he traveled back to Iran to become a faculty member in the Biology Department at the University of

Tehran, creating the Department of Cell and Molecular Biology and the Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics while he was there. While at the University of Tehran, he created laboratories for neurophysiology and electrophysiology and organized three international symposia.

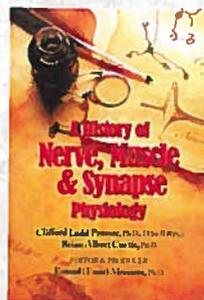
In 1980, Meisami returned to UC Berkeley, and in August of 1986 he became faculty in what was then the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Illinois.

Meisami’s research focused on the neuroscience of the olfactory system and the function of hormones and other factors in brain

development and plasticity as well as recovery from damage. His research was highly successful, with the publication of over 50 papers during his career. He wrote and edited several books on biology, physiology, human growth and development, and developmental neurobiology and co-authored the highly successful “The Physiology Coloring Book,” a work that has become the “go-to” for most undergraduate physiology courses and has been translated into many languages.

He was known to be an influential mentor for graduate and undergraduate students alike and was well known for his friendly demeanor and ever-present smile.

Meisami is survived by his wife, Nooshin, and his two daughters, Mona and Ayda.



FOR FURTHER READING

A History of Nerve, Muscle and Synapse Physiology, started by the late Professor C. Ladd Prosser and completed with Professors Brian Curtis and Essie Meisami as coauthors and editors. In 600 pages and 24 chapters, the book traces the history of the development of the physiology and neurobiology of nerve, muscle and synapses from the seventeenth century to the late twentieth century.