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Dr. Mohammed-Reza Safaei Keshtgar— A Pioneer of Innovation in Medicine and Professional Ethics



*The number of two eyes is a little tone
Count the wisdom of thousands more
Roudaki (858-941 A.D)*

It is the 2006 Breast Cancer Congress in Tehran. The invited guest speaker, a humble and amiable, not to mention brilliant, surgical oncologist at University College London, is delivering an exciting speech about a multicenter research project on intraoperative radiotherapy. He then goes on to thrill the audiences by introducing the technique and hosting a workshop on sentinel lymph node biopsy. At the end of his speech, he treated all participants with fascinating pictures of his hometown in Southeast Iran and explained how he still felt his roots in that part of country. He was no one but Dr Mohammed-Reza Safaei Keshtgar.

He was, no doubt, the pioneer of minimally invasive breast procedures, including sentinel lymph node biopsy, in the UK. His genuine commitment to educate and improve his colleagues in Iran, and other developing countries, made him regularly participate in cancer conferences in these countries and share his knowledge and expertise with local specialists.

In 2014, we were honored to have him aboard in editorial board of the Archives of Breast Cancer, and the journal enjoyed his invaluable counsel since then. His scholarly contributions has helped to constantly improve the scientific quality of the journal during the past four years.

Diligence, determination, innovation in surgery, as well as adherence to professional ethics and commitment to research and education, made him a prominent figure in the field of cancer internationally—so that The Lancet introduced him and acknowledged his efforts in a 2011 article.

It is beyond any doubt that the decease of this distinguished physician and scientist is a great loss to the international scientific community, as well as his patients, and will deeply affect his colleagues. The Archives of Breast Cancer sincerely regrets that it has lost one of the most effective members of its editorial board. May his soul rest in peace.