

— Dr. Mahesh —
Major Professor for Graduate Students*

Dr. Virendra B. Mahesh was an internationally recognized researcher and award-winning pioneer in the field of steroid hormone physiology whose work led to fundamental discoveries of the actions of ovarian steroid hormones on hypothalamic and pituitary function, as well as identification of irregular steroid hormone synthesis in a number of clinical infertility syndromes in women. He received his PhD in organic chemistry from the University of Delhi, a DPhil in biological sciences from Oxford University, and then was a postdoctoral fellow at the Yale University School of Medicine.

He moved to the Medical College of Georgia as Assistant Research Professor of Endocrinology in 1959 and was promoted to full professor in 1966. Dr. Mahesh was subsequently appointed Regents Professor, and then Chairman of the Department of Physiology and Endocrinology at the Medical College of Georgia (1972-1999).

Dr. Mahesh published 471 research papers and book chapters and served as mentor to 36 graduate students and 59 postdoctoral fellows. Dr. Mahesh was deeply invested in mentoring young scientists. His research on steroid hormone physiology led to awards for research and service from several societies including the Endocrine Society and Society for the Study of Reproduction. Dr. Mahesh served the SSR in many capacities including as Board Member and Editor-in-Chief of *Biology of Reproduction* and established the SSR Legacy Fund to support *BOR*, the New Investigator Fund to support the annual New Investigator Award, and the Neuroendocrine Program Fund to support Neuroendocrine events at the annual meeting.



Dr. Mahesh Accomplishments and Awards

Quotes shared by Drs. Charles Eldridge and Darrell Brann

Drs. Eldridge and Brann were PhD students with Dr. Mahesh.

“Dr. Mahesh’s substantial intellect and energy was invested in the development and maturation of young scientists. He loved science and training the next generation of scientists. His life was dedicated to that.

Dr. Mahesh was the “favorite uncle” with whom we always checked in at research meetings, for advice and, equally importantly, for approval. The inspiration that began during graduate school continued across decades.

His life was the best example and role model for all his trainees. We tried to be like him. His legacy lives on in all of us. ”

*NOTE: List current as of 7/14/2022. Names of postdoctoral fellows were not available.