

Moses N. Vijayakumar (“Vijay”)

December 22, 1947 – August 30, 2023

Moses N. Vijayakumar (“Vijay”) was born in Vellore, India, to Sophie Moses and Moses Manikam on December 22, 1947, and passed away on August 30, 2023. He and his wife Catherine were married on July 2, 2000, in Stillwater. He arrived in Chicago, IL, in 1975 and earned his Ph.D. in Molecular Genetics at the University of Illinois, Chicago. He did postdoctoral work at Duke University from 1982-86 and at Princeton University from 1986-88. He was employed by Oklahoma State University’s Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics from 1988 until his retirement in 2015. He also had the distinction of being the first Asian American to serve as the department head in the College of Arts and Sciences from July 2000 to August 2003. His research interests were in the areas of genetics of pathogenesis, gene transfer mechanisms, and emerging multiple antibiotic resistance in bacteria, particularly with the human pathogen, *streptococcus pneumoniae*, which causes pneumonia, meningitis, and otitis media. His research resulted in the publication of numerous scientific journal articles. A number of graduate and undergraduate students completed their research in his lab. Those whom he mentored are now faculty members at OSU and other universities as well as some working in industry. Dr. Vijayakumar served as a reviewer for a number of scientific journals and grant agencies including the National Scientific Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. In addition, he was a member of the American Society for the Advancement of Science, the American Society for Microbiology, and of Sigma Xi. Finally, he was well read, traveled extensively, enjoyed gardening, and taught several OLLI courses. Dr. Vijayakumar is survived by his wife, Catherine, and three sisters: Prabha Gnanapragasam and Sheela Philips of India, and Charlotte Regson of Chicago and their families.