

Brief Research Profile:

**Professor Ahmed Abdullah Azad, PhD.**

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Dr Azad obtained his BSc (Hons) and MSc in Biochemistry from Dhaka University, and PhD in Molecular Biology from University of Toronto (1973). After two years of postdoctoral training in Canada he joined the faculty of Australian National University's Research School of Biological Sciences. He then joined the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation's Division of Biomolecular Sciences and Biotechnology in Melbourne in 1980 to lead the research in molecular virology, and was promoted to the position of Chief Research Scientist in 1990. His research helped in the discovery and development of the anti-Flu drug Neuraminidase. He led the research in the discovery and development, and commercialisation, of a recombinant subunit vaccine against a highly immunosuppressive virus (IBDV), for which he was awarded the highly prestigious CSIRO Chairman's Gold Medal for Exceptional Achievement. He made seminal discoveries leading to better understanding of the molecular basis of HIV/AIDS pathogenesis and strategies for arresting progression to AIDS. In 2000 he accepted the newly created position of Director of Research at the University of Cape Town. This position, and other appointments as Board Member of the South African Medical Research Council, as Member of the Council of Scientific Advisors of ICGEB (Trieste), CAPRISA (Durban), and USHEPiA, led to extensive travel and interactions in Sub-Saharan Africa, which prompted him to devote his time and expertise to research capacity development in Bangladesh and other technology and resource poor countries, which he has been doing pro bono since his retirement in 2007. He is an elected Fellow of five different science academies, and is currently Secretary General of the Islamic-World Academy of Sciences.