Preface: In Memory of Dr. Gopinadhan Paliyath (Gopi) 1950–2022

Dr. Gopinadhan Paliyath (Gopi) was a professor with the Plant Agriculture Department of Ontario Agricultural College. He worked at the University of Guelph in various capacities for 34 years.

Gopi came from a small village in the state of Kerala, India. After his initial degrees, he worked as a schoolteacher and later went to the prestigious Indian Institute of Science at Bengaluru, where he got his PhD. After his PhD, he worked as a post-doctoral fellow at the Washington State University before moving to Canada, initially to the University of Waterloo, and then to Guelph where he worked until his passing. Many of his students and postdocs are working in various capacities throughout the world. He is fondly remembered by his wards as a very caring boss and often a fatherly figure to many.

He has over 200 publications, edited 3 books, and is a co-inventor in several patents. One of those innovative ideas on extending the shelf life of fruits using a natural product, hexanal, has been the nucleus behind an IDRC project for $6.5 million. Through this grant over 35 graduate students and postdocs got their education/training in 6 countries between 2013 and 2018. The research in this project was even mentioned in a commentary in the journal Nature.

More recently he formed a company, Psigryph, using another invention based on nanofibers from sour cherries. He was actively working and promoting the properties of sour cherry nanofibers in diverse applications including nanopesticides and delivery of health compounds.

Besides research, Gopi was an avid sports fan; he loved cricket, basketball, and football. He also had an eclectic taste in music (Indian classical, ABBA, Boney M, Pink Floyd, The Beatles, Gordon Lightfoot, etc.).

Gopi passed away peacefully on September 11, 2022, at the Grand River Hospital, Waterloo, surrounded by his family.