



OBITUARIES

SATYANARAYAN M. SOMANI, 65

Satyanarayan Motilal "Satu" Somani, 65, a professor of pharmacology and toxicology at Southern Illinois University in Springfield who studied ways that the Hindu healing practice of ayurveda could enhance modern medicine, died of an abdominal aortic aneurysm Tuesday, Oct. 29, in Memorial Medical Center, Springfield. Born in Hingoli, India, he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in that country, an additional master's degree in pharmaceutical chemistry at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, and a doctorate in pharmacology from The University of Liverpool in England. Mr. Somani taught at the University

of Pittsburgh from 1971 to 1974, during which time he helped found the first Hindu temple in that city. In 1974 he moved to SIU, first as an associate professor and later as full professor. He was still teaching at the time of his death. As a member of the university's Complementary and Alternative Medicine Task Force, Mr. Somani studied ways that yoga, massage, meditation and herbal remedies could be integrated into medical treatment plans, and he taught a course on the subject. During his university career he wrote numerous research articles and authored four books on environmental toxicology, chemical warfare agents, and pharmacology in ex-

ercise and sport. In 1997, Mr. Somani testified before Congress that Gulf War syndrome might be a delayed neurotoxic effect of low-level chemical agents, and in 1999 he participated in a Centers for Disease Control conference on Gulf War chemical exposure. He received dozens of research grants from the U.S. Army, the Environmental Protection Agency, the American Heart Association and other organizations. In a written statement, Col. James Romano of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense called Mr. Somani "a well-respected colleague, academician and researcher" whose study of antioxidant therapies for chem-

ical burns "influenced U.S. Army medical research approaches." Mr. Somani was dedicated to his family and loved to entertain friends at home, said his daughter, Indira. He was a voracious reader, a movie buff and a seasoned traveler, she said. Mr. Somani is also survived by his wife, Shipra; another daughter, Sheila; a brother, Bansilal, and two sisters, Rampyari Toshniwal and Narmada Zanwar. Services have been held.

