

Mo Saif, DVM, PhD

Dr. Saif completed his Ph.D. degree in 1967 at the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM), The Ohio State University (OSU). Upon receiving his Ph.D., he joined the Department of Veterinary Science, the predecessor of the Food Animal Health Research Program (FAHRP), Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC), College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CFAES), and the Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, CVM, OSU. He was promoted from Assistant to Associate to full professor, and in 1993, became the head of the Department and Assistant Dean of the CVM. Dr. Saif retired in 2013 from his position as Head of the FAHRP and Assistant Dean, CVM, and continues to serve as Professor and Head Emeritus of Center for Food Animal Health (CFAH, formerly FAHRP).



He developed and conducted Ohio State University Extension programs, and he served as organizer of the Ohio Poultry Team, where he continues to provide leadership and expertise at the local, national, and international arenas in animal health. His research career encompassed diverse studies on bacterial, fungal, and viral diseases and the immune response of turkeys. His research focused on mycoplasmosis, colibacillosis, pasteurellosis, erysipelas, aspergillosis, paramyxovirus, infectious bursal disease (IBD), enteric viruses, and influenza viruses. Among his research accomplishments were the first demonstration of the interspecies transmission of influenza viruses and coronaviruses, elucidating the molecular basis of interspecies transmission of influenza viruses, the first demonstration of the diversity of antigenic types of IBD viruses, the discovery of several avian enteric viruses, and defining their pathogenesis and epidemiology, providing the first description of the production and metabolism of the three turkey immunoglobulins. He established and maintained a specific-pathogen-free turkey flock in 1964 to support experimental disease research.

Prior to his retirement in 2013, Dr. Saif had published 170 peer-reviewed manuscripts and 28 book chapters. He mentored 21 Ph.D. and 10 MSc students. His laboratory is designated as the OIE Expert laboratory for IBD viruses.

2021 CRWAD Fellows Inductee

