

**From:** "Alberts, Bruce" <balberts@ucsf.edu>

**Date:** 1 October 2023 at 9:39:37 PM IST

**To:** Soumya Swaminathan-Trustee <doctorsoumya@yahoo.com>, Soumya Swaminathan - MSSRF <doctorsoumya@mssrf.res.in>, ParasuRaman-MSSRF <raman@mssrf.res.in>

**Cc:** Betty Alberts <bettynalberts@aol.com>, Lily Atkinson <atkinsonlily@gmail.com>

**Subject:** **Our deepest sympathies**

Dear Soumya and Raman,

Betty and I write to express our great sadness that MS has left us. We attach the tribute to him from the New York Times, in case you do not yet have it.

I am sure that emails are arriving from all over the world, so will keep this short. As I you know, I learned a tremendous amount from MS that profoundly altered and improved what I did as the National Academy of Sciences president. This is reflected in a series of annual meeting talks that I gave, where I frequently described my visits to MS and his villages in India.

It was a great privilege to have had MS as a friend, a fortunate accident triggered in 1997 when the two of us were appointed by Ismail Serageldin to be the co-chairs of the "science and strategy" half of an important World Bank "future of CGIAR" study (chaired by Maurice Strong). I knew nothing about either agriculture or the CGIAR when we started, and MS proved to be a wonderful tutor for me. Ironically, our friendship developed because the person who was paid to staff the project proved to be almost useless, and as a result MS and I had to redo whatever he wrote. At the very end, with the final report due to be provided in a month to the big CGIAR assembly in October at the World Bank, MS and I holed up for 9 days in London with our two assistants to write it almost from scratch.

We send our deepest condolences to you, the family, and all of our friends at the Foundation,

Bruce