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Kasim A. Mookhtiar, Ph.D., is a co-founder and the Chief Scientific Officer of Advinus Therapeutics Pvt Ltd, India's first innovative pharmaceutical research and development company, a Tata Enterprise, based in Bangalore and Pune. At Advinus, he is the Head of Drug Discovery, which is located in Pune. He has over 18 years of experience in Drug Discovery and innovative pharmaceutical research and has progressed from laboratory science to managing a large scientific team. A unique feature of his training is his in depth experience in both chemistry and biology of drug discovery.

Kasim was born and raised in Bombay, India. After securing admission to the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, he pursued a 5-year integrated MS in Chemistry, where he worked with Prof. A.M. Mehta in the area of Synthetic Organic Chemistry. Following his Master's, Kasim traveled to the US to further his education and undertook a doctoral degree with Professor H. E. Van Wart at the Institute of Molecular Biophysics, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida. His graduate work encompassed biochemistry, protein chemistry, enzyme kinetics and inhibition and resulted in a dissertation entitled "Purification, Inhibition and Mechanistic Studies of *Clostridium histolyticum* and Human Neutrophil Collagenases". Kasim followed up his graduate work with a postdoctoral fellowship at the Yale University School of Medicine, where he investigated the basic mechanism of transcription in the process learning molecular biology and structural biology by two dimensional NMR. This very diverse training has developed in him a mindset that solutions to problems are not based in specific area expertise but in taking diverse approaches which would yield the best solution. He is fascinated by the application of non-traditional technologies to solving challenging problems.

Kasim began his professional career by joining the Metabolic Diseases Drug Discovery group at the Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceutical Research Institute in Princeton, NJ, USA, where he worked from 1992 to 2003. Early in his career he pioneered the Diabetes and Obesity programs at BMS and was then entrusted with the task of forming the Department of Aging Research in Drug Discovery, a very novel and cutting edge area for both basic and applied research. As Director, he was responsible for the strategic planning of this area and was also involved in numerous strategic efforts in the wider BMS activities.

In 2003, Kasim returned to India as Vice President, New Drug Discovery Research, at Ranbaxy Laboratories Limited. In two years, Kasim built a team of over 200 scientists from multiple disciplines to form a productive and creative group of drug hunters with a culture of innovation and teamwork. This tenure gave Kasim the experience of working in India, which contributed to his successful co-founding of Advinus.

Besides Drug Discovery, Kasim is fascinated by the world around him. His interests are wide and varied, from playing the guitar and writing poetry to traveling and gardening. He reads and watches movies or just "hangs out " with people to relax.