

IN MEMORIAM

Yasukazu Nishiyama,

1920-1996

Dr. Nishiyama, founder and past-president of the Japanese Society of Toxicologic Pathology, died of cancer of the intestinal tract on February 29, 1996. Born in the city of Kofu, Yamanashi in 1920, he received his medical education at Keio University School of Medicine. He became assistant in the Department of Pathology in 1946. After receiving his M.D. degree (Igaku-hakase) from Keio in 1952, he went into clinical medicine and was then sent to the Kawasaki City Hospital as an internist and head of pathology in 1954. In 1956 he went to the United States as a Fulbright student and took residency in pathology at Coney Island Hospital and Kansas State University Medical School. He returned to Kawasaki in 1958. During his 12 years in Kawasaki, Dr. Nishiyama made key contributions to human pathology through his studies of ischemic heart disease. Many of the illustrations used in his famous "Atlas of Gross Pathology" were collected at that time. He then became professor of pathology at Kitasato University School of Medicine. Since the medical school at Kitasato was a new one, he devoted much of his time setting up an active and solid department, planning of an ideal and practical curriculum for students, and teaching. Before retiring Dr. Nishiyama became Chairman of the Executive Board at Kitasato Gakuen where he held office for twelve years. It was at this period that Kitasato made great progress and is now recognized as one of the leading and still growing medical schools in Japan.



We are now in an era when the toxicologic pathologist must take a key role in the understanding and prevention of environmental diseases. In 1984 several pathologists led by Dr. Nishiyama got together in Tokyo and organized a small study group consisting of those interested in toxicologic pathology. At the beginning there were only about 80 pathologists in this group.

With the establishment of the Japanese Society of Toxicologic Pathology in 1985 the number of registered members had doubled and by 1996 the number has finally reached the 1000 line. Dr. Nishiyama became the first President of the Society. Much of his time was dedicated in establishing the basic structure of the Society and education of young toxicologic pathologists. He retired from office in December 1994.

Dr. Nishiyama was a thoughtful man, a competent pathologist, a good teacher, and a natural leader. We have lost a great man, however, he will long be remembered for his leadership and endeavours in setting up the foundation of our Society.

Editor

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