In memoriam: Yasuo Tano, MD

President of the club Jules Gonin

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We have lost a dear friend and a great leader. Professor Yasuo Tano passed away suddenly on the last day of January 2009. His friends weep and the entire ophthalmological community is stunned by the tragic news.

Dr. Yasuo Tano was Professor and Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at Osaka University Medical School and the Vice President of the Osaka University Hospital. He was President of the Club Jules Gonin, President of the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology and Past President of the Japanese Ophthalmological Society. He was the treasurer of the International Council of Ophthalmology and member of Academia Internationalis Ophthalmologica. He served on the editorial boards of many prestigious scientific journals including American Journal of Ophthalmology, Graefe's Archives of Ophthalmology, Survey of Ophthalmology and Acta Ophthalmologica.

Yasuo was an extremely productive and innovative scientist. He is the author of over 700 peer-reviewed

publications and 70 books and chapters in the field of ophthalmology and eye research. He was widely honoured for his contributions to ophthalmology and eye research. He has delivered many prominent honorary lectures, including the Jackson Memorial Lecture at the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the Pyron Lecture of the Vitreous Society and the Kreissig lecture at the EURETINA congress. He is internationally known as one of the leading scientists and innovative surgeons in vitreoretinal surgery. He invented many insightful vitreoretinal instruments, which are widely used in vitreoretinal surgery. Yasuo had a keen interest in medical retina, and led several important clinical trials on retinal diseases. He also dedicated his time to train aspiring surgeons, thus paving the way for continuing excellence in the field of surgical and medical retina into the next generation.

I remember Yasuo from our youth, as young researchers at the Duke Eye Center, sharing thoughts, ideas and a desire to contribute to the advancement of eye research. Our children were young, the younger ones not yet born, and the whole of life ahead. Yasuo was blessed with a wonderful and supporting wife and their delightful family, and now loving grandchildren. Yasuo was a fortunate man and a happy one, enjoying a wonderful family and an extraordinarily successful professional and scientific career. He was struck down in his prime, one of the world's most prominent and admired ophthalmologists and eye researchers; a great leader in our field. He will be missed by many, personally and professionally.

We are indebted to him for all his contributions to the life and the future of the Club Jules Gonin, as a member of the executive committee and as president. His legacy will live on in many retinal specialists around the globe who had the privilege of learning from him.

Blessed be the memory of Yasuo Tano.

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