

Obituary

In memory of Professor Yuichi Yamamura (1918 – 1990)

Professor Yuichi Yamamura died on June 10, 1990, after a long illness which he courageously fought while continuing to provide the benefit of his leadership and his incomparable wisdom to others in the Japanese and international medical community. He was a member of the Editorial Board of this Journal from 1981 and it is with deep admiration and grateful respect that the Editors wish to honor his memory on the first anniversary of his death.

Professor Yamamura was born in Osaka and received his M.D. in 1941 at that University and his Ph.D. in 1949. During the war he was a Medical Officer in the Imperial Navy and after that trying period he was Chief Physician of the National Sanatorium Toneyama Hospital until 1957, and then Chairman of the Department of Medicinal Chemistry of Kyushu University Medical School until 1962. At Kyushu University Professor Yamamura developed an outstanding school of biochemist and biochemical pharmacologists, and became interested in the purification of natural products, this leading to the studies of preparations of *Nocardia rubra* cell walls as effective immunomodulators. In 1962 he became Chairman of Internal Medicine at the University of Osaka, in 1967 Dean of the Medical School, and then President of Osaka Univer-

sity from 1979 to 1985. Particularly during the past 30 years Professor Yamamura exerted a pivotal leadership role in the development of immunology in Japan and had an enormous influence on the implementation of international scientific relationships within the International Community of Immunologists and Medical Oncologists. The development of A World-leading Center of Molecular Biological Studies at Osaka University is a tangible evidence of the impact of his leadership.

Professor Yamamura had many pupils who now themselves have a prominent position in different fields of medicine and continue the tradition established by their great Teacher. Through his exceptionally lucid and encyclopedic scientific mind and his quiet energy, he had a profound influence on his followers and on those who had the privilege of knowing him. Professor Yamamura was a real gentleman who cherished personal relationships for their intrinsic human value; he will be sadly missed in his Osaka, in his Japan, and among his friends and scientific colleagues none of whom was "foreign" to him no matter where they came from.

E. Mihich and R. W. Baldwin