PASSING OF PIONEERS

PROFESSOR SUMIKO MAGARI (1924-2002)

Prof. Sumiko Magari passed away on October 12, 2002. She was born in 1924 as the eldest daughter of Prof. Nishimura of the Department of Ophthalmology, Tokyo University. She graduated from Kansai Medical University and became a resident in the Department of Dermatology for a year. She specialized in anatomy under Prof. Saburo Kihara, a famous lymphologist who performed many excellent research works on the anatomy of lymphatics. She moved to Kyoto University with Prof. Kihara, who became professor of Kyoto University. Famous lymphologists such as Prof. Mori Katashi, who demonstrated the lymphatics by silver solution, belonged to this department. She became an assistant and then associate professor of Department of Anatomy of Kansai Medical University. In 1958, she became associate professor of Anatomy of Osaka Medical University and in 1973, professor and chairperson of the same department.

Her meticulous and imaginative main works include a new method of tissue preparation for scanning electron microscopy, ultrastructure analysis of the liver, and study of lymphatic tissues such as Peyer patches of the intestine using a new technique of immunoelectron microscopy. She was the president of the 88th Annual Meeting of Japanese Society of Anatomy and also of the 14th Annual Meeting of Japanese Society of Lymphology, 1990. She was also a long-time Associate Editor of Lymphology.

During meetings I enjoyed talking in depth with her because she was once also a dermatologist, and she and I shared interest in the ultrastructure of the lymphatics. In almost all meetings, we had lively discussions on the electron microscopy of the lymphatics and other lymphologic matters. In the last 10 years in almost all congresses, I cited her work. That was a reflection of her power to stimulate me to do further research. Now I have lost an important and compatible rival, with whom I shared much. I thank Professor Magari for having given an impetus to my own research and to many others. She was one of the greatest lymphologic anatomists of Japan and, indeed, in the world. (The detailed data of Professor Magari were given by Professor K. Ohtsuki, Department of Anatomy, Osaka Medical University, and I thank him deeply).

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