In Memory

Remembering Dr. Yasuo Idezuki, F.A.C.S, Professor Emeritus, the University of Tokyo

Yutaka Atomi, F.A.C.S.

President of Kyorin University, President of the Japan Surgical Association, Tokyo, Japan

Dr. Yasuo Idezuki passed away on January 1, 2012, at 77 years old. We are overwhelmed with grief in facing the death of such a great surgeon.

Dr. Idezuki graduated from the Medical Department at the University of Tokyo in 1960 and immediately after he entered the second Department of Surgery at the University of Tokyo. In 1966, after graduating from his postgraduate courses, he went to the United States to study in the Department of Surgery at the University of Minnesota. After returning to Japan, he was assigned as professor of the second Department of Surgery at the University of Tokyo.

Dr. Idezuki was a worldwide pioneer in the fields of portal hypertension, esophageal varices, and pancreas transplantation. In addition, he introduced the endoscopic-assisted surgical procedure in Japan and established it as an important field of surgery. He also instituted the Japan Society for Endoscopic Surgery. He was the leader of the Japanese Association of Medical Sciences and the Japan Surgical Society, as well as the chairperson of the board of the Japan Surgical Association. Dr. Idezuki was internationally well known and had been the governor of the Japanese chapter of the American College of Surgeons, the past president of the International Society of Surgery, and an honorary member of the Poland Surgical Society. Furthermore, Dr. Idezuki hosted numerous international societies including the Fourth World Congress of Endoscopic Surgery. He also served on the editorial board of many medical journals including the American Journal of Surgery and the Annals of Surgery.

Dr. Idezuki was a man who disliked splendors, was not prideful, never abused others, maintained his beliefs, and personally taught us the importance of making efforts calmly and faithfully. For such a great man and one of the greatest surgeons, we do not know how to express our thanks, but now we must say good-bye.