

Obituary



PROFESSOR YASUO TANO 1948 - 2009

The sudden passing of Professor Yasuo Tano on January 31, 2009 in Osaka at the age of 60 shocked the entire ophthalmic community in the world. His departure is a huge and sorrowful loss to his family, patients, students, and friends, and to both eye care professionals and eye disease sufferers worldwide.

Prof. Tano was a vitreo-retinal specialist and the Chair Professor of the Department of Ophthalmology of Osaka University Medical School. His leadership has been pivotal in the development of ophthalmology in not just Japan and Asia-Pacific region but all over the world. He played very key and active roles in many international and regional ophthalmological societies. Amongst his key responsibilities, he was the Treasurer of International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO), the President of Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO), and the Founding President of Asia-Pacific Vitreo-Retina Society (APVRS).

A prolific, earnest writer and an outstanding physician-scientist, Prof. Tano authored over 660 peer-reviewed scientific papers and 59 textbooks. He was editorial board member for a number of international peer-reviewed journals, including American Journal of Ophthalmology, Graefe's Archive of Ophthalmology, Survey of Ophthalmology, Current Eye Research, Retina, Seminars in Ophthalmology, Current Opinion in Ophthalmology, and Eye Science, etc. He was the Editor-in-Chief of a few Japanese peer-reviewed journals, including the Journal of Japanese Ophthalmological Society.

Prof. Tano had received more than 20 major honors and awards in recognition of his outstanding achievements and contributions in ophthalmology. He presented the prestigious Edward Jackson Memorial Lecture at the American Academy of Ophthalmology Meeting in 2002 and the De Ocampo Lecture at the APAO Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 2005. He was awarded the very highly acclaimed Kreissig Award at the 7th EURETINA Congress in Monte Carlo, Monaco, in 2007.

Prof. Tano's achievements were phenomenal and his impact worldwide. His great leadership had inspired generations of ophthalmologists and eye care professionals in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Prof. Tano will always be remembered as a person of great integrity, a caring eye specialist, an outstanding surgeon, a dedicated teacher, an accomplished researcher, and a prolific writer. His immense contributions to vitreo-retinal surgery, and his highly acclaimed leadership in international ophthalmology, will be fondly remembered by generations of ophthalmologists to come.

In a sense Professor Tano has and has not passed: with his remains cremated and his soul left for the other field, his role-modeling is to remain, forever.