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## Obituary

### In Memory of Professor Toshihiko Ogino

Professor Toshihiko Ogino entered into eternal peace on Friday, May 22, 2015 in Sapporo, Japan. Toshi is survived by his beloved wife Tomoko, two sons, and three grandchildren. His final days were spent surrounded by family and friends that he had touched in many ways throughout his very enriched and memorable life.

Toshi's life would seem too short to many, but those who were touched by him understood that the quality of existence far exceeds the quantity of time one lives. His wisdom, arduous efforts, and affability not only brought so many fond memories to everyone he touched, but also reminded us of the true meaning of life.

The best way that I can describe my mentor and my role model Toshi is a goal-oriented go-getter who made many things happen with his unmatched exceptional memory of details and sharpness of mind, and a friend who would stick by you in any weather. He would stand in a storm, with rain pouring down on his head, holding an umbrella, calmly and carefully, to make sure that your head did not get wet. Toshi was much more to me than a friend; he was someone that I would consider my family.

Toshi and I spent over 18 years together, having the kind of friendship that most people can only dream of. I first met Toshi in the hand hospital in Wuxi, Jiangsu of China in October 1997, when we were then serving a group of deprived patients with congenital upper limb differences (CULD) under the auspices of a project called Operation Concern. His exceptional prowess in CULD and, more importantly, his remarkable surgical analytics and impeccable surgical skills, are something that I believe I can never catch in my life time.

In 1998, 1 year after we met, I went to see him in Yamagata, Japan and spent 2 weeks there learning from him about CULD and elbow surgery. The profound knowledge and knack that I have learnt from Toshi have benefited many of my patients to this day. I am very sure that his resounding surgical talent will be handed down from generation to generation. Actually, Toshi inspired my every knowledge and know-how in CULD, and ever since we first met, Toshi never stopped instilling in me his new thoughts and findings in research and skills, for which I am extremely indebted to him.

I also recall that one year, when we were attending an international conference, a young professor in orthopaedics came up to Toshi and asked "Professor, how to become famous?" Toshi looked at the young man and said, "Just work hard." Hardworking is probably too simple a word to describe Toshi's attitudes, but it is a true reflection of his go-getter characteristics. When I was with him in Yamagata, he worked from dawn until dusk every day with no sign of any respite whatsoever and howsoever. When he went home shortly before midnight, he would enjoy the late night supper Tomoko had prepared the quickest he possibly could, before reverting to his work of the day.

When my daughter Crystal was studying in Keio University of Japan, she visited Toshi and Tomoko in Sapporo and Yamagata.

Crystal was so well taken care of by the two, to which I am forever indebted.

The contribution Professor Ogino has made to the field of congenital upper limb differences, as well as elbow surgery, is both inspirational and unparalleled, and I am sure it will continue to flourish under everyone working in these two fields.

Toshi will be sorely missed by all of us who loved him and esteemed his commitment and dedication to giving time, devotion, and a sincere appreciation for people regardless of how long he knew them. He was a genuine person who gave not because he had to, but because he wanted to. Toshi will never be forgotten and may his soul rest in peace.



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