

Obituary

Eiichi Kimura

Professor Eiichi Kimura, M.D., an internationally known cardiologist, died on 11 February, 1982, after 4 weeks of hospitalization for interstitial pneumonia.

Dr. Kimura was born in Miyagi Prefecture, a northern province of Japan, in 1915, as a son of Dr. Onari Kimura, then Professor of Pathology of Tohoku University. He received his M.D. degree from Tokyo University School of Medicine in 1939. While working as Assistant Instructor in the 2nd Department of Internal Medicine of Tokyo University, Dr. Kimura submitted a thesis on studies of bundle branch blocks, and received a higher degree of D.M.Sc. (similar to Ph.D.) in 1945, immediately before the end of the 2nd World War. In 1952, he was appointed Assistant Professor in the 1st Department of Internal Medicine of Tohoku University. From 1958 to 1959, he spent 8 months in the University of Vermont as a visiting scientist, working with Drs. W. Raab, E. Lepeschkin and B. Surawicz. On his return to Japan, Dr. Kimura moved to Tokyo to become Professor and Chairman of the 1st Department of Internal Medicine, Nippon Medical College. He stayed in this position until his death, meanwhile being elected to its President in 1980. He was



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serving as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Japanese Circulation Society since 1979.

Dr. Kimura was an ingenious researcher, a superb clinician, and an excellent teacher. His major research interest was directed to electrocardiology. As early as 1941, he published, together with Drs. T. Kobayashi and R. Kashida, an experimental study on the electrocardiographic changes produced by partial sectioning of canine intraventricular conducting system including the anterior and posterior ramifications of the left bundle branch. This study preceded the publication of similar studies by Uhley and Rivkin by almost 20 years, and its conclusions were quite similar to the concept of 'hemiblocks' advocated by Rosenbaum in 1968. Unfortunately, the paper was published immediately before the War and only in Japanese, thus remaining unknown to the rest of the world. Dr. Kimura was also particularly concerned with the mechanisms of atrial flutter. In both animal experiments (1951) and clinical studies (1954), his group demonstrated the occurrence of circus movement as well as ectopic impulse formation. He co-authored a textbook of electrocardiography published in 1944 and then wrote a book entitled Clinical Cardiac Arrhythmias in 1952. They were the first such books published in Japanese. illustrating his pioneering works in this field.

Medical electronics and instrumentation also attracted Dr. Kimura's interest. He played a key role in developing an AC-powered electrocardiograph in 1948, and then in 1971 a pocketable electrocardiograph still considered the smallest and lightest model in the world. He served as the President of the Vth International Symposium on Cardiac Pacing in Tokyo in 1976. His group also pioneered in the development of computerized electrocardiography, starting in 1960, and their hybrid system won a prize from the Japanese Society of Medical Engineering in 1973.

Dr. Kimura also carried out extensive studies on ischemic heart disease, including the genesis of anginal pain and of ST elevation in myocardial infarction. Especially noteworthy was the publication in 1972 of the world's first report on the efficacy of calcium antagonists against angina pectoris.

As a teacher, he trained in his department many young clinical and research cardiologists, thus creating one of the leading schools in Japanese cardiology. Through his extensive publications and participation in various medical meetings, he also made many international friends. Although he was famous for his strictness as a scientist as well as an administrator, those who have known Dr. Kimura personally, whether as a peer researcher, a colleague, a friend, or a teacher, were invariably attracted by his warm, honest and unpretentious personality and his witty conversation. He will thus be remembered by his friends as one of the most dedicated cardiologists, and at the same time, as a truly nice man.

Dr. Kimura is survived by his wife, Kimi, who always helped her husband by accompanying him to numerous international meetings and by warmly listening and talking to his friends and young colleagues.

Cardiovascular Institute Fujita Gakuen University Toyoake, Aichi, Japan Yoshio Watanabe *

^{*} Member Editorial Board, International Journal of Cardiology.



CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER

Reply to: Box 48750 Los Angeles, California 90048

Direct Dial Number: (213) 855-3847

March 8, 1982

Hidemasa Okumura, M.D. Hirokazu Hayakawa, M.D. Professors of Internal Medicine Nippon Medical School Tokyo, Japan

Dear Professors Okumura and Hayakawa:

Thank you for your letter of February 24, 1982. I am very sad to hear that Professor Eiichi Kimura passed away. He was a kind man and a great friend of our institution.

Please express our condolences to Mrs. Kimura.

Yours most sincerely,

Williamshy

William Ganz, M.D.

WG/nc



CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER

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Hidemasa Okumura, M.D. Hirokazu Hayakawa, M.D. Professors of Internal Medicine Nippon Medical School, 1-1-5 Sendagi Bunkyo-Ku Tokyo, Japan







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Nippon Medical School Department of Internal Medicine Attn. Prof. Hidemasa Okumura M.D.

1-1-5 Sendagi Bunkyo-ku

Tokyo / JAPAN

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Ihre Nachricht

Abt./Zeichen PMA 1 Ap.Be-pr

Telefon-Durchwahl (0214) 30 3077 D-5090 Leverkusen, Bayerwerk March 9, 1982

Dear Prof. Okumura:

We have received your letter of February 24 with the sad news of Prof. Kimura's passing away.

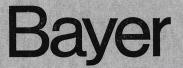
We should like to express our deep sympathy also on behalf of the Bayer Pharmaceutical Division's board of management. During all these passed years we had an agreeable and successful cooperation with him. We had still planned so many activities with Prof. Kimura this year. It will be hard for us to find an appropriate replacement. We Bayer people are greatly indebted to him and will keep an honorable memory of him.

Yours sincerely

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Nippon Medical School Department of Internal Medicine Attn. Prof. Hirokazu Hayakawa, MD

1-1-5 Sendagi Bunkyo-ku

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Ihre Zeichen

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D-5090 Leverkusen, Bayerwerk

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Yours sincerey

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March 5, 1982

Hidemasa Okumura, M.D.
Professor of Internal Medicine
Nippon Medical School
1-1-5 Sendagi
Bunkyo-ku Tokyo, Japan

Dear Dr. Okumura:

I was saddened by your letter of February 24, 1982 reporting the death of Dr. Eiichi Kimura.

It has been my privilege to know Dr. Kimura for more than ten years. I first became acquainted with him as a pioneer in research on the computerized Electrocardiogram. Later, I became acquainted with some of his distinguished students while serving as a visiting professor to The First Department of Medicine at the Nippon Medical School.

I share Mrs. Kimura's and your sorrow over the loss of Professor Kimura, for I considered him not only a distinguished research scientist and teacher, but a perfect gentleman and a sincere friend.

Dr. Kimura's life was one to be admired and respected by all. Along with everyone who knew him in Japan and around the world, he will continue to serve as an inspiration to me.

Respectfully yours,

Arthur E. Rikli, M.D.

Coordinator

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cc: Hirokazu Hayakawa, M.D.

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March 11, 1982

Drs. Hidemasa Okumura and Hirokazu Hayakawa Professors of Internal Medicine Nippon Medical School Department of Internal Medicine 1-1-5 Sendagi Sunkyo-Ku, Tokyo Japan

Dear Drs. Okumura and Hayakawa:

It is with sincere sympathy that I acknowledge your note informing us of the death of Dr. Eiichi Kimura. The College has been fortunate in counting Dr. Kimura in its Fellowship ranks since 1972.

At the 1982 Annual Scientific Session of the College, the name of Eiichi Kimura will be read and the entire Fellowship will rise for a moment of silent respect in his honor.

Sincerely,

Dan G. McNamara, M.D., F.A.C.C.

Day B. The Kamara yo

President

DMG: jo



American College of Cardiology

HEART HOUSE 9111 OLD GEORGETOWN ROAD BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20814 31st ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC SESSION ATLANTA, GEORGIA APRIL 25-29, 1982



Drs. Hidemasa Okumura & Hirokazu Hayakawa Professors of Internal Medicine Nippon Medical School Department of Internal Medicine 1-1-5 Sendagi Sunkyo-Ku, Tokyo Japan Air Mail

Dear Doctor Okumura,

It was for me a terrifying announcement hearing from you that Dr. Eiichi Kimura, President of Nippon Medical School, has passed away in February. Dr. Kimura was, indeed, one of the most eminent personalities of Japanese Medicine and a warm-hearted, extremely sympathetic colleague. I had been in very good terms with him since 1971, when I first visited Japan. Subsequently, we met nearly every year, exchanging clinical results and experimental observations on calcium-antagonism. Dr. Kimura is certainly the outstanding pioneer, responsible for the world-wide therapeutic achievements in modern treatment of spastic coronary artery disease. His leadership in this field of clinical research will be unforgotten for ever. Please accept my sincere condolences in this distress.

Thanking you for your letter, I remain with cordial regards, also to Dr. Hayakawa, yours sincerely

Dr.A.Fleckenstein

Professor of Physiology

MIT LUFTPOST PAR AVION





Dr. Hidemasa Okumura
Professor of Internal Medicine
Nippon Medical School
Department of Internal Medicine
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Prof.Dr.A.Fleckenstein, Physiologisches Institut, Hermann-Herder-Str. 7, 7800 FREIBURG Germany (Fed. Rep.)

JOURNAL OF ELECTROCARDIOLOGY

BOX 923-B, PACIFIC BEACH STATION SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92109

Mar. 12, 1982

Hidemasa Okumura, M.D. Hirokazu Hayakawa, M.D. Professors of Internal Medicine Nippon Medical School Tokyo, Japan

Dear Doctors Okumura and Hayakawa:

With great sorrow we recieved your letter informing us of the death of Professor Eiichi Kimura. His death is a great loss to the medical community and to the Journal of Electrocardiology in particular. Dr. Kimura has served for many years as a member of the Editorial Board. His sound and thoughtful comments on the manuscripts he was asked to review were invaluable to us and contributed a great deal to the growth of the Journal as a significant publication in cardiology.

Our deepest sympathy extends to you and to his family.

Sincerely,

Zang Z. Zao, M.D.

Editor

JOURNAL OF ELECTROCARDIOLOGY BOX 923-B SAN DIEGO, CA 92109





VIA AIR MAIL

HIDEMASA OKUMURA, M.D. HIROKAZU HAYAKAWA, M.D. PROFESSORS OF INTERNAL MEDICINE NIPPON MEDICAL SCHOOL TOKYO, JAPAN

平野秋(1)



March 10, 1982

VK Zworykin Honorary Vice President Prof. Hidemasa Okumura, M.D. Prof. Hirokazu Hayakawa, M.D. Professors of Internal Medicine Nippon Medical School Tokyo, Japan

Dear Doctors Okumura and Hayakawa:

I was very sorry to hear of the passing away of Doctor Eiichi Kimura, President of Nippon Medical School and Professor of Department of Internal Medicine of your school. I am sure his loss will be felt by all of his colleagues and members of the school.

It was very kind of you to advise me of Dr. Kimura's passing, and I also wish to thank you for expressing appreciation of any help I may have given to him.

V. K. Zworyku Ro. D. Sicorg, Strig

RCA David Sarnoff Research Center Princeton, NJ 08540

Dr. V.K. Zworykin







Prof. Hidemasa Okumura, M.D. Prof. Hirokazu Hayakawa, M.D.

Professors of Internal Medicine Nippon Medical School Tokyo, Japan

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FROM THE EDITOR

Dr. Dennis Krikler

B. M. A. HOUSE,

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TEL. 01-387 4499 Ex. 116

23 March 1982

Dear Drs Okumura and Hayakawa,

I was sorry to read your letter of 24 February telling me of the sad death of Dr. Kimura. My sympathy, and that of my colleagues and associates, goes out to his colleagues and, though I did not know them, his family. I have passed on the sad news to the secretary of the British Cardiac Society.

Yours sincerely,

Dennis Knkler

Drs Okumura and Hayakawa, Professors of Internal Medicine, Nippon Medical School, 1-1-5 Sendagi, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN By air mail Par avion



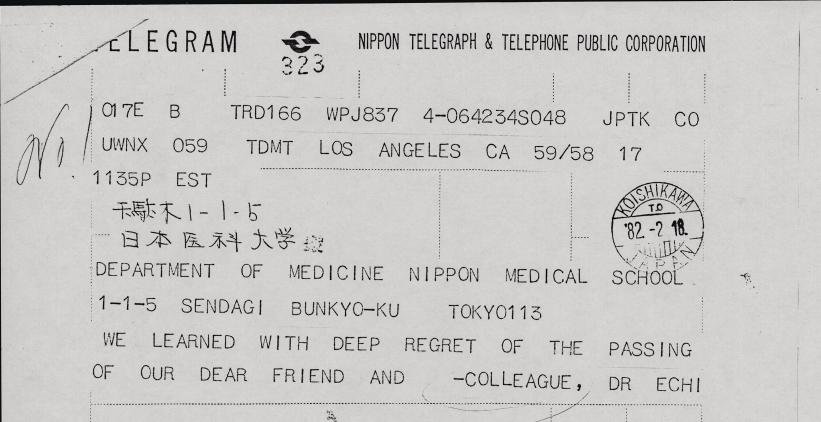


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AU NOM DU GROUPE QUE JE REPRESENTE ET A TITRE PERSONNEL JE VOUS ADRESSE MES TRES SINCERES CONDOLEANCES POUR LE DEUIL DU PR. E. KIMURA

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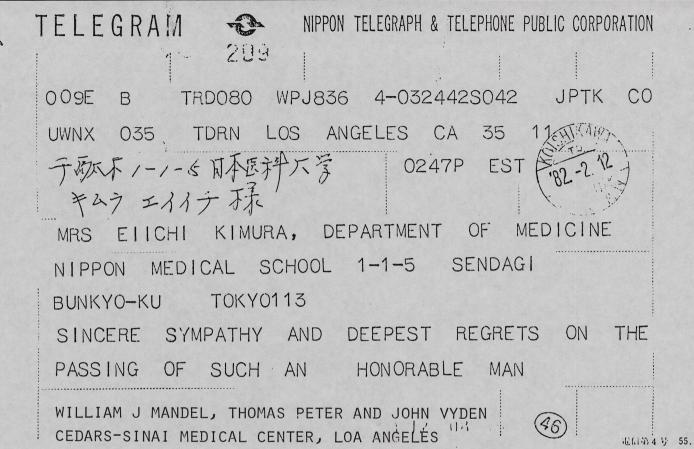
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REVERED PROFESSOR KIMURA. WE HAVE LOST A

GREAT PERSONALITY AND WE WILL NEVER FORGET HIM.

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