

OBITUARY

PROF. MASAZUMI KAWAKAMI, M.D., PH.D.
(1921 - 1982)



Masazumi Kawakami was born in Okayama Prefecture Japan in 1921 and graduated from Kiassu Medical College as a top student in 1942. After serving in the Army for 2 years during 1943-45, he worked in Kobe University Medical School, where in 1951, he was appointed Associate Professor in Physiology. In 1955, he obtained Ph.D. from University of Tokyo and thereafter worked first with late Prof. E. Gellhorn at University of Minnesota and then with Prof. C. H. Sawyer at University of California, Los Angeles, USA. In 1958, he returned to Japan and was appointed Professor of Physiology at Yokohama City University School of Medicine. He was elected Dean of the Medical School in 1977.

At Kobe University, under supervision of the late Prof. R. Shoji, one of the founders of Japan Physiological Society, he was attracted profoundly by physiological mechanisms of adaptation of voluntary muscle during training. Later he originally uncovered the fact that sex steroid modified the muscular adaptation process to training.

In collaboration with Prof. Sawyer, he developed the electrophysiological principles of paradoxical sleep as the 'EEG After Reaction' in the rabbit and discovered electrophysiologically the biphasic effects of progesterone on the hypothalamo-hypophyseal-gonadal system. He eventually concentrated his interest in the neuroendocrine field, particularly reproductive biology. Since 1950 he has published more than 150 scientific papers. He edited the book "Biological Rhythms in Neuroendocrine Activity".

He held various prestigious academic positions in Japan which include: Executive Director Physiological Society, Endocrine Society and Neuroendocrine Society. He has fulfilled editorial appointments in *Endokrinologie* (Leipzig) and Editor-in-Chief of *Endocrinologia Japonica*. He has been an active member of several scientific societies, i.e., International Society of Neuroendocrinology, Endocrine Society (USA), Psychoneuroendocrinology Society, Neuroendocrine Section of IBRO, and he was also elected as one of the Honorary Members of the Hungarian Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism (1977) and of the Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism of the German Democratic Republic (1982). He came to India on more than two occasions during 1974 IUPS Congress and Steroid Congress 1978. He had all praise for Indian culture, high opinion about Indian scientific endeavour and much liking for continent as such. He was a brilliant scientist, an exceptional teacher and one of the doyens of Neuroendocrinologists of the world. May the noble soul rest in peace!

O. P. TANDON