



The 2009 Alcon Research Institute Awards Symposium began on a much more somber note than usual, in light of the news of the recent death of Professor Yasuo Tano, MD, DSc, who last year stepped down as Chairman of the ARI Scientific Selection Committee (SSC). His leadership as a member of the ARI SSC for 16 years and as Chairman for the last 7 years was critical to the continued growth of the ARI and its mission to encourage, advance and support vision research throughout the world.

Yasuo Tano was born on February 12, 1948 in Nishiwaki, Japan, the son of a prominent ophthalmologist established in Tokyo and then in Osaka. Dr. Tano followed in his father's footsteps, obtaining his MD from Osaka Medical School. After he completed his residency training at Osaka University Hospital and Matsuyama Red Cross Hospital, he was appointed Instructor of Ophthalmology at Osaka University Medical School in 1975. In order to expand his training, he took up a research fellowship at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami and then in the Department of Ophthalmology at Duke University.

After returning to Japan in 1980, Dr. Tano received a Doctor of Science degree from Osaka University Medical School and was promoted to Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology. Very quickly he became one of the pioneers of vitreoretinal surgery in Japan and was very productive in the design of new instruments and techniques for vitreous surgery. His accomplishments were soon recognized as he was appointed the Director of Vitreoretinal Surgery at Osaka University Hospital and then in 1985, he became Director of Ophthalmology at Osaka National Hospital where he remained for six years. In 1991, Professor

Tano was selected to chair the Department of Ophthalmology at Osaka University Hospital, an important position that oversees the training of 10 to 15 residents per year, and manages over 150 ophthalmologists working at affiliated hospitals. His tenure as chairman at Osaka University Hospital was distinguished by his desire to increase the standards for research in clinical ophthalmology, and vision science. Yasuo Tano mentored many trainees, and of these, 15 young ophthalmologists became heads of ophthalmology departments in Japan.

Professor Tano was immensely prolific, as he was the author or co-author of over 700 peer-reviewed articles, and editor, coeditor, or author of 56 books in ophthalmology. He was the executive editor of the *Japanese Journal of Ophthalmology* and editor-in-chief of *Folia Ophthalmologica Japonica*, as well as a member of editorial boards of 16 journals published in English or Japanese language.

Dr. Tano received many awards from the international ophthalmic community: the Jackson Memorial Lecture at the American Academy of Ophthalmology; the Gertrude Pyron Lecture of the American Society of Retina Specialists; the Kreissig Award from Euretina; the International Gold Medal Award of the Chinese Ophthalmological Society; the HRH Abdul Aziz bin Ahmed bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud Shield Prevention of Blindness Award from the Saudi Ophthalmological Society; and the Japanese Ophthalmological Society Award with Special Plenary Lectureship of the First Position. He was a brilliant leader as President of the Club Jules Gonin, President of the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology, President of the Asia-Pacific Vitreoretinal Society, Past Chairman of the Japanese Ophthalmological Society, Treasurer of the International Council of Ophthalmology, and Past Chairman of the Alcon Research Institute.

Yasuo Tano had many friends who appreciated his kindness, generosity, and wonderful sense of humor. His hospitality to guests in Japan was regal and elaborate, often in partnership with his wife Ryoko who was a wonderful guide in sharing the beautiful culture and sights of Japan. He is survived by his wife Ryoko, their children, Ryotaro, Kojiro, Sayaka, their five grandchildren, and his brother Kunio.