

## OBITUARIES

Mitsugu Nishiura, M.D.

1920–1985



Dr. Mitsugu Nishiura, a professor emeritus of Kyoto University, was born in Kobe, Japan, on March 4, 1920. After graduating from the Faculty of Medicine, Kyoto University, in March 1946, he worked in the Department of Dermatology, Kishiwada Municipal Hospital, and then started to work in the Leprosy Research Laboratory of the Department of Dermatology, Kyoto University, as an assistant in 1952. In 1959, he visited the Indian National Cancer Center (Bombay) to study abroad for one year under a Rockefeller fellowship and was given the degree of Doctor of Medicine in October of that year. In 1960, he became a professor in the Faculty of Medicine, Kyoto University, and he continued his medical career as head of the Leprosy Research Laboratory until his retirement in 1983, at which time he became professor emeritus. After retirement, he was dispatched to the Central JALMA Institute for Leprosy in Agra, India, by the Japan International Cooperation Agency. While he was studying there and teaching his juniors, he had a cerebral hemorrhage on 18 December 1984, from which he succumbed in the early morning of 18 January 1985.

Prof. Nishiura published many excellent studies on the pathology of leprosy. He is perhaps best known for his studies on the application of electron microscopy to the bacteriology and pathology of leprosy which have won worldwide recognition. He was given the Sakurane Prize by the Japanese Leprosy Association in 1962 and the Seto Prize by the Japanese Society of Electron

Microscopy in 1976. Furthermore, his technological studies of the electron microscope led to the production of a freeze replication apparatus of his own design, and contributed to the diffusion of the freeze-etching technique.

The professor took a great interest in giving medical students the opportunity to learn the clinical practice of leprosy, since the Leprosy Research Laboratory was one of the few national facilities where outpatients and inpatients with leprosy could be treated. This contributed to the diminishing of prejudice against leprosy on the part of medical doctors and students, leading to the fact that many doctors became skilled in that field and are now actively conducting studies on leprosy.

Prof. Nishiura also participated in international cooperative studies and visited many countries (Thailand, India, Cambodia, Bangladesh and Venezuela), where he performed cooperative studies with researchers from the host countries. It is especially significant that he had stayed in the Central JALMA Institute for Leprosy in Agra. He had been studying as well as teaching at that institution since the facility was constructed by the Japan Leprosy Mission for Asia (JALMA). He had also contributed to the smooth transfer of its control from JALMA to the Indian government. Because we have heard that his long-cherished desire was to devote himself to study in this laboratory after retirement from the university, his death during the course of these studies cannot be too much deplored. We cannot stop believing that persons who will take over the desires of the deceased will appear soon, and we would like to pray for the repose of his soul.

—Masahide Abe, M.D.