Professor Tomihisa Koshino, M.D., Ph.D.

- A leader and a friend.

by

The 2nd president, APKS (2002-04)

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On behalf of all the members of APKS (Asia-Pacific Knee Society), I am privileged to be here to extend our deepest respect to the passed Professor Tomihisa Koshino, the Inaugural president of APKS, 2000-2002.
Professor Koshino was an inborn leader. He did his internship at US Air Force Hospital at Tachikawa, Japan, and residency at St. Luke's Hospital, Cleveland Ohio, USA. Then, he worked as an Instructor, and an Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the world famous Hospital for Special Surgery, Cornell University, New York.

He came back to his alma mater, Yokohama City University, School of Medicine in 1975, and became chair the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, as Professor in 1981.
I met him in 1975, while I studied in University of Tokyo. I noted that he attended almost every regional conferences held at University of Tokyo. His hard working gave me a very deep impression. In 1981, when I was fortunately invited to attend the JOA congress held by Professor Tsuchiya, people told me that he was going to be the chairman of the Department.
In the following years, I meet him very often, because he actively attended Orthopaedic meeting world wide, especially focused at Asia-Pacific Region. We invited him to Taiwan several times, too. In 2000, after discussion in the Japan Knee Society meeting, he finally decided to establish the Asia-Pacific Knee Society (APKS), and worked as president until 2002. During this period, orthopedic colleagues in Asia-Pacific region got a lot of benefits from learning the knowledge of knee surgery by intimate discussion and active exchange of experiences in the meetings.
How deeply his friends missed him, after Professor Saito Tomoyuki gave the announcement of his demise. They said,

Professor MN Doral, the 3rd president of APKS, Turkey.

I am so sorry about the bad news…Prof. Koshino was close friend to us
Professor Dae kyung Bae, the 4th president of APKS, South Korea.
“I feel deep sorrow to know that Professor Koshino left me.
It reminds me many meetings we attended together,
especially the Inaugural APKS meeting he organized.”

Professor Ted Mah, Australia.
“Prof. Koshino was a giant in knee surgery, great mentor and
supporter of APOA.”

Professor David Choon, Malaysia.
“Prof. Koshino was truly a giant in his field and a great mentor.
The APOA regards Prof. Koshino as one of our guiding lights.”

Professor Merter Ozenci, Turkey.
“He was a true legend, a role model, and an inspirational
personality in the field of knee surgery.”
Professor Chyun-Yu Yang, the 6th president of APKS, Taiwan

“He is our true friend and our teacher, demonstrating the usefulness of high tibial osteotomy and many others.”

Professor Ashok, India.

“His loss is a real tremendous blow to our community. I pray that his soul rests in peace.”
Once a time, in the Japan-Taiwan Orthopedic Symposium held in Yokohama by Professor Saito Tomoyuki in 2012, he sat beside me to see the magnificent lectures and beautiful social activities done by his pupils in the department of Orthopedic Surgery, Yokohama City University. I praised him with a Chinese phrase, "名師出高徒"- A well known teacher always breeds a lot of excellent pupils. He laughed and happily received the phrase.
He loved Chinese literature. When he met me, he always tried to speak Mandarin to greet me. He and I together loved a poem written by a Chinese poet- Mr. Wang Han (王翰) about 1,300 years ago.
葡萄美酒夜光杯
欲飲琵琶馬上催
醉臥沙場君莫笑
古來征戰幾人回

葡萄の美酒夜光の杯
飲まんと欲つすれば琵琶馬上に催す
醉って沙場に臥す君笑うこと莫かれ
古来征戰幾人か回える

Jade cup with finest wine.

I am going to drink, but urged by the war-guitar to fall in line.

If I lay drunk on the battle field, please don’t laugh at me.

From the oldest time, how many warriors could come back around.
No, the Warrior will not come back again!!

Everybody misses him
and wishes him rest peacefully
in the heaven.