

## IN MEMORY



**Prof. Fujimoto Yoshihide**  
**11-07-1926 to 23-07-2016**

Professor Fujimoto was a prestigious endocrine surgeon and one of the past presidents of the International Association of Endocrine Surgeons (IAES).

I met him at the Montreux Congress of IAES in Switzerland in 1981. Thereafter, I visited him several times at Tokyo Women's Medical University (TWMU), Tokyo, Japan. Because the American Association and European Association were founded subsequently after IAES, I asked him about the possibility of founding the Asian Association of Endocrine Surgeons (AsAES). Perhaps, this was the reason why I was invited to its founding meeting at the Yayoi Hall of TWMU in 1988. In the era of routine total thyroidectomy for thyroid cancers followed by radioiodine treatment before 2015, he claimed a selective strategy. During my visits, he spent hours talking to me about his concept of dealing with thyroid cancers. I used to do a lot of thyroid operations but never thought deeply. He told me in his institution, a total thyroidectomy was not done for patients with poor access to medical resources, multi-comorbidities, and those living alone with difficulty in self-care. This is a concept of personalized surgery according to the socioeconomic status of patients, different from what we named precision medicine today. He was one of the pioneers in active surveillance for micropapillary thyroid cancers. In the Sidney Congress of AsAES, 2000, there were two papers on this topic submitted. One was from Kuma Hospital, Kobe, by Miyauchi and Ito, and the other one was from Tokyo Cancer Research Institute, by Fujimoto and Sugitani. He was good at sketching and could complete a sketch within 20 minutes of a tour bus stop for lookout points. This happened in the post-congress tours in Sidney and Taipei. These masterpieces of his sketches became his New Year cards for greeting international colleagues.

Because of his health problem, his last participation in the AsAES Congress was in 2004 Taipei Congress, and he passed away on July 23, 2016, after a long fight with heart failure. We miss him for his contributions to AsAES and are sorry for the loss of a great teacher and clinical researcher.

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