



OBITUARY

Professor Eiji Inouye, 1919–2010

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It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing on October 17, 2010, of our esteemed friend, Professor Eiji

Inouye, from secondary renal failure after a three-week hospitalization in Tokyo. He was 90 years old.

Professor Eiji Inouye was born in Tokyo in 1919. His father, Tatsuji, as well as his grandfather, Tatsuya, was an ophthalmologist. Together with his wife, Kazuko, Eiji had two daughters and two grandsons. He obtained his MD in 1942 from the University of Tokyo, and his first duties were those of an army surgeon. In 1945, he turned to the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Tokyo, and began his career in twin studies in 1948. In 1953, he obtained his Doctorate of Medicine from the University of Tokyo. His thesis was titled 'A Study on Personality by the Twin Study Method'. In 1962, he became a professor at the Institute of Brain Research at the University of Tokyo. He and his colleagues published mainly twin studies of personality, epilepsy, schizophrenia, and neurosis. In 1970, he received an award from The Japan Society of Human Genetics titled, 'Twin Studies and Human Behavioral Genetics'. After 1979, he and his colleagues published 23 papers related to multiple birth rates, infant mortality of multiples, birthweights and birth defects of multiple births in Japan. These papers were widely read and highly regarded by other twin researchers worldwide. He published many papers written in Japanese, and edited several books on medical genetics, human genetics and other topics, also in Japanese. He retired in 1980, and became an emeritus professor. After his retirement, he assumed the role of Director of the Institute for Developmental Research in Aichi Prefectural Colony, between the years of 1981 and 1984. He was also a Member of the Science Council between 1985 and 1991.

His status in the international community of twin researchers was supported by his election to Vice-President of The International Society of Twin Studies (ISTS) for the

1981–1983 term, and he also served as President between 1990 and 1992. In 1992, he organized the 7th International Congress on Twin Studies in Tokyo, Japan. He served as a member of the editorial board for *Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae* between 1979 and 1998.

His strong leadership abilities were recognized by his election as the President of The Japan Society of Human Genetics between 1977 and 1987 and of The Japan Society for Twin Studies between 1987 and 1992. In the latter Society, he last attended the annual meeting of this organization when it was held in Tokyo until 2007. His remarks, made as a respected elder statesman of the Japanese medical community, offered profitable suggestions for stimulating the members of the society, thus providing them with valuable treasures, as he had actively promoted and raised the level of twin research in Japan since 1960.

Professor Inouye's hobbies included skiing, playing golf, gardening, drinking wine & sake, listening to classical music, and art appreciation. I met him last June at his house after the 13th ICTS in Seoul. In his garden, beautiful English irises were in bloom, giving pleasure to the gardener and to the guest. At that time he was quite healthy and continued to talk about twin studies.

We will miss him and his wisdom greatly as we would a flower that wilted in full bloom.

His references related to twin studies are as follows:

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