

# Eulogy for Professor Teruo Nakayama

By Kazuyuki Kanosue and Kiyoshi Matsumura



Teruo Nakayama. Photo courtesy of Kazuyuki Kanosue

Prof. Nakayama was born in Gifu, Japan, into a family of medical doctors. He graduated from the Medical School of Nagoya University in 1949. After training as a clinician, he started a research career in 1950 in the physiology laboratory of Prof. Yasu Kuno, the pioneer of thermal physiology in Japan famous for his research on perspiration. After the retirement of Prof. Kuno, Nakayama worked with Prof. Kentaro Takagi on various aspects of thermoregulation and respiration. In 1960 -1963, he stayed in the lab of Prof. James D. Hardy, first at the University of Pennsylvania and later at Yale University, where he did his groundbreaking research on thermosensitive neurons in the hypothalamus<sup>1</sup>. Returning from the USA, he resumed electrophysiological studies of thermoregulation in Nagoya, while continuing his collaboration with Prof. Hardy.

At that time, the lab of Nagoya University was full of talented scientists who would later lead in this area in Japan as well as worldwide, such as Drs. Tokuo Ogawa, Tetsuo Nagasaka, Mitsuo Kosaka and Tetsuro Hori. Dr. Nakayama was the boss of this gang. In 1974 he became a full professor in the Department of Physiology, Osaka University, where he broadened his research into the interaction of thermoregulation with other homeostatic systems and processes, such as osmoregulation, food intake, exercise and circadian rhythms. At the same time he worked to promote research on thermoregulation in Japan. In 1983, he organized the International Symposium on Thermoregulatory Mechanisms, which was quite successful not only scientifically, but also in that it gave many young Japanese researchers in this area a chance to connect with leading scientists abroad. This became a springboard for the research of next generations.

Dr. Nakayama loved to play tennis. Although he started to play around the age of 50, he won the championship of a senior tennis tournament at Osaka University within a few years. He often took young students and staff to a Japanese bar and enjoyed talking about science and life. He died of esophageal cancer on April 3, 1989. He is survived by his wife Tomoko and two children.

## References

1. Nakayama T, Eisenman JS, Hardy JD. (1961) Single unit activity of anterior hypothalamus during local heating. *Science* 134: 560-561.

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