

In Memory of Shinichiro Ushigome, MD, PhD



It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. Shinichiro Ushigome, one of the world's foremost surgical pathologists, who passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, on January 16, 2025, at the age of 90. He was born in Inatori, Izu-peninsula, Shizuoka, Japan, the son of a doctor, as the 3rd generation of doctor family.

Dr. Ushigome graduated with an MD from Jikei University School of Medicine in 1960. He did his early postgraduate training in the Tokyo First National Hospital, United States Air Force Hospital, Tachikawa, Japan, and then won a Fulbright Scholarship that took him to Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas. After studying with Dr. Harlan Spjut at the MD Anderson Hospital during the tenure of his Fulbright Scholarship, he became an international expert on bone and soft tissue tumours.

His first professional appointment was from 1973 – 1987 as an Associate Professor of Pathology and then Professor and Chairman, St. Marianna University School of Medicine, Kawasaki. From 1987 - 2000 he was Professor and Chairman, Department of Pathology, Jikei University School of Medicine, Tokyo, the second most senior University in Japan after Tokyo University.

He retired from Jikei University in 2000. He was then given the title of Visiting Professor, Jikei University School. He took up another appointment in 2000 as a Director,

Diagnostic Pathology Center, Keihin Medical Laboratory, Kawasaki, Kanagawa.

His major research interests were 1) immunocytochemical and ultrastructural studies of the histogenesis of Ewing's sarcoma and putatively related tumors, 2) primitive neuroectodermal tumors of bone and soft tissue. He was a co-author of 'Ewing's sarcoma - Primitive neuroectodermal tumor' in "Tumours of Soft Tissue and Bone" WHO Classification of Tumours Series (Lyon, France 2002) edited by C.D.M. Fletcher, K.K. Unni and F. Martens.

During the course of his career, Dr. Ushigome often boldly challenged the international affairs and communication. As the 2nd Secretary and Treasurer of the Japanese Division of International Academy of pathology (1989-1995), was President (1998-2000), of the Japanese Division of the IAP during the XXIII International Congress of the IAP and the 14th World Congress of Academic and Environmental Pathology meeting in Nagoya, Japan (October 2000). He was one of the main organizers of this Congress and Head of the Public Relations Committee of the Congress. He made fundamental organization of JDIAP, began to publish the official journal of News Bulletin, promoted educational seminars, contributed to increase the membership, established the Japan-Korean Conjoint Slide Conference, and so on.

He became an active member of the international interest group in Bone and Soft Tissue pathology. He became the Face of Japanese Pathology and extended the widespread friendship over the world. He was President of the IAP from 2002-2004 and was President for the 2004 Congress that was held in Brisbane, Australia. as President he did a lot of travelling, helping to build bridges between pathologists in Divisions around the world. He found this period of his career very rewarding. In 2005 he was awarded the Gold Medal of the IAP for his distinguished services to pathology.

He is survived by his beloved wife Mrs. Umiko Ushigome, and by his son Dr. Takuro Ushigome, surgeon and daughters. His legacy will continue to guide future generations of pathologists and improve the education and communication of pathologists in the world for many years to come. We would like to express our heartfelt condolences for the loss of Dr. Shinichiro Ushigome.