



IN MEMORIAM
Dr. Yasuyuki Seguchi

We were shocked and saddened by the untimely death of Professor Yasuyuki Seguchi. A phone call from a colleague of his bearing this sad news put a sudden stop to our normal routine of life, for Professor Seguchi had been a friend to many, and very close to us for many years.

Professor Seguchi was born on September 25, 1937 in Amagasaki, Hyogo, Japan. He entered Osaka University in 1957 and majored in Mechanical Engineering. There he received his B.S. Degree in 1961, M. S. Degree in 1963, and Ph.D. of Mechanical Engineering in 1966. From 1966 to 1973 he was Associate Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering of Kobe University in Kobe, Japan. In 1973 he was promoted to full professor in the Department of Systems Engineering in the Faculty of Engineering of Kobe University. In 1977 he came to the United States and spent a 16-month sabbatical leave as Visiting Professor in the Bioengineering group of the Department of Applied Mechanics and Engineering Science at the University of California, San Diego, in La Jolla, California, U.S.A. During that time many at U.C.S.D. got to know him well. In 1983, Dr. Seguchi went back to his alma mater, Osaka University, and served as Professor of Mechanical Engineering there till his untimely passing.

Professor Seguchi was a member of many professional societies in Japan and the United States, such as the Bioelectrical Repair and Growth Society, North American Manufacturing Research Institute of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, Society of Experimental Mechanics, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers. He served as an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Biomechanical Engineering* since 1984,

Associate Editor for the *Journal of the Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers* since 1982, and Associate Editor of the *Journal of the Society of Material Science of Japan* since 1984. He was the first Chairman of the Bioengineering Division of JSME from 1987 to 1989. In the Japan Society of Medical Electronics and Biological Engineering, he was the Head of the Biomechanics Research Division, as well as a member of the Board of Council. He held similar posts in the Japan Society of Biomechanisms, Japan Society for Aeronautical and Space Science, and Japan Society of Material Science. In addition, he was a member of seven other professional societies in Japan. Recently, he received the honor of "Award of Treatise" from the Japan Society for Nondestructive Inspection (1989), and a special Decoration as the Senior Grade of the Fourth Court Rank, the Third Order of Merit with the Sacred Treasure (1990).

Professor Seguchi is the author of three books in Japanese: *Engineering Theory of Elasticity* (Gendai, Danseirikigaku), Ohm, 1974, *Engineering Design of Mechanical Systems*, Baitukan, 1982, and *Introduction to Finite Element Method*, Nikau Kogyo Shinbun, 1983. He translated two books from English into Japanese: E. B. Haugen's *Probabilistic Approaches to Design*, and J. T. Oden's *Finite Elements of Nonlinear Continuum*. He published extensively in Japanese and international archival journals.

He was a most avid advocate for biomedical engineering in Japan, and always promoted international collaboration. He was secretary-general of the Second Japan-U.S.-China Conference on Biomechanics which took place in 1987 in Osaka, Japan, and co-edited the proceedings which were published in

a book entitled *Progress and New Directions of Biomechanics*, Mita Press, Tokyo.

Dr. Seguchi had a warm personality. We have many fond memories of his keen mind and sense of humor. Dr. Seguchi had very broad interests and worked with incredibly high intensity. On a given day, he taught courses in system analysis and robotics, discussed projects with a neurosurgeon collaborating with him on hydrocephalus, an orthopaedic surgeon working with him on "intelligent" knee (robotic joint), and entertained many visitors from industry to line up jobs for his students. (In Japan finding jobs for one's students is an expected duty of the professor.) Every noon the full time faculty (5 in the department) ate box lunches in the departmental library. Yuki said his department worked most harmoniously because everything was discussed at lunch. With his untimely passing, we lost a dear friend, Japan lost a leader, and bioengineering lost an outstanding scientist. Yuki is sur-

vived by his mother, his brother and sister, his wife, Ikuko, and their three sons, Makoto, Osamu, and Hitoshi.

Dr. Seguchi's death by acute myocardial infarction should serve to remind us that life is precious and can be easily lost. Also, it should help us to reflect on the fact that we need to understand our health better, to double our resolve to achieve a clearer understanding of disease processes, and to bring engineering into a greater focus on helping humanity.

Savio L-Y. Woo

Yuan-Cheng Fung

Robert M. Nerem

Kozaburo Hayashi