

# In Memory of Soon Yong Kim, MD

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Dr. Soon Yong Kim, a great physician, a world-renowned radiologist, a beloved teacher and mentor, and an able hospital administrator, died on January 1, 2014 at the age of 91 years.

Dr. Kim was born on September 21, 1922, in Hwanghae Province, western part of the waist of Korean peninsula, when Korea

was occupied by Japan. He attended Pyongyang Medical College where he earned his MD degree in 1944. After he got medical license, he worked for Pyongyang University Hospital for 3 years as a pediatrician. During these three years in the university hospital, Korea was liberated from Japanese rule in 1945. He moved to Pyongyang Central Tuberculosis Clinic and served for the clinic for 3 years. In 1950, the Korean War broke and he crossed the 38th Parallel and joined Korean Army and served in the Department of Radiology, First Army Hospital, Daegu, for 3 years. After the Cease-Fire of the Korean War, he started his career as a professor of radiology in Kyungpook National University School of Medicine from 1954 to 1968. In 1957, he went to the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, Cornell University, USA for one year and went to the Karolinska University Hospital, Sweden, for another one year to broaden his career in radiology. After 15 years service at Kyungpook National University Hospital, he went to private practice for 6 years.

In 1974, he moved to Kyung Hee University School of Medicine and restarted his career as an academician as well

as hospital administrator. After 11 years service in Kyung Hee University Hospital in 1985, he moved to Hanyang University School of Medicine and he retired in 1987. During his late academic career in Kyung Hee University and Hanyang University, he also devoted himself in hospital administration as a director of the university hospital and as a President of the Korean Hospital Association. He advised many national societies in medicine as well as in radiology. He introduced CT in 1978 in Kyung Hee University Hospital and opened the new era of cross-sectional imaging in Korea. It was a really huge impact on radiology in Korea.

He was a very influential educator. More than 3000 medical students and more than 200 radiology trainees were educated in three major medical schools and radiology departments. With a huge interest in education, he was tough and strict in radiology training. He put all his energy into radiological image interpretations. With his "eagle eyes", he searched films and radiological images, bit by bit, from corner to corner and from every shade of grayness to blackness. When he interpreted images with piercing and glaring eagle eyes, he looked for nuances of shades and analyse the image with scientist's instinct and intuition. Then, he guided young radiologists and residents with tough and harsh questions. He was always persistent in asking questions to young faculties and residents to make them reach the correct diagnosis. He was determined and unflinching in radiology teaching. His intention was always to make a resident an able and competent radiologist. In fact, many of them became professors and had achieved highly in radiology.

Dr. Kim had a particularly great influence on the field of

abdominal and gastrointestinal radiology for more than 50 years. During his early radiology career, he was interested in plain abdomen and gastrointestinal barium studies. When he was working as a radiology practitioner, his private radiology clinic was full of patients who were waiting to undergo an upper gastrointestinal series and barium enema, and therefore he had to be stuck in a gastrointestinal fluoroscopy room whole day from early morning to darkness. He was a towering figure in body imaging. Before he introduced CT scanners for the first time in Korea in 1978, he himself went to the USA again at the age of 56, and learnt new cross-sectional imaging in the Cornell University Hospital. On the other hand, he joined MR research in Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology and helped to develop Korean-made MR equipment in 1982. He was bold and had an insightful vision regarding the growing role of new cross-sectional radiology and steered a new radiology era by inspiring young radiologists. As a researcher, he published a paper in American Journal of Roentgenology in 1955 for the first time among Korean radiologists. He published more than 100 articles in Korean journals as well as in international journals. He received several awards from the Korean Radiological Society. He received a Gold Medal from Asian Society of Abdominal

Radiology in 2009. To honor his works, Cheong Sok (another name of Soon Yong Kim) Award is given to a prominent abdominal radiologist in annual meetings of Korean Society of Abdominal Radiology, and Cheong Sok Memorial Lecture is given by the radiologist. The Department of Radiology, Kyung Hee University Hospital, holds Cheong Sok Memorial Lecture every year from 1995 and onwards to cherish his legacy in the department and the hospital.

Dr. Kim enhanced his professional life by loving his pupils and young radiologists. He loved discussing cases in small and large conferences. Once he said he was most happy when he was discussing difficult cases with his pupils. Many graduates of the Medical Schools of Kyungpook National University and Kyung Hee University liked and loved Dr. Kim as a real teacher. Many Korean abdominal radiologists adore him as an eminent abdominal radiologist. He shall be remembered as one of the most respected leaders by many doctors and radiologists time and time again.

He is survived by his wife Mrs. Young Bok Jeon, two daughters, Mrs. Hye Ryoung Kim, Mrs. Hye Jeong Kim, and three grandchildren.

Jae Hoon Lim, MD