



DR. YUKIMASA YAGISAWA

### *Obituary*

Dr. YUKIMASA YAGISAWA, the Managing Editor of the Journal of Antibiotics and the Executive Director of the Japan Antibiotics Research Association, passed away on January 22nd, 1982, at the age of seventy-one. It is a great loss. He had a major force with promotion of antibiotic research and development of new drugs useful in the treatment of infections and cancer.

When the Japan Antibiotics Research Association was first established in 1946, he became the managing director. He started the Journal of Antibiotics in 1947 under the former name of the Journal of Penicillin, although it was very difficult at that time to have enough materials for publication. Following a period of growth, in 1953 (Vol. 6), this Journal was divided into Series A and B. The A-series, written in English, covered basic research including screening, production, isolation, structure determination, evaluation, pharmacology, mechanism of action and derivatives, and the B-series written in Japanese was concerned with toxicology, pharmacokinetics, experimental and clinical studies mainly of antibiotics in current use in Japan. In 1968, the A-series was designated by antibiotic researchers throughout the world as an international journal and given the title "The Journal of Antibiotics". It was supported by 40 editorial board members from 19 countries. Series B changed its name to the Japanese Journal of Antibiotics.

The first volume of the international journal consisted of 692 pages including 137 articles. This journal continued to grow and by 1981, the number of editors had increased to 84 from 22 countries. The total number of pages of Vol. 34, 1981 increased to 1870 including 278 articles; 181 pages were concerned with newly found antibiotics. In general, papers were published 3 months after acceptance.

Dr. YAGISAWA loved the Journal. He had been making layouts of all articles, correcting the wrong names of microorganisms and chemicals, and drawing all of the figures up to January 1981 when he had a serious stroke. The publication and growth of this successful international journal is due to his great efforts.

The Journal of Antibiotics has been supported by a subscription fee from approximately 1,300 subscribers and grants from 75 Friends of the Journal. The policy of the Journal has been directed by Editors who meet once a year on the occasion of the Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy (ICAAC) in the United States, and on the occasion of International Congress of Chemotherapy (ICC). It was a tribute to Dr. YAGISAWA's great efforts that despite increases of postage and publication costs, and the difficulty caused by currency rate changes, the publication of the Journal has continued smoothly. Furthermore, it has proven to be of great importance for antibiotic workers because of its high scientific standards. It is very fortunate for all that Dr. YAGISAWA has an able son similar in character. Since January, 1981, Dr. MORIMASA YAGISAWA, his eldest son, replaced his father, and we are thus confident about the future of the Journal.

In addition to his work for the journals, he was a vicepresident of the International Society of Chemotherapy (ISC) for 4 years starting in 1975. He worked also as a member of the organizing committee of the 14th ICAAC in 1974 in San Francisco and the 19th ICAAC/11th ICC in 1979 in Boston. In 1979, he was invited to be a member of the symposium "History of Chemistry" of the antibiotics session at the joint meeting of the American Chemical Society and the Japan Chemical Society in Hawaii. One cannot describe Dr. YAGISAWA's contribution to antibiotics without mentioning the early age of penicillin production in Japan from 1946 to 1948 when he helped Prof. FOSTER of the University of Texas at Austin. Prof. FOSTER was invited in 1946 by the GHQ to teach and direct the production of penicillin. Dr. YAGISAWA helped make his efforts effective.

Dr. YAGISAWA was born in Tokyo on February 28th, 1910, the son of Dr. MASAO YAGISAWA, a director of one of departments of the Infectious Disease Institute which was later transferred to University of Tokyo. He was graduated from the Faculty of Science (Department of Botany), Hokkaido University. He spent 12 years at a research laboratory in Manchuria operated by the Japanese Army. Back from Manchuria, he became the managing director of the Japan Penicillin Research Association, which was later renamed Japan Antibiotics Research Association.

Dr. YUKIMASA YAGISAWA had many close friends in the antibiotic field throughout the world. His warmth and cheerful optimism will be missed by all. Our deepest sympathies are extended to his family.

(HAMAO UMEZAWA)