
Obituary

Professor Emeritus

Dr KITAMARU, Ryozo (1924–2011)



Dr. Ryozo Kitamaru, Professor Emeritus of Kyoto University, passed away unexpectedly on January 10, 2011, in Kyoto.

Dr. Ryozo Kitamaru was born in Kyoto on July 8, 1924. He graduated from Department of Fiber Chemistry, Faculty of Engineering, Kyoto University in 1947 and was employed in Mitsubishi Chemical Co., Ltd. After working in the company for one and a half year, he returned to Department of Fiber Chemistry, Kyoto University to continue his studies on fiber and polymer chemistry under the supervision of Professor Waichiro Tuji, Institute for Chemical Research, Kyoto University. In 1956, he was appointed Instructor in Institute for Chemical Research, Kyoto University and received a doctoral degree from Kyoto University for his studies on chemical treatment of cotton fiber in 1959. He was promoted to Associate Professor in the same Institute in 1960, and stayed in the laboratory of Professor Leo Mandelkern, Florida State University, USA, from October, 1962 to May, 1964 as a research associate to work on polymer crystallization. In 1987, Dr. Kitamaru was promoted to Full Professor of Kyoto University to hold the chair of fiber chemistry, or Laboratory of Fiber Chemistry, Institute for Chemical Research. Due to the reorganization of Institute for Chemical Research, he was appointed to the Chief Professor of the Laboratory of Fundamental Materials Science 1987. He retired from Kyoto University on March 31, 1989 and was honored with the title of Professor Emeritus of Kyoto University on April 1st, 1989.

Dr. Kitamaru performed extensive researches in both fundamental and applied fields of polymer science such as improvement of properties of natural and synthetic fiber, production of synthetic fiber, structure and dynamics of polymer materials using new experimental techniques such as solid-state nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and neutron scattering (NS). In particular, he obtained

prominent results in studying the structure of solid polymers using solid-state NMR, which were highly evaluated worldwide. Due to the high quality achievements in his researches, he was often invited to international conferences to give lectures. He published a textbook “NUCLEAR MAGNETIC RESONANCE: Principles and Theory” in both Japanese and English, which was also highly appreciated in this field.

In addition to researches, his achievements in education were outstanding. He gave lectures on polymer materials science at the Graduate School of Engineering, Kyoto University and he supervised dissertation works of not only many graduate students but also many foreign researchers from England, China and other countries. Moreover, he gave lectures in many universities such as Nagoya University, Fukui University, Kyoto Institute of Technology, Okayama University and Kyushu University as a visiting lecturer. For many years he presided the Poval Committee, which was established by Professor Emeritus Ichiro Sakurada, Kyoto University, soon after the Second World War II to investigate the applications of poly(vinyl alcohol). He organized the Research Group of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance in the Society of Polymer Science, Japan, the Advanced Fiber Material Committee, Fiber Society, Japan and the Society of Solid-State NMR for Materials, and served as a chair of their organizations.

Dr. Kitamaru was appointed Professor of Ryukoku University just after the retirement from Kyoto University until 1993 to give lectures at the Faculty of Science and Technology and to conduct researches on polymer science.

The Japanese Government made public recognition of his achievements by a medal, “Kun-Santo-Zuihosho” (the Third Order of the Sacred Treasure) in 2002 and a court rank, “Ju-shi-i” (the Junior Fourth Rank) in 2011.

Obituary

Professor Emeritus

Dr MIYAMOTO, Takeaki (1937–2011)



Dr. Takeaki Miyamoto, Professor Emeritus of Kyoto University, passed away on June 2, 2011, in Kyoto.

Dr. Miyamoto was born in Manchuria, China on April 3, 1937. He graduated from the Department of Fiber Chemistry at the Faculty of Engineering, Kyoto University in 1962 and continued his studies on polymer chemistry as a graduate student for two years. After 4 years of service at Nittobo Co. Ltd., he was appointed Instructor of the Laboratory of Polymer Properties headed by the late Professor Emeritus Hiroshi Inagaki at the Institute for Chemical Research, Kyoto University in 1968 and received a doctoral degree in 1970 from the Faculty of Engineering, Kyoto University for his studies on “Unperturbed Dimensions, Conformations & Steric Isomerisms of Polymer Chains”. On leave from the University, he made a stay in Freiburg University, (West) Germany in the years 1970 and 1971 to work on functional polymers in collaboration with Professor H.-J. Cantow. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1977 at the Institute and to full Professor in 1988 to take charge of the Laboratory of Polymer Separation and Characterization (later renamed the Laboratory of Polymeric Materials). From April 1, 1994, he was appointed Director of the Institute for two years and made quite a few important contributions not only to the Institute but also to the University. He retired from Kyoto University in 2000, one year earlier than expected, and was honored with the title of Professor Emeritus of Kyoto University. Subsequently, he served 6 years as Principal in Matsue National College of Technology, and for his great achievements on the management and administration, he was honored with the title of Professor Emeritus of Matsue National College of Technology in 2006.

Dr. Miyamoto’s research interest encompassed a wide array of the science and technology of functional polymers and fiber materials. His scientific life started with the synthesis and solution-property study of block copolymers. With a number of achievements in these fundamental fields of polymer science, his interest was directed to

polymer materials in general, above all, to naturally occurring polymers. He established a method to characterize the second-order structure of wool keratin by circular dichroic spectroscopy, with which he succeeded in disclosing details of the $\alpha\beta$ transition of the component protein. He was the first to perform a detailed study on the interactions between wool keratin and metal ions by means of gel chromatography. This fundamental work led him to develop waste wool-based new materials like a heavy-metal adsorbent and a cosmetic substrate. He is also known as a distinguished cellulose scientist, in particular for his studies on the characterization of the substituent distributions along the chain in cellulose derivatives and the effects of these distributions on their physical and physicochemical properties. He also developed systematic work to elucidate the relationships between the molecular structure and functions such as liquid crystallinity in cellulose derivatives. For his brilliant achievements, he was awarded in 1983 the Prize of Fiber Science and Technology, Japan.

He also devoted himself to the Society of Fiber Science and Technology, Japan as President for the years 1995 and 1996, and to the Cellulose Society of Japan as President for the years 1997 and 1998. He was awarded by each of these Societies for his distinguished services to them. He was chair or a member of organizing committee in a number of international scientific conferences/symposiums and made no less contributions to the promotion of international collaboration in polymer science, in particular with Germany and China. He was honored in 2004 with the title of Professor Emeritus of Donghu College, Wuhan University, China.

His sincere and warm personality was respected by many friends, colleagues, students, and all those who came in contact with him. He educated and mentored a lot of capable students and scientists. The Government made public recognition of his achievements by the Order of the Sacred Treasure, “Zuihouchujushou” medal and granted the Senior Grade of the Fourth Court Rank in 2011.

Obituary

Professor Emeritus

Dr FUJITA, Eiichi (1922–2011)



Dr. Eiichi Fujita, Professor Emeritus of Kyoto University, passed away on July 24, 2011, in Kyoto.

Dr. Eiichi Fujita was born in Osaka on February 2, 1922. He graduated from Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Kyoto Imperial University in 1943. After the graduation, he was appointed a researcher in the Faculty of Medicine, Kyoto Imperial University in 1943. In the same year, he moved to navy as a pharmacy officer and was there until 1945. He joined the Faculty of Medicine, Kyoto Imperial University as a researcher in 1946. He was appointed Associate Professor of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Tokushima University, in 1951. He received a doctoral degree from Kyoto University for the study on biologically active alkaloids, terpenoids, and peptides. In 1954, he was promoted to be Professor of Tokushima University. In 1962, Dr. Fujita was appointed Professor of Institute of Chemical Research, Kyoto University to direct the Laboratory of Physiologically Active Compounds. From April 1, 1982 to March 31, 1984, he was appointed Director of the Institute and made great contributions to the development of the Institute and Kyoto University. He retired from Kyoto University and received the title of Professor Emeritus of Kyoto University in 1985. After the retirement, Dr. Fujita served as President of Osaka University of Pharmaceutical Sciences from 1985 to 1991, and he made great contributions to the development of Osaka University of Pharmaceutical Sciences including the relocation of the University to the current Takatsuki Campus. He also served as Councillor of Institute for Molecular Science, National Institutes of Natural Sciences, from 1987 to 1993.

Dr. Fujita conducted extensive researches in both natural product chemistry and synthetic organic chemistry. He

has achieved creative works on biologically active natural products, asymmetric synthesis, and antitumor agents. In particular, he has achieved isolation and total syntheses of biologically active alkaloids, terpenoids, and peptides. He has developed a series of asymmetric reactions including asymmetric desymmetrization of σ -symmetric dicarboxylic acids by chiral sulfur reagents, new synthetic methods employing silicon- and tin chemistry, selective bond cleavage reactions based on a hard acid-soft nucleophile system, and efficient radiosensitizers for tumor treatment. He also achieved total synthesis of various biologically active natural products. Since these achievements were highly appreciated internationally as well as domestically, he was frequently invited to International Conference on Natural Products, IUPAC Symposium, International Conference on Heterocyclic Chemistry, European Conference on Stereochemistry, and so on. For his brilliant achievements on natural product chemistry, he was awarded the Pharmaceutical Society of Japan Award in 1978.

Dr. Fujita was an active member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Japan, the Society of Synthetic Organic Chemistry of Japan, the Chemical Society of Japan, and so on. He served as President of the Kinki branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of Japan in 1980 and as President of the Society of Synthetic Organic Chemistry, Kansai branch, Japan in 1984.

Dr. Fujita was a gentle, sincere, and warmhearted man. He educated and mentored a lot of capable students and scientists. A large number of Professors have been produced from his laboratory. The Japanese Government made the public recognition of his achievement by the Second Class of the Order of the Sacred Treasure, “Kun-Ni-tou Kyokujitsu Zuihoushou” Medal in 1996.