

Editorial

Seung Ho Kim, a respected clinician, teacher and scientist in emergency medicine

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The sudden death of Dr. Seung Ho Kim on April 1, 2015, a professor of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Yonsei University Medical College (YUMC), was a huge shock to the members of the Korean Society of Emergency Medicine (KSEM) and to all who knew him. Dr. Kim is one of the most respected emergency physicians in Korea. The KSEM has lost one of its true leaders. Dr. Seung Ho Kim has greatly contributed and committed to the development of emergency medicine (EM) and medical education in Korea.

Dr. Kim graduated from YUMC in 1984 and completed his medical training in the Department of Surgery at Severance Hospital in Seoul, Korea. His career as a clinician began as an instructor in the Department of Surgery in 1989. At that time, Severance Hospital had a plan to establish the Department of Emergency Medicine, and offered him a position in the new department. Dr. Kim thought the offer as an opportunity to do trauma surgery as well as take care of emergency patients, so he accepted the work at the Emergency Department. This moment became his turning point, from surgery to emergency medicine. At that time, emergency medicine was not practiced in Korea. He could not find good senior medical personnel to give him guidance with respect to Emergency Medicine and Traumatology. But together with other medical doctors who were interested in Traumatology and Emergency Medicine, he established the Korean Society of Emergency Medicine in November 1989. Since then, he has devoted his entire life to emergency medicine.

At the beginning period of emergency medicine practice in Korea, few clinicians had ideas about or understanding of emergency medicine. And at the beginning of his career, even Dr. Kim thought that emergency medicine must be similar to traumatology. However, it did not take long until he recognized that emergency medicine is a unique medical specialty distinguishable from

the other medical specialties, including traumatology. He started to establish educational programs and courses on emergency medicine for residents of the emergency department at Severance Hospital and students at YUMC. These educational programs and courses became the standard educational program for emergency medicine training in Korea.

Many contributions to emergency medicine have been made by Dr. Kim. His major contributions include the establishment of the KSEM, development of the Korean emergency medical system (EMS), educational system of emergency medicine, and introduction of simulations to medical education. But first and foremost, Dr. Kim was all about emergency patient care. He was totally dedicated to the patients who needed emergency care, and became a powerful model to his trainees and colleagues in various aspects of patient care. He spoke only few words, but he had strong, balanced, and objective opinions. He was never afraid to express his opinions at scientific conferences or administrative meetings.

Dr. Kim spent his life as a medical doctor at Severance Hospital and a professor of the Department of Emergency Medicine, YUMC. He served as director of the Emergency Department of Severance Hospital and Gangnam Severance Hospital, and as chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine, YUMC. Dr. Kim held many other leadership positions within the world of emergency medicine. He was the President of the Korean Society of Clinical Toxicology and the President of the KSEM. He also served as a chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 1st Pan-Pacific Emergency Medicine Conference in 2012. His academic achievements continued in areas of research. He also published more than 100 academic papers in domestic and international peer-reviewed journals.

We also remember his contribution to resuscitation medicine in Korea. Dr. Kim is one of the founders of the

Korean Resuscitation Medicine Study Group (KRMSG) established in 1999. He led the establishment of the KRMSG with his colleagues from the KSEM. The KRMSG played a major role in promoting and developing resuscitation science in Korea. The KRMSG held seminars every other month for 10 years. Researchers and doctors who were interested in resuscitation medicine got together to share and discussed their research and knowledge in the field of resuscitation medicine at the regular seminars. Dr. Kim led the KRMSG and was president of the KRMSG for 10 years. On the basis of the activities of KRMSG, the Korean Association of CardioPulmonary Resuscitation (KACPR) was founded in 2002. Dr. Kim served the KACPR as a founding member and a founding chair of the basic life support committee.

Dr. Kim also has been involved in medical education. The first medical education using simulators in Korea was performed at YUMC by Dr. Kim in 2002. Since 2006, he was a concurrent professor at the Department of Medical Education in YUMC and received an award for a professor of excellent medical education from Yonsei University. His activities in the field of education were also active outside of school. He had significant positions at national-level organizations regarding medical

education. He was a board member of the national examination for medical doctors, the Korean Association of Medical Science, and a chair of the national examination for medical doctors as well as a chair of the Korean Medical Association, the medical education evaluation consortium.

Dr. Kim was a man who truly loved his disciples. Dr. Kim used to give a small booklet titled "Kim's Collection" to his residents who completed his training in the Emergency Department. Kim's Collection contains an introduction and future direction to emergency medicine, selective information for emergency medicine including summaries of major publications, and a lovely letter written by him.

He used to email or write to his disciples to provide the latest knowledge of emergency medicine and to guide them to be a warm emergency physician who takes care of the patient with elegant, artful emergency care.

Dr. Kim died suddenly at the age of 60 from an acute myocardial infarction while travelling to Japan. His wife was with him in the last moments of his life. We remember Dr. Kim as a respected clinician, teacher and scientist in emergency medicine. He will be missed for a long time by all emergency medical personnel, and will be remembered forever.