

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Professor Kiyoshi Seki, MD**  
**January 28, 1919 - January 23, 2015**



Prof. Kiyoshi Seki passed away on January 23, 2015. He was former president of the Japanese Society of Lymphology and was well known to Japanese lymphologists and those from around the world. He was born in Mito District near Tokyo, graduated from the University of Tokyo in 1941, became the Professor of Toho University in Tokyo in 1968, Dean of the Branch Hospital Ohhashi of Toho University in 1973, and then Dean of Tokyo Rohsai Hospital where he was an emeritus professor. He and Dr. Hirota worked together for 12 years at Rohsai hospital before he retired. In 1977, Profs. Seki, Magari, Mori, Tsuchiya, and Ohkuma founded the Japanese Society of Lymphology with Prof. Seki as the first President of the Society. Profs. Seki and Ohkuma first attended together the 3rd International Congress of Lymphology in Belgium and all the subsequent Congresses until he (Prof. Seki) retired. His main work focused on the pathophysiology of lymphedema, and his primary research method was tissue clearance. He reported many important

research findings with his colleagues. With Ohkuma, he reported, on average, one out of four secondary and one out of seven primary lymphedema patients demonstrated increased RISA (radioiodinated serum albumin) clearance, which is contrary to the general understanding. This finding indicates that a portion of patients with either primary and secondary lymphedema actually have hyperfunctioning of lymphatic clearance and not always hypo/dysfunctional clearance. This fact is important when we consider the effects and mechanisms of manual lymphatic drainage massage. All Japanese lymphologists (as well as other lymphologists worldwide) are in deep sorrow to hear of his death.

**M. Ohkuma**

**Executive Committee member of  
 International Society of Lymphology**

**A. Hirota**

**Hirota Clinic of Internal Medicine,  
 Setagaya-ku, Tokyo**