

Editorial

In Memoriam: Seung Ki Lee (1944-2022)

Young-Joon Surh*, Jung-Weon Lee, Marc Diederich, Byung Woo Han, Hyuk-Jin Cha, and Kyu-Won Kim*

College of Pharmacy, Seoul National University, Seoul 08826, Korea
*Correspondence: surh@snu.ac.kr (YJS); qwonkim@snu.ac.kr (KWK)
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Dr. Seung Ki Lee, Emeritus Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the College of Pharmacy, Seoul National University, passed away on the eleventh of December 2022. Professor Lee was a distinguished scientist who pioneered in integrating the modern molecular and cellular biology into pharmaceutical sciences in Korea. Under his mentoring, twenty received Doctor of Philosophy and seventy-six Master of Science degrees, many of whom have been leading the diverse field of life sciences in the country.

Professor Lee was among the first Korean scientists who initiated research in the field of cell cycle progression and apoptotic cell death. Till the moment of retirement in 2009, Professor Lee published a total of 140 research articles in peer-reviewed journals. Considering the harsh scientific research environment in the 1980s and 1990s in Korea, suffering from a lack of critical resources and facilities for research,

his scientific achievements are astonishing. In recognition of his contribution to the advancement of biomedical sciences, Professor Lee was elected as a regular member in 2000 and subsequently a lifetime member of the Korean Academy of Science and Technology (KAST). Overall, his excellence in research and dedication to higher education paved the way for further advances in pharmaceutical sciences and related disciplines in Korea.

Besides as a respected scholar, Professor Lee displayed outstanding administrative capabilities. He served as Dean of the College of Pharmacy at the Seoul National University from 2005 to 2007, and led drastic, but constructive changes in pharmacy education in Korea. Thanks to his leadership, a 6-year pharmacy education, intended to deepen the social roles of pharmacists, was fully established. Professor Lee also served as President of the Korean Society for Molecular and Cellular Biology (KSMCB) in 2002 and made significant contributions to the development and progress of this academic society.

Anyone privileged to know Professor Lee as a friend or colleague would recall his confident and persuasive voice. At a number of meetings, Professor Lee demonstrated not only an impressive knowledge of the diverse field of biological sciences but also a projection for the future direction of education and science in Korea. He has been a beloved husband, father of three daughters, and grandfather. We all greatly miss Professor Seung Ki Lee, but his leadership and scholastic legacy will live forever.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors have no potential conflicts of interest to disclose.

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