

How can we forget our mentor Prof. Baki!

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January 23, 2015 was the 7th death anniversary of Prof. Dr. Baki Komşuoğlu, MD, PhD who was the Legendary Rector of Kocaeli University, Founder of Kocaeli Faculty of Medicine and Affiliated Hospitals, and Mastermind of Umuttepe Campus.

Prof. Sezer announced the sad news on the morning of January 23, 2008 "I lost my other half, Professor Baki Komşuoğlu is no more."

I commemorate my mentor Prof. Komşuoğlu with respect, compassion, and gratitude. He was 62 years old. His demise was untimely, and he had lots of projects to complete. He was a dear friend, respectable scientist, successful physician, faithful spouse, and devoted father.

Perhaps, we did not realize his worth when he was alive. He was diligent, productive, participative, and a tolerant friend who hated hypocrisy and lies.

When we consider our unfavorable experiences we encountered, and actions that we wanted to take, we admit that my mentors', Prof. Komşuoğlu's, decisions were appropriate, and his predictions were accurate.

We always commemorate our mentor, Prof. Komşuoğlu, who once said, "As children of the Republic, it is my foremost principle to internalize and defend democracy and reforms made by Atatürk.

We always miss and remember our mentor Prof. Komşuoğlu who left behind pleasant memories.

Anecdotes From Prof. Bilgin Timuralp

Is it possible to forget our mentor, Prof. Komşuoğlu, who took pains to popularize the Kocaeli University nationally and internationally, and spent his life to make the Umuttepe Campus number one?

Of course not! Academic staff of Department of Cardiology, Kocaeli Faculty of Medicine, Prof. Dr. Dilek Ural, Prof. Dr. Ayşen Ağaçdiken Ağır, Prof. Dr. Ertan Ural, Prof. Dr. Ahmet Vural, Prof.

Dr. Göksel Kahraman, Dr. Teoman Kılıç, and Dr. Tayfun Şahin assembled together to commemorate our mentor, and relive those days.

Prof. Dr. Bilgin Timuralp from Atatürk University, Faculty of Medicine, who is renowned in Turkey and in the world was invited to our modest gathering in which Prof. Sezer was also present so as to make scientific contributions, the crucial importance of which was always emphasized by Prof. Komşuoğlu.

Prof. Timuralp, who still continues to be a role model at the age of 76 for young academicians, with his extensive knowledge, talks, humor, and clothing style, came to the meeting with his wife Dr. Gökhan Timuralp, who is a Pediatrician and a Specialist in Clinical Chemistry.

Despite his retirement in 2006, Prof. Timuralp, who has shared his cultural richness and experiences with his friends by writing or talking, said that Prof. Komsuoglu was very diligent during his faculty years and those who envied him had betrayed him.

I couldn't help myself, and ask for the forgiveness from Prof. Timuralp, and said " *My Dear teacher, you are saying that years ago my mentor Prof. Komşuoğlu had been betrayed. It means that Prof. Komşuoğlu was always exposed to betrayals in every phase of his academic life by some people who felt resentment from his achievements and consumed themselves with envy. If I narrate betrayals of some people in Kocaeli and reveal the identities of those who were indebted to him for their positions and status, but opposed and worked against him during the process of appointment for his rectorship, it would take hours. Unfortunately, they sustained their hostile attitudes during the time of Prof. Sezer.*"

Today, on his 7th death anniversary, I again commemorate him with respect, compassion, and gratitude and want to share a poem *Friends are like rivers* by Can Yücel:

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"Friends are like rivers"

*Some contain little water, some a lot
You can only wet your hands in some
Some washes and purifies your soul thoroughly
Some people harbour a deep ocean
At first instance, they startle and scare you
Their secret is concealed in their depth
The more deeply you dive the more you know
Beside them you feel like a hollow object.
Some people are like slow-flowing river
They sooth you, and pacify your soul
Being near them means blessed happiness
A sweet tranquility persists in their sound and appearance.*

*There are many types and kinds of human beings.
Each one has a different character.
One should see, examine, and find the correct one
Above all man should be a Man...
Some people resemble clear and shimmering sea
Rely on them as deeply as you can. You won't regret.
You can see the bottom, everything is so clear
You plunge into without feeling any bit of fear;
it suddenly wraps you in
Don't refrain from them.
They are so wholeheartedly embrace you
Each word of them comes from their heart, and displays
sincere behaviours."*