

## OBITUARY

# Obituary: Dr. Hyun-Sul Lim's (1952-2018) life as an epidemiologist, occupational and environmental medicine researcher, and family physician

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Dr. Hyun-Sul Lim passed away on June 21, 2018 (Figures 1 and 2). He had suffered from gallbladder cancer, which was detected in June 2017. He was buried in Catholic Yongin Park Cemetery on June 23, 2018. He left his wife, one son, and one daughter.

I vividly remember a scene from 37 years ago, in March 1981, when I visited Chunseong-gun Health Center in Chuncheon, Korea, where he was the director. At that time, the medical college I attended, Seoul National University College of Medicine, had implemented a curriculum entitled "Community Medicine Practice." When I and other friends visited Chunseong-gun Health Center, he welcomed us kindly and gave us guidelines for approaching members of the community. Three of us, including me, moved to Dong-myeon Subsidiary Health Center. We stayed there for 5 days and sought a research theme. We eventually finished our work successfully, and the results were presented before him and other friends. He encouraged us and emphasized the importance of community health. Although that meeting with him was short, I had the chance to meet him frequently when I worked at Seoul National University College of Medicine as a research and education assistant from March 1986 to February 1988. After moving to Hallym University in March 1988, I remained in touch with him. Although Dr. Lim was 4 years senior than me as an alumnus, we maintained a close relationship that originated from our experiences in Chuncheon in 1981.

Dr. Lim graduated from Seoul National University College of Medicine in 1978, and received his MPH (Master of Public Health)

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Received: Jul 9, 2018 / Accepted: Jul 14, 2018 / Published: Jul 14, 2018

This article is available from: <http://e-epih.org/>

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in 1981 from Seoul National University. His thesis advisor was Dr. Joung Soon Kim (1935- ). He received a PhD in preventive medicine in 1986 from the same university. His PhD thesis advisor was Dr. Dork Ro Yun (1933-2009).

In an interview with Dr. Sue Kyung Park, Professor of Seoul



**Figure 1.** Picture of Dr. Hyun-Sul Lim in 2015 provided by his family.



**Figure 2.** Picture of Dr. Hyun-Sul Lim in May 7, 2018 in his room at Dongguk University College of Medicine, photographed by Ms. Young Ju Choi, the Korean Society of Epidemiology.



ified in 3 specializations: preventive medicine, family medicine, and industrial and occupational medicine. This combination is very rare in Korea. His knowledge and skills as a specialist in 3 fields enabled him to achieve top-notch achievements in epidemiology and occupational and environmental medicine. In the May 7, 2018 interview, he emphasized the importance of cultivating the basic ability to execute epidemiologic surveys or investigations of occupational diseases as follows [9]: "First, read books of a variety of fields; second, have many experiences; and third, make a hypothesis immediately at the beginning of the survey." He also recommended that members of the Korean Society of Epidemiology should work towards the advancement of epidemiology in Korea as follows: "Society members should discuss a variety of social problems and publish issues relating to them. In particular, epidemiological hot topics should be dealt with at society meetings or conferences. Such activities will help ease social tension. For scientific soundness, collect primary data. Although large-scale data are required, having high-quality data is more important." His message was simple and lucid. This is invaluable advice for junior and future scholars.

I close this obituary by expressing my sincere condolences to his family. All society members miss him. He will be remembered as a warm and excellent scholar and teacher in the history of the Korean Society of Epidemiology and Dongguk University College of Medicine.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author has no conflicts of interest to declare for this study.

## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

Supplementary Material 1: Metadata of articles of Dr. Hyun-Sul Lim searchable from KoreaMed (<https://koreamed.org>) and PubMed (<https://pubmed.gov>).

Supplementary Material 2: Core topic words and frequency of Dr. Hyun-Sul Lim's articles listed in KoreaMed (<https://koreamed.org>) and PubMed (<https://pubmed.gov>). The word cloud was based on this supplement.

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