

Remembrance of M. Atilla MUFTUOĞLU, MD (1950–2005)

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M. Atilla Müftüoğlu, M.D., professor of anatomy at the Department of Anatomy, Cerrahpaşa Faculty of Medicine (CFM), Istanbul University and President of the Turkish Society of Anatomy (TSA) died unexpectedly Sunday, January 16, 2005 at the age of 54 in Istanbul at the faculty hospital where he had been working as a lecturer for more than 20 years. Atilla had been under treatment with the diagnosis of bone marrow dysplasia (myelodysplastic syndrome) and had undergone bone marrow transplantation approximately two months prior to his death.

Atilla was born in Gaziantep, Turkey on 7th of February 1950. He completed his elementary and secondary school education between 1957–1969 in Gaziantep and started his university education in 1970 in the CFM. In 1977 he graduated from CFM and became an anatomy specialist after finishing his education at the Department of Anatomy in the same institution. He contributed greatly to the establishment and development of the Department of Anatomy Gülhane Military School of Medicine (Ankara) where he worked during his military service between

1982–1983. He worked as an assistant professor in the Department of Anatomy at CFM between 1984–1987. He became associate professor in 1987. Additional to his lectures in the Department of Anatomy in CFM where he had worked as an academician since 1984, he gave anatomy lessons in the Nişantaşı Private Faculty of Dentistry between 1987–1989 and in the Faculty of Art of the Mimar Sinan University, Istanbul from 1984 to 1992. He was the member of the Executive Board of CFM between 1986–1988 and the director of Blood Bank between 1988–1989. He worked also as the Head Physician of CFM between 1990–1994. Additionally he gave anatomy lectures in Florence Nightingale High School of Nursing, Istanbul University in the academic year of 1993–1994. Atilla who became full professor in 1994 had worked as the president of TSA since 2002.

The importance of anatomy education, especially clinical anatomy was a passion for Atilla. He mostly published articles on morphometry and clinical anatomy emphasizing especially on the anatomy of the femoral and sublingual regions. Atilla educated many students during his lectureship lasting over 20 years. He had very good relations with his students, and was much loved by them. He had a special talent for explaining even very complicated anatomical issues in the simplest way and loved to prepare explanatory drawings for his lectures. He payed attention to the demeanor and attire of the students both in class and in the dissection laboratory. He would talk with his students about general culture so that he could add on their education in every way. Atilla was a very social man and had warm relations with the faculty and his students and liked to relate to everyone of any age. He worked as the president of the Eminönü Service Foundation, of which he was one of the founders for more than 10 years. He contributed greatly to the development of the foundation and also in the organisation



of scientific activities in its historical building in Istanbul.

The TSA, which was established in 1991, showed great improvement during the presidency of Atilla. The number of members and scientific activities increased and it became socially more powerful. It was a very important project for him to visit all departments of anatomy in Turkey one by one and to determine the support that could be given to anatomy departments especially in recently established faculties. However, he unfortunately did not get to finish the project. Luckily, he had visited about 80% of the anatomy departments in some steps together with the executive committee of the society; suggestions and experiences having been shared.

He married Gülipe Büyükgebiz, MD in 1980. His daughter Gizem and his son Atacan were born in 6 year intervals. He was a very good, loving father being very close to his children. We will remember him and his contributions with love and miss him very much.

After his death the Executive Committee of the TSA has decided to give an Atilla Müftüoğlu Memorial Award for his dear memory and the first of these were awarded during the IV. Asian-Pacific International Congress of Anatomists and IX. National Congress of TSA, which were held in September 2005 in Kuşadası, Turkey.