

## OBITUARIES

### Kanematsu Sugiura 1890-1979



One of the true pioneers in cancer research, Dr. Kanematsu Sugiura, died on October 21, 1979. He is survived by his wife Zoé, daughter Miyono, and grandson Philip. His son-in-law, Dr. Franz A. Schmid, is on the staff of the Sloan-Kettering Institute.

Dr. Sugiura, a descendent of Samurai warriors, was born on June 5, 1890, in Tsushima, a small village near Nagoya, Japan. The youngest of seven children, he was left fatherless at eight years of age when his father, a dye maker, died of stomach cancer. He was a top student. However, financial difficulties precluded the possibility of further education; thus at the age of 13 he became an apprentice in a hardware business.

In 1905, a group of six young Japanese men, including Sugiura, were invited by a wealthy American to be his guests in the United States to present an exhibition on the techniques of *jujitsu* and *kenjitsu*. After a six-month visit, the group returned to Japan without young Sugiura, who had decided to continue his education in the United States. He completed high school, received his bachelor's degree from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn in 1915, and completed the master of arts program at Columbia University in 1917. He had published 14 papers before completing his thesis, entitled "Study of Gooch's Method for the Direct Determination of Aluminum in the Presence of Iron."

In November 1917, he was hired by Dr. James Ewing, Director of Memorial Hospital in New York City. Dr. Ewing was anxious to expand investigations in cancer research, and he asked Sugiura to develop a tumor transplantation program. Sugiura did as Ewing asked and more. He became a "jack of all trades," biochemist, radiologist, pharmacist, photographer, and "evening" pathologist at Dr. Ewing's side.

Dr. Sugiura was involved in many aspects of cancer research at Memorial Hospital and later at the Sloan-Kettering Institute, beginning as an analytical chemist and progressing to studies

on radiation, nutrition, enzyme therapy, enzyme activities, tumor transplantation, experimental chemotherapy, and carcinogenesis. After World War II, he was appointed head of the solid tumor section of the Division of Experimental Chemotherapy. His test results in experimental chemotherapy encompass every type of chemical and biological agent received at the Sloan-Kettering Institute.

Dr. Sugiura retired as a member emeritus of the Sloan-Kettering Institute in 1962. However, until a month before his death, he continued to work in the Walker Laboratory six or seven days a week on numerous new projects in chemotherapy and carcinogenesis and on the development of new animal tumor models. He was involved in studies on laetrile and was convinced that laetrile had positive effects in inhibiting metastases of certain mouse tumors and that it might have palliative effects in human cancer. His paper published in *Gann* in 1978, the last of more than 250 publications, represented his own handiwork and provided background information on a new colon tumor model.

Dr. Sugiura was officially an alien resident during World Wars I and II. He was essentially under house arrest during World War II but, due to the efforts of Dr. Cornelius P. Rhoads, he was able to stay in his Bronx apartment and continue his work at the Old Memorial Hospital on 106th Street at Central Park West. The then new Memorial Hospital was for him off limits; however, in his experiments, he was able to use the cyclotron and isotopes of uranium at Columbia University. Dr. Sugiura was a patriotic American and made significant contributions to the United States military efforts. He became a citizen in 1953.

In 1955, Dr. Sugiura returned to his native Japan for the first time since before World War II to address the Japanese Medical Association in Kyoto. The Kyoto Imperial University had honored him in 1925 with a Doctor of Science degree. In 1971, Dr. Sugiura made his final visit to Japan to attend the annual meeting of the Japanese Association for Cancer Research, which had elected him to honorary membership in 1955.

Kanematsu Sugiura was recognized by both the United States and Japanese governments and scientific groups. For his early research in radiation, Dr. Sugiura received a Leonard Prize from the Roentgen Society in 1925. He was honored by the Japanese government in 1960 for cultural services, and in the same year Emperor Hirohito awarded him membership in the Order of the Sacred Treasure, third class. He was cited by Tokoku University, Kanazawa University, and Niigata University for cultural services. In 1965, the Japan Medical Association presented Dr. Sugiura with its highest award for outstanding contributions to cancer research and for his services and inspiration to so many Japanese physicians and surgeons. In 1966, the mayor of New York City and the New York County Medical Society recognized Dr. Sugiura for his cultural services and for his dedication to the field of medicine.

Throughout his life, Dr. Sugiura held fast to his convictions; he was generous with his time and talent and maintained the politeness characteristic of the Japanese. He was devoted to his home area around Nagoya; his papers will be placed in the

## Obituaries

archives of the Aichi Cancer Center, Nagoya, and a portion of his ashes will be interred in the family temple in Tsushima, Japan.

Dr. Sugiura provided a delightful summary of his research activities from 1917 to 1971 in an article, entitled "Reminiscence and Experience in Experimental Chemotherapy of Cancer," (*Med. Clin. N. America*, 55: 667-682, 1971). In addition, for those who read Japanese, a lovely book entitled "80 Years' Battle against Cancer—Kanematsu Sugiura," was written by Shin Udon of Tokyo and published in 1976.

Dr. Sugiura's photograph, along with those of his two most respected colleagues, Cornelius P. Rhoads and C. Chester Stock, appeared on the cover of the June 1973 issue of *Cancer Research*.

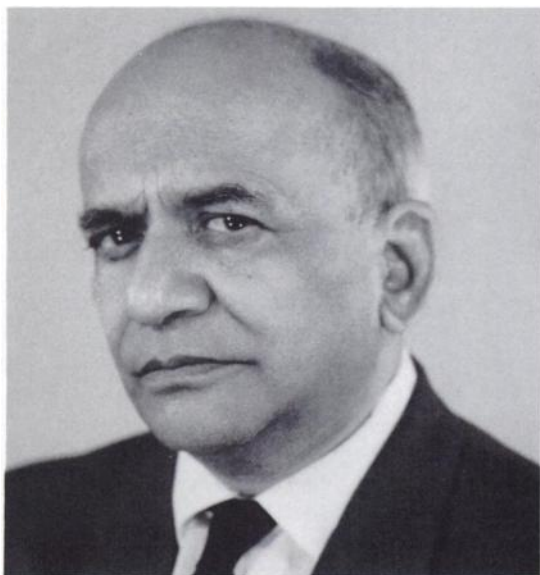
Dr. Sugiura's death is a great loss to the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. His daily treks between his office and the animal room, punctuated by an occasional hearty lunch with a guest, colleague, or young student, were a link between the present days of highly computerized technology and the past years of the abacus.

The photograph of Dr. Kanematsu Sugiura was provided by Claire K. Yaffa.

*Dorris J. Hutchison  
Laboratory of Drug Resistance and  
Cyto-Regulation  
Sloan-Kettering Institute for  
Cancer Research  
Rye, New York*

---

## V. R. Khanolkar 1895-1978



Dr. V. R. Khanolkar, a well-known educator, pathologist, and cancer researcher, died October 29, 1978. Dr. Khanolkar is survived by his wife and daughter.

Dr. Khanolkar was the president of the International Cancer Research Commission from 1950 to 1954. In addition, he served as president of the International Union Against Cancer.

He was a member of the World Health Organization panel on cancer and leprosy, a member of the United Nations scientific committee on the effects of atomic radiation, and a member of the World Health Organization advisory committee on medical research.

Dr. Khanolkar was also closely associated with the Tata Memorial Hospital and served as director of laboratories and research at the hospital. He was a member of the governing body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Dr. Khanolkar was the vice-chancellor of Bombay University from 1960 until 1963 when the government of India appointed him a national research professor of medicine. He held the professorship for ten years. He helped to organize the Indian Cancer Research Centre and served as director from its inception until 1973. He was chairman of the Biological and Medical Advisory Committee of the Atomic Energy Department of India between 1955 and 1960. Dr. Khanolkar was awarded a Padma Bhushan in 1955 for his services in promoting medical research and education in India.

Born April 13, 1895, Dr. Khanolkar studied medicine at London University. He received his M.D. degree in pathology from London University in 1923. Later he was associated with the Grant Medical and Seth G. S. Medical Colleges as a professor of pathology. He was founder and first president of the Indian Association of Pathologists.

During his career, Dr. Khanolkar published 3 books on cancer and leprosy and more than 100 scientific papers.

# Cancer Research

The Journal of Cancer Research (1916–1930) | The American Journal of Cancer (1931–1940)

## Kanematsu Sugiura: 1890–1979

Dorris J. Hutchison

*Cancer Res* 1980;40:2625-2626.

**Updated version** Access the most recent version of this article at:  
<http://cancerres.aacrjournals.org/content/40/7/2625.citation>

- E-mail alerts** [Sign up to receive free email-alerts](#) related to this article or journal.
- Reprints and Subscriptions** To order reprints of this article or to subscribe to the journal, contact the AACR Publications Department at [pubs@aacr.org](mailto:pubs@aacr.org).
- Permissions** To request permission to re-use all or part of this article, contact the AACR Publications Department at [permissions@aacr.org](mailto:permissions@aacr.org).