

# NEWSLETTER

## CONGRESS OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

July 1982



### BIOGRAPHY OF DR. KEIJI SANO

Dr. Keiji Sano was born on June 30, 1920, in the quiet and scenic town of Fujinomiya in Shizuoka Prefecture which lies at the foot of Mt. Fuji, about 100 kilometers to the west of Tokyo. He was the first son of Dr. and Mrs. Takeo Sano. His father was a well-known surgeon. After Dr. Sano graduated from high school, he entered the University of Tokyo Faculty of Medicine from which he graduated with his M.D. degree in 1945.

Because there was no internship in Japan, he joined the First Surgical Department of the University of Tokyo to receive postgraduate training in general surgery from Professor Ohtsuki. Neurosurgery in Japan originated from this department of surgery through the efforts of Kentaro Shimizu (1903-present). Dr. Shimizu

first joined the Department of Psychiatry after graduating from the University of Tokyo in 1929, but when two of his patients died from misdiagnosed brain tumors, he changed his mind and became a neurosurgeon. In 1932, he joined the First Surgical Department. When Dr. Sano joined the Department, Dr. Shimizu was actively practicing neurosurgery as an Associate Professor of Surgery.

In 1948, Dr. Shimizu became the Professor and Chairman of the First Surgical Department; thereafter, Dr. Sano specialized in neurosurgery. In 1948 he published several papers on the technique of percutaneous cerebral angiography. In 1951, he was awarded a degree of Doctor of Medical Science (D.M.Sc.), which corresponds to a Ph.D. in medicine. Dr. Sano obtained a fellowship from the Ministry of Education of Japan to study neurosurgery with Drs. Naffziger and Boldrey at the University of California at San Francisco and neuropathology with Dr. Nathan Malamud from 1951 to 1952.

Dr. Sano was promoted to Lecturer and Chief of the Out-patient Clinic of Neurosurgery in 1965 and then to Associate Professor of Neurosurgery at the Institute of Brain Research, University of Tokyo Faculty of Medicine in 1957. In 1962 the Japanese Government first approved and opened an independent Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Tokyo and appointed Dr. Sano as the first Professor and Chairman of the department. Later in the same year, another Department of Neurosurgery was approved at Niigata University where Dr. Komei Ueki was appointed as the Professor and Chairman. Dr. Sano and Dr. Ueki, pioneering neurosurgeons, worked continuously for almost a half century until neurosurgery was officially recognized as a definite independent discipline of clinical medicine. An additional 10 years were necessary until the Japanese Government decided to open a Department of Neurosurgery in every national university hospital.

In 1948, the first meeting on neurosurgical research was held at Niigata, and after seven meetings, the Japan Neurosurgical Society was organized in 1952. In 1965, Dr.

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