

In Memory of Professor Kemalettin Büyüköztürk

Yılmaz Nişancı

Department of Cardiology, Faculty of Medicine, İstinye University; Istanbul-Turkey

We have lost our esteemed Professor Kemalettin Büyüköztürk, one of the doyens and masters of the Turkish cardiology community. We buried and put him to eternal rest in the Zincirlikuyu family graveyard on September 6, 2016. May God rest the soul of our professor who left deep impressions on our medical and cardiology history. We also extend our deepest condolences to his family and friends.

When we look at his curriculum vitae, we understand that his discipline and principles arise from the fact that he was the son of a soldier and thus raised with special discipline. His educational background is full of achievements (first ranks) from his elementary school years to his undergraduate studies at the İstanbul Faculty of Medicine. Afterwards, he served as an assistant and chief assistant for internal diseases. He conducted long-term educational and clinical studies at Killingbeck Hospital at Leeds University (England) and at Hahnemann Medical College (Philadelphia, USA). He achieved his medical specialty, associate professorship and professorship degrees in cardiology and served as the Head of the Department of Internal medicine and the Head of the Department of Cardiology. He taught many students, assistants, specialists and associate professors and published hundreds of national and international academic studies. During his life time, he earned prestige and was appreciated for his studies.

He also served as the general secretary and vice president of the Turkish Medical Association, founding member and vice president of the Turkish Society of Cardiology, founder and president of the Echocardiography Working Group of the Turkish Society of Cardiology and the president of the Hypertension Working Group of the Turkish Society of Cardiology. He played great roles in organizations making serious efforts to improve cardiology in Turkey.

In addition to the other speakers expressing our sorrow, emotional speeches about our Professor Kemalettin Büyüköztürk, to

whom we said farewell in a ceremony held in Aziz Sancar Lecture Hall at İstanbul Faculty of Medicine, reminding ourselves of his beautiful and special character, have been made. With your leave, I will present a summary of my speech:

It is really difficult to talk, to be able to talk at the farewell ceremony for Professor Kemalettin Büyüköztürk. But, it is very easy to tell and remind those who do not know the professor about him. All the excellent and superior points and experiences one can expect from student days, the years including services as an assistant and chief assistant (I did not witness these years, but heard from other people), associate professorship years as a young and senior professorship and management years define our Professor Büyüköztürk.

I thought that if one suits his profession (an artist, sportsman, etc.) well, it means that he or she does the job in the best way possible. In this speech, which should be a short one, I decided to tell and remind you about the beautiful things that characterize our professor. There may be some words which I may have forgotten, but I hope you will think of them.

*“Dear Professor Büyüköztürk !. **Being a “professor” really fits perfectly you.** Our years as a student coincided with your academic years as a young academic. The way you taught us, the attention you paid to your students, your control over the class and your charisma were very impressive for us, and therefore we did not want to miss your classes. I'd say being a professor really suited you very well. Even my doctor colleagues who were taught by you for only a term and did not have any later contact remember you very well. In other words, you made such deep impressions as a professor!*

*Professor Büyüköztürk!. **Being an “elder brother” really fits perfectly you.** We could not address you as brother since we were not around when you were an assistant or chief assistant, but we heard stories that when a patient had problems during night shifts, you helped the personnel on these shifts who may*

Address for correspondence: Dr. Yılmaz Nişancı, Vali Konağı Cad., Asri Apt., No: 137, Kat: 2 D: 12 Nişantaşı, İstanbul-Türkiye
E-mail: ynisanci56@gmail.com

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have been scolded by the supervisors and who said, "Let's ask brother Kemalettin about this," or, "Let's ask help from brother Kemalettin." For us, it was very special to be brother Kemalettin in someone's eyes. The sincerity and hierarchical respect in the term, brother, are notable. We also note that you earned respect, sincerity and friendship from your classmates.

Professor Büyükoztürk !. **Being a doctor really suited you very well.** You taught us that one of the most important aspects of medicine is to gain the trust of the patients, and that a doctor who gained that trust would be more successful in implementing a treatment program. The approach you took towards your patients, and everybody, with love and respect was also a model for us.

Professor Büyükoztürk !. **Being a director really suited you very well, too.** Your meticulousness, fair management principles, reactions and objections to senior management when needed or when injustice occurred remain firmly in our memories.

Professor Büyükoztürk !. **Being a "scientist" really suited you very well, too.** We clearly saw and learned from you that to be a scientist, devotion is the first requirement. We are well aware that the scientific research activities you conducted until midnight with those gathered around you continued until the very end of your career.

Professor Büyükoztürk !. **Being a "meeting moderator" really suited you very well.** You were the most sought after name

for moderating national and international meetings. Most of us learned how to moderate a meeting from you.

Professor Büyükoztürk !. **Being meticulous and skeptical really suited you very well.** Patients experienced positive progresses as a result of this meticulousness, which surprised new assistants, and we also saw that you were right to be this meticulous.

Professor Büyükoztürk !. **Being a conservative doctor suited you very well, too.** Your deep knowledge and experience laid the basis for your conservative approach. You were a medication virtuoso. You discreetly evaluated and implemented practices that would excite us and be implemented right away by us. Sometimes we understood how right you were after years. I should also highlight that you were one of the first to use the opportunities provided by the internet in your studies and research.

Professor Kemalettin, **being a mediator really suited you very well.** Your approach, which resolved conflicts in a variety of cases and environments, always satisfied everybody.

Our esteemed professor! I know you had more characteristics that suited you very well. Those are the first I remember. I should finish my speech since time is limited.

Lying in this coffin here before us does not suit you !!! It is difficult to accept that a person as esteemed as you has passed away. However, we cannot escape fate".

Yours faithfully,



Prof. Dr. Kemalettin Büyükoztürk, wife and colleagues