



To the Memory of
Prof. Dr. Muzaffer AKSOY

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On December 19, 2001 we lost Prof. Dr. Muzaffer Aksoy who was one of the founders and honorary members of Turkish Society of Haematology, also a member of the editorial board of our journal between 1971-1982, and honorary member of Turkish Academy of Sciences (TUBA).

He was born in Antalya in 1916. After graduating from İstanbul Erkek Lyceum in 1934, he continued his education in Medical School of İstanbul University. He graduated from medical school in 1940. After completing his military service, he began his internal medicine residency first in Şişli Pediatric Hospital then he joined Second Internal Clinic of Medical School of İstanbul University. This clinic, headed by Prof. E. FRANK was a center of Clinical Haematology and Scientific Research where Aksoy had growing interest for Haematology. Aksoy finished his residency in 1947 and was assigned to work in Mersin State Hospital. Mediterranean coast of Turkey is an area of Thalassemia and Sickle Cell anemia so Aksoy concentrated his work on this subject and the major subject of his studies became hemolytic anaemias and their causes.

He went to Boston to work in Haematology Research Laboratory and Clinic under Prof. William Damashek for a year. He studied on methodology and he had been able to obtain anti-fetal Hb.

He returned back to Mersin and continued his studies on Sickle cell anaemia and related subjects. Then he transferred to Beyoğlu İlk Yardım Hastanesi followed by Vakıf Guraba Hospital where he worked again in Second Clinic of Internal Medicine of Medical School of İstanbul University and its haematology group. Haematology that began with Frank, continued with Prof A.İ. Çetingil. After establishment of the division system and retirement of Prof. Arif İsmet Çetingil on October 1968, Aksoy was elected to be the head of the Division of Haematology.

He completed most of his studies in the division with this group. He became professor in 1996 and earned his position in 1968. He retired in 1984. Prof. Aksoy was appointed as a faculty emeritus until 1989. He married with Nedime Aksoy and she was with him all these long years and helped him in every sense. He had three children.

Prof. Aksoy had published over 300 scientific papers in Turkish and in English. Another important aspect of Aksoy was the fact that he published his scientific papers in Turkish as well as in English, and this shows his effort for Turkish to be a scientific language as Atatürk wished. Beside scientific publications he made field research in certain areas in order to clarify the incidence of Abnormal Haemoglobins, Thalassemic syndroms, Glucose 6-phosphate deficiency in South East Anatolia, Lebanon etc.

We can classify his main works in 3 groups:

A. Studies on Thalassemia, clinical types and also a combination of different abnormal hemoglobins. A new abnormal Hb "Hb-Istanbul"

B. Sick cell anaemia and HbS, clinical and laboratory evaluations and also combinations. These studies demonstrated the largest HbS group existing in white race.

C. Toxic hemopathies due to benzene which causes aplastic anaemia and especially leukemia are among his important contributions. With his struggle, benzene intoxication was accepted as a profession related disease.

Muzaffer Aksoy was awarded many times for his scientific contributions such as "TÜBİTAK Science Award, State Award, Sedat Simavi Award, Eczacıbaşı Scientific Award, Ramazine Scientific Honour Award".

It is impossible to give every detail of Aksoy's scientific contributions in this brief editorial. But one of this year's last issue of Turkish Journal of Haematology which will have international contributions will be devoted to him. It is also a pleasure to learn that TÜBA will publish a book in the near future about him. There will be a lecture devoted to Aksoy in this year's annual meeting of the Turkish Society of Haematology.

Muzaffer Aksoy with his humble and friendly personality and his broad intellectual capacity, his interest in arts and especially in classic music always occupied an exceptional place among us.

Aksoy belongs to the first generation of modern Turkey that evolved after the foundation of our republic by Atatürk, He did not sway from the scientific and democratic principles that Atatürk had pointed out to catch the contemporary civilization. In this way he was an idealist and pioneer.

As I stated in a symposium dedicated to him "there are people who are honored by being a member of the institution, as a member of the university or a country and there are people with whom those institutions and universities and that country is honoured due to their membership". Muzaffer Aksoy is one of the rare people belonging to the above mentioned Second group.

Turkish Society Haematology, academic institutions and our country is proud of him and honoured to have raised Prof. Muzaffer Aksoy.

The Editor

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