

Citation for Prof. Masaki Kitajima

by Thomas R. Russell, MD, FACS

Mr. President, it is my honor to present Prof. Masaki Kitajima of Tokyo, Japan, for Honorary Fellowship in the American College of Surgeons. Professor Kitajima was vice-president of the International University of Health and Welfare from April 2007 through June 2009. He currently is president of International

University of Health and Welfare in Tokyo.

Professor Kitajima is truly the renaissance Japanese surgeon. He trained in Japan and did a fellowship in the department of surgery at the Massachusetts General Hospital in 1975. Following that fellowship, he returned to Keio University and Kyorin

University School of Medicine and has spent the majority of his professional life at those two institutions. He is fluent in English, and comfortable with the Western lifestyle. Professor Kitajima truly has been a promoter and strong advocate for modernizing the Japanese surgical community through evidence-based

surgical practice. He has a huge influence on surgeons in Japan, in both academic and institutional practices, and he has been a strong advocate for health care reform at the highest professional, political, and governmental levels.

As a member of numerous Japanese professional organizations and international organizations, he has held the presidency position of the Japan Society of Clinical Oncology and of the 103rd International Surgical Society. As a long-standing Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, Professor Kitajima was a Governor representing the Japan Chapter of the College; he is also an honorary fellow in the German and Hungarian Surgical Societies as well as in the American Surgical Association.

An acknowledged oncologic surgeon and associated researcher, Professor Kitajima has served the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare in

Japan by participating on expert panels that have worked to chart the future course for cancer research and cancer care, and has also served on numerous other councils and expert panels to plan and implement comprehensive cancer care in Japan. In addition to his clinical, research, and teaching activities related to surgery, he has been intimately associated with governmental and political activities aimed at reforming the health care system in Japan. He has published numerous books and papers, primarily in the area of cancer care and prevention.

Recognized and acclaimed in Japan, and internationally, as a master surgeon, Professor Kitajima possesses a wonderful personality and has a strong commitment to the ethical principles governing behavior, and to professionalism. He has achieved the highest offices in his profession in Japan in both the academic and political



Professor Kitajima

arenas. These days, Professor Kitajima and his wife, Hiroe, are enjoying a more relaxed pace in semi-retirement.

Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I present Prof. Masaki Kitajima, a master surgeon with the highest qualities of professionalism, for Honorary Fellowship in the American College of Surgeons.