

FLUORIDE

Quarterly reports

In Memoriam

KENJI AKINIWA, DDS: A DENTIST AND KEY MEMBER OF THE JAPANESE SOCIETY OF FLUORIDE RESEARCH WHO REPEATEDLY WARNED ABOUT THE RISKS OF TOXICITY WHEN FLUORIDE WAS USED IN THE PREVENTION OF DENTAL CARIES
1949-2023

Unique digital address (Digital object identifier [DOI] equivalent):

<https://www.fluorideresearch.online/epub/files/249.pdf>

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Masashi Tsunoda, MD, PhD. Professor of Department Preventive Medicine and Public Health National Defense Medical College, Tokorozawa, Japan. Arjun L Khandare Scientist G and HOD Food Safety Division (retired), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, India.	ABSTRACT Tributes by Masashi Tsunoda, Japan, and Arjun Khandare, India, to Kenji Akiniwa, DDS. Tsunoda noted that Akiniwai was a dentist and key member of the Japanese Society of Fluoride Research who repeatedly warned about the risks of toxicity when fluoride was used in the prevention of dental caries. Khandare recorded that Akiniwa was a dedicated research scientist in the field of Fluorosis and that his passion for improving public health will be remembered and cherished by all who knew him.
Accepted: 2023 Nov 2 Epub as e249: 2023 Nov 2	

IN MEMORIAM

KENJI AKINIWA, DDS: A DENTIST AND KEY MEMBER OF THE JAPANESE SOCIETY OF FLUORIDE RESEARCH WHO REPEATEDLY WARNED ABOUT THE RISKS OF TOXICITY WHEN FLUORIDE WAS USED IN THE PREVENTION OF DENTAL CARIES

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A TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND

I was very sorry to hear the news that Dr Kenji Akiniwa passed away suddenly on January 22, 2023 due to pneumonia caused by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-2019). Dr. Akiniwa is a good friend of mine and good company as a Japanese member of the International Society for Fluoride Research (ISFR). As a memorial note, I would like to introduce his life briefly, and describe my memory with him.

Dr. Akiniwa was born in Chiba Prefecture in Japan in 1949. He graduated from The Nippon Dental University and passed the national examination for a licence as a dentist. He worked at The Jikei University Hospital as a dentist for a while, and finally founded his own dental clinic in Sagami-hara city, Kanagawa. He also studied at Minzu University of China, Beijing. Alongside his clinical work he carried out research with his main field of study being the epidemiology of fluoride toxicity.

He was been a Board Member of ISFR for long time. It was nice for me to meet him at the conferences of the ISFR. We attended the ISFR conferences in Beijing, China, 2007; Toronto, Canada, 2008; Chiang Mai, Thailand, 2014; and Guiyang China, 2018. He made oral presentations and a special lecture, and served as a chairperson.

As friends, we enjoyed sightseeing after the conferences, and especially I was impressed his fluent Chinese when we visited Guiyang.

In Japan, he was a key person of the Japanese Society for Fluoride Research from its foundation in 1987.



Photo courtesy of Zhi-Zhong Guan

Kenji Akiniwa at the XXXIVth conference of the ISFR Guiyang, People's Republic of China, October 18–20, 2018.

1949– 2023

At the present time, a lot of dentists still promote water-fluoridation for the prevention of dental caries. However, this has not been introduced in Japan. Dr. Akiniwa kept warning about the risk of the use of fluoride in the prevention of dental caries prevention and published scientific evidence to support his position. In addition to his publishing scientific papers, he also wrote books for the general reader such as one titled *"Say No! to fluoride: the preventive effects of fluoride on dental caries are pseudoscience. Would you like to do fluoride mouth rinsing?"* He also translated a Chinese book titled *"People stopped fluoride intoxication: the special report for water fluoridation in China"* into Japanese. Although he closed his clinic four years ago, he continued with his passionate to prevent fluoride toxicity.

It is very sad for me to lose him suddenly. He was a good friend and sincere scientist in the dental field. I hope his work will continue receive attention from scientists in the future.

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Zhifang Wang and Kenji Akiniwa

Zhifang Wang and Kenji Akiniwa at the XVIIIth conference of the ISFR, Toronto, Canada, August 7-10, 2008



Kenji Akiniwa at the XXIIInd conference of the ISFR, Chiang Mai, Thailand, November 25–28, 2014.

IN MEMORY OF KENJI AKINIWA: A DEDICATED RESEARCH SCIENTIST IN THE FIELD OF FLUOROSIS. HIS PASSION FOR IMPROVING PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH HIS WORK WILL BE REMEMBERED AND CHERISHED BY ALL WHO KNEW HIM

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Kenji Akiniwa, who attended numerous international conferences on public health, including those held in Hyderabad arranged by me. Kenji was not only a brilliant research scientist but also a warm and compassionate friend to many including me. His contributions to the field of Fluorosis research have left a lasting impact on the global community. His legacy will live on in the memories of all those fortunate enough to have known him. Our thoughts and condolences go out to his family and friends during this difficult time. Rest in peace, Kenji.

Arjun L Khandare

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Kenji Akiniwa (on right) with colleagues at the XXIVnd conference of the ISFR, Guiyang, People's Republic of China, October 18–20, 2018.