OBITUARY: YUCEL KANPOLAT, MD (1941-2016)

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Professor Kanpolat, one of the most prominent neurosurgeons in Turkey, passed away on September 17th, 2016.

Professor Kanpolat was born in 1941 in Sivas, Turkey. He graduated as a medical doctor from Ankara University, School of Medicine in 1965. Between the years of 1965 and 1968, he completed his public health service in Diyarbakir on the eastern part of Turkey. Between 1968-1973, he completed his residency in the Department of Neurosurgery, Ankara University, School of Medicine. After his military service, he continued to work in the same Neurosurgery Department as Instructor of Neurosurgery. In 1978, he became Associate Professor in the Department of Neurosurgery, Ankara University, School of Medicine; and he became Professor in the same department in 1988. From 1999 to his retirement in December 26th, 2008, he was Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery in Ankara University, School of Medicine.

He served as Professor of Pain Surgery and Functional Neurosurgery of INI-Germany, and Paxton International Professor, Health Sciences University, Oregon, USA from 2006.

He was President of Turkish Neurosurgical Society between 1990-1991 and 1995-1996. He was elected as president of Turkish Academy of Sciences in 2008 until 2012. He worked very intensively and very actively within various international societies. He was Chairman of the research committee of EANS between 1999-2003, Vice President of EANS between 2003-2007, Executive Member of ESSFN, Executive Member of WFSFN, representative of Turkey within WFNS.

Professor Kanpolat devoted his whole life and academic career to Functional Neurosurgery. He published numerous clinical and experimental studies in Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery. He introduced the first CT guided Stereotactic pain Surgery in 1986. He is the inventor of Kanpolat Cordotomy Kit, which was produced in Burlington, Boston, USA in 1994. Within national and international many meetings, he gave lectures on stereotactic and
functional neurosurgery and for his whole academic life; he spent great effort on teaching young generations of neurosurgery in this field.

During his academic life, Professor Kanpolat published 176 international publications. Until the end of 2015, these publications received 1869 citations. He gave 92 invited lectures all over the world.

He served as Editorial Board Member of Surgical Neurology, Neurosurgery, and World Neurosurgery.

He received seven national and international awards, including distinguished service award of Turkish Neurosurgical Society in 2007.

Professor Kanpolat was a very kind person, very friendly to all of his surroundings as well as being a very humanistic person. Besides his professional lectures, he used to give lectures on history of science, philosophy of science and lectures on the life of Marie Curie, Louis Pasteur and Leonardo da Vinci. With these lectures, he always wanted to stimulate the curiosity of the younger generation to science and academic life.

Professor Kanpolat was one of the very prominent influential neurosurgeons of the Turkish neurosurgical community. He trained many neurosurgeons and with his lectures and workshops, he influenced a lot of neurosurgeons in his country. He will be always remembered and his legacy will live on. His smiling face and kind personality will be missed.