



Yuki Lynn Takahashi Memorial Lecture

Presented by Anne H. Rowley, M.D.
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine



Yuki Lynn Takahashi
(1967–1994)

1999: R. Wayne Alexander, M.D.
2001: J. Charles Jennette, M.D.
2005: Valentin Fuster, M.D.
2008: Jane C. Burns, M.D.
2012: Yoshihiro Onouchi, M.D.
2015: Yoshikazu Nakamura, M.D.
2018: Moshe Arditi, M.D.
2021: Anne H. Rowley, M.D.

Yuki Lynn Takahashi was born to Masato and Marcia Takahashi on December 7, 1967 in Los Angeles, California. She spent her childhood in San Fernando Valley. She attended University of California, Los Angeles, where she majored in kinesiology – the study of human motion and neuromuscular anatomy and physiology. She acquired her Bachelor of Science degree in June 1991. During college years she worked part-time at Los Angeles Sports Medicine (LASM), an orthopedic clinic in Marina Del Ray, and Daniel Freeman Hospital. Upon graduation she accepted full-time employment at LASM, where she continued to work until June 1994. She passed the board examinations for Physical Therapy Assistant.

All her life she enjoyed sports. She played soccer with American Youth Soccer Organization, played volleyball with high school squads, and coached boys' junior varsity squads. As an adult she continued to be involved in volleyball games on and off the beach. Yuki also studied Tai Chi, which quickly became one of her favorite activities. Among Yuki's other favorite pastimes were writing poetry, playing piano, photography and sewing.

She had a thirst for knowledge and a natural curiosity, which made her adventures. In the summer of 1994 when her older sister, Rumi, finished her tour of duty as a Peace Corps volunteer in Swaziland, Southern Africa, Yuki traveled to Africa to be with her. There, the two sisters shared marvelous experiences for two months traveling in one African country after another. Her diary speaks of beautiful African landscapes and her kind concerns toward African people she met along the way. Unfortunately, their holidays came to an abrupt and tragic end in a traffic accident on a remote country road in Tanzania, which killed Yuki instantaneously.

One characteristic of her life from beginning to the end was her love for humanity and her wish to reduce suffering whenever possible. From her chosen career in physical therapy to her volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity and homeless people, to her uncanny ability to comfort her friends and family in difficult times; in all ways Yuki was a unifier and lover of humankind.

Although she had no medical education, she shared her father's enthusiasm for clinical research in Kawasaki disease. From 1984 to 1991, she cheerfully volunteered as a coordinator of blind echocardiogram interpretations for many hours as an important part of randomized prospective studies to evaluate efficacy of intravenous gamma globulin treatments. Her attention to details and her cheerful attitude were appreciated by all the pediatric cardiologists who participated in the two landmark studies.

I know Yuki would be most pleased and honored to have this lecture named in her memory.

Masato Takahashi, M.D.

