

Special Issue in Honor of Prof. Yeong Shik Kim



It is with great honor and pleasure that we present this letter for the special issue of Natural Product Sciences, dedicated to the esteemed Professor Yeong Shik Kim of the College of Pharmacy and Natural Products Research Institute, Seoul National University. Furthermore, we wish to convey our profound gratitude to all the authors and co-authors who have contributed to this special issue.

Professor Yeong Shik Kim earned his bachelor's degree from the College of Pharmacy at Seoul National University in 1978. He obtained his master's degree from the Department of Biological Engineering at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology in 1980. Following his time as a researcher at the Korea Research Institute of Chemical Technology, he pursued further studies in the United States. He successfully completed his doctoral course, earning a Ph.D. in Medicinal and Natural Product Chemistry from the University of Iowa in 1988. After completing his postdoctoral research at the National Cancer Institute in the USA, he returned to Seoul National University and was appointed Assistant Professor at the Natural Products Research Institute in the fall of 1989. Throughout his illustrious career, he dedicated himself to serving as a remarkable mentor and expert in natural products science. His exceptional contributions led to his appointment as Associate Professor in 1992, followed by a promotion to Full Professor in 1997. Currently he has been appointed as Emeritus Professor at Seoul National University.

For the past three decades, he has dedicated his career to drug discovery and development from natural products. His primary research interests have centered around evaluating the anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties of herbal extracts and isolated compounds derived from medicinal plants. Besides, he extracted a protein from viper venom that breaks down blood clots and found a polysaccharide with strong anticoagulant properties in snail mucosa. This discovery greatly advanced research in the field. He has also researched on target-based anticancer agents derived from natural products. This research involves inhibiting transcription factors and

blocking receptor binding. Additionally, he has developed a method for isolating natural products on a preparative scale to study the *in vitro* mechanisms and *in vivo* metabolism of these compounds.

He has published over 350 papers in peer-reviewed journals, written three book chapters, and registered 30 patents. He has demonstrated exceptional proficiency as an educator and researcher, overseeing the successful completion of 33 doctoral and 32 master students, researchers, postdocs, and visiting scholars. Significantly, his impact transcended national boundaries, as he actively engaged in collaborative research endeavors with various countries including Japan, Vietnam, China, Germany, Canada, and USA. In terms of one of the activities of academic societies, he served as the President of the Korean Society of Pharmacognosy in 2013. Additionally, he held the position of Associate Editor for the Journal of Ethnopharmacology from 2012 to 2015 and for Frontiers in Pharmacology (section Ethnopharmacology) from 2016 to 2017. In addition, he strongly emphasized the importance of collaboration with people from diverse backgrounds, mentioning the significance of cooperative research with small and medium-sized companies. This collaboration not only allowed for the generation of ideas to solve their problems but also provided the opportunity to develop technology that would propel them to the next level.

We have had a long and fruitful relationship with Professor Kim over two decades. During this period, We have gained valuable knowledge and skills from him, such as research approaches and mentoring students. It is truly remarkable to witness his profound influence on our professional growth. His accomplishments will progress through his lab members and serve as valuable knowledge for generations to come. We truly admire his steadfast commitment to nurturing the global collaborative research endeavors across a myriad of companies and nations, even after his retirement. Also, We are often reminded of his compassionate and impartial conduct when he dealt with students. We firmly believe that he will remain a constant presence in our lives, providing invaluable wisdom as a seasoned elder. We genuinely wish for his perpetual happiness and healthy life.

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