

## IPA TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR DR. IHSAN DOGRAMACI 1915-2010



We of the International Pediatric Association are greatly saddened by the death of Professor Dr. Ihsan Dogramaci on February 25, 2010 at age 94. Professor Dogramaci was a Member of the IPA Advisory Board from 1965-1968, Chair of the IPA Executive Committee 1968-1974, Member of the IPA Executive Committee 1974-2010, IPA President 1974-1977, IPA Executive Director 1977-1992, and Honorary IPA President 1992-2010.

Professor Dogramaci was a unique and special human being. Although he could have risen to the peaks of political power in his native Turkey and his region, he chose instead to devote his life and career to the profession of Pediatrics and the causes of child health in his own country and in the world. His broad view of the importance of education to a country and all of its peoples led him to devote his energies to reforming the educational system in Turkey. His generosity and foresight inspired him to found two Universities which stand as giants, one in arts and sciences and one in medical education and training. He made a significant contribution to global health with his long service to both WHO and UNICEF; he was part of their founding and remained active in their causes throughout his life. He was devoted not only to traditional issues of child health but also to the wider societal issues which have lasting impact on the status of children, as reflected in his leadership of the International Children's Center now based in Ankara.

Professor Dogramaci was the shepherd of the International Pediatric Association for many years, always insisting on the importance of Pediatricians to the health of children and countries and the wide world. He reached out to Pediatricians everywhere, and welcomed the Regional Pediatric Societies of Africa, Asia, Central Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East into the IPA family, a family that had been dominated by Europe and North America. His book on the History of the International Pediatric Association is a tribute to his devotion to our organization. He never lost faith in the power of Pediatricians to change the world for the better by tending to the needs of the children and communities that they care for.

Professor Dogramaci's vast interests in the arts, notably music, and in good fellowship and conversation made him a welcome and entertaining companion. He is probably the only University leader who established and maintained a fine symphony orchestra as an inherent participant in University activities, and he was known for his presentation of wonderful recitals in his home.

We are all much richer for having knowing Professor Dogramaci. He has left a good and lasting mark on the world. His memory will remain with us, and we will miss him. Professor Dogramaci is survived by his wife of many years, Mrs. Ayser Dogramaci, a remarkable woman who has been very much a part of his IPA activities. Their family includes three children, six grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.