

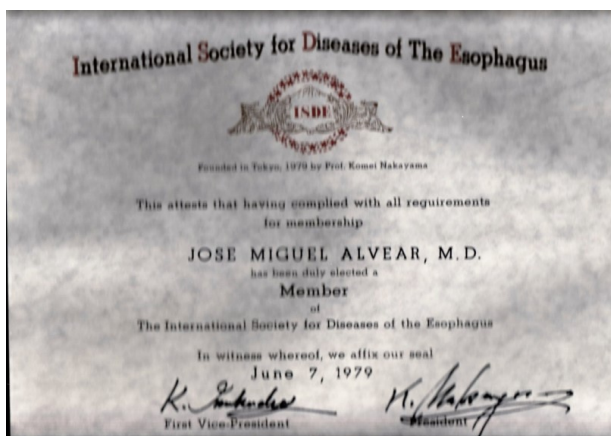
PROF. KOMEI NAKAYAMA MEMORIAL BOOK

Prof. Jose Miguel Alvear

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I meet Prof. Komei Nakayama by the end of 1978 in New York, USA, during the annual meeting of the INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS (I.C.S.), USA Section, held at the Roosevelt Hotel. It was a memorable encounter where I learned he was a former I.C.S. World President, years 1964-1965, and the founder of the INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR DISEASES OF THE ESOPHAGUS.

When he knew my long standing, interest in esophageal surgery was kind enough to invite me to become a Fellow Member of his Society. I accepted, applied and few months later, I received my diploma of Member in June 1979, together with his colorful picture showing handwritten dedicatory. The following year, in February 1980, I also became a Member on the I.C.S. Until then I was in private practice of General and Transplant Surgery in the U.S.A.



Soon thereafter, I decided to return to my country to open my private practice in my home city, Quito capital of Ecuador, in 1980. I had gone to U.S.A. right after graduation at Central University of Ecuador in 1969 as a Medical-Surgical Doctor, seeking a General Surgery Specialty, which took 5 years (Universities of New Mexico and Connecticut) as well as Subspecialty in Transplantation Surgery at Wayne State University, (two more years, Michigan State), where I obtained my licenses after Boards and other examinations. Immediately returned to sunny New Mexico State and opened my own private practice that lasted until 1980.

Next time I saw Prof. Nakayama was in February 1982 in New Delhi, India, during the XXIII Biennial Congress of the International College of Surgeons.

This was the very first ICS World Biannual Congress I attended representing Ecuador and I continued to attend, every other year, for the next 26 years. The inaugural I.C.S. Council meeting was presided by Komei Nakayama Honorary Congress President, Kenji Honda I.C.S. World President, and Malcom Todd (U.S.A.) incoming I.C.S. World President.

Arjun Segal (Delhi) and Tehempton Udwadia (Bombay) headed this Congress Organizing Committee. T. Udwadia became I.C.S. World President 1989-1990.



We had the privilege to shake hands with India Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, never expected she would be killed two years later.



A daily newspaper published during the Congress brought at front page this short description of Prof. Nakayama:

20th February 1982

PROF NAKAYAMA ON CARCINOMA OESOPHAGUS



Dr Komei Nakayama Honorary Professor Director of the Institute of Gastroenterology, Tokyo, is a renowned authority on cancer of the stomach and oesophagus.

He has been operating now for more than 40 years and has developed the 'Nakayama Technique' in Oesophageal Cancer surgery which is now used all over the world.

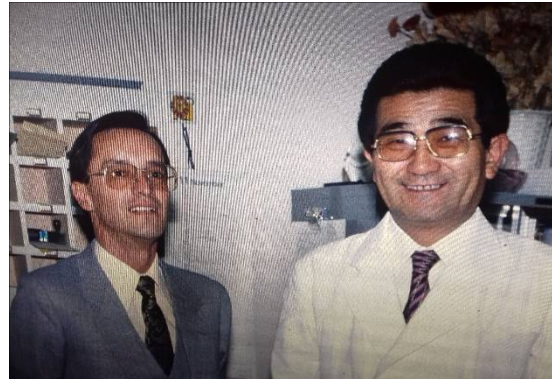
In his early seventies the Professor, Honorary member of many International Surgical Societies, is Past President of the International College of Surgeons and the Japanese Surgical Association.

Prof Nakayama presented his work on Carcinoma Oesophagus on which he has been working for the last 40 years. Cancers of the oesophagus and stomach are the commonest forms of malignancy in Japan. A fish diet and particularly hot food are some of the predisposing factors in causing this cancer.

He presented the results of a large series of cases operated by him. Prof Nakayama has operated on over 3000 cases of cancer of the stomach and oesophagus. His technique involves minimum amount of bleeding during the operation so the patient does not need blood transfusions during surgery. The techniques of anastomosis between the oesophagus and small bowel, designed by Prof Nakayama were highlighted during his lecture. These techniques enable the patient to take larger quantities of food despite the fact that a large section of the stomach has been resected. The incidence of post operative complications like reflex oesophagitis is minimum with his technique. One of the serious problems after resection of the cancerous oesophagus is maintaining bowel continuity. Prof Nakayama emphasised that if metallic clips are used for anastomosis, the post-operative incidence of leak is minimal.

To obtain good results and give better care and longevity to such patients an early detection of the disease is of utmost importance. For this purpose, Prof Nakayama suggested that, the routine endoscopy is absolutely necessary. It not only gives a fairly good idea about the extent of the tumour, but also enables biopsy to reveal its nature.

The following I.C.S. World Congress was posted in Manila, Phillipines, by December 1984. I began organizing my active participation in the I.C.S. XXIV Congress to have the chance to visit Japan previously. My goal was to visit Prof. Nakayama in his operating room in Tokyo and see Japan as much as possible. I was delighted to meet two Prof. Nakayama disciples: Prof. Mitsuo Endo as well as Prof. Fujio Hanyu.



They took me to the operating room, I get dressed, entered, say hello to Prof. Nakayama and saw him perform a total gastrectomy using his own creation of a surgical instrument graciously called “KACHANKA”...! Great experience never forgotten. Prof. Nakayama passed away 20 years later, in 2005.