Dr. Takeo Ohnishi, a Professor Emeritus of Nara Medical University, age 72, passed away peacefully on Saturday morning, July 8, 2017 at Nara Medical University Hospital of hepatic cancer. He was an insightful scientist and an expert in many fields such as radiation biology, hyperthermia and space science. At the time of his last hospitalization of six weeks, he was able to personally say good-bye and thank you to more than 150 friends and colleagues. He was satisfied with his life, expect for the fact that he could not live longer than the mentor he respected.

Ohnishi-sensei was born on October 20, 1944 in Hyogo, Japan. His name changed like “Shusseuo” (Takeo-chan → Ohnishi-kun → Ohnishi-sensei). The term “Shusseuo”, which originated from a peculiarly Japanese name-change custom, represents “fishes whose names change as they grow, as if they’re being promoted”, such as a yellowtail, WAKASHI (juvenile yellowtail) → INADA (grow-up juvenile yellowtail) → BURI (yellowtail). Takeo-chan was known as a child prodigy in his hometown and graduated at the top of his class from Osaka University. After receiving his PhD from Osaka University in 1973, Ohnishi-kun started to work with Dr. Keiichi Nozu as an Assistant Professor at Nara Medical University. Ohnishi-kun was promoted to Senior Lecturer and Associate Professor. Ohnishi-kun then became a Visiting Professor at the Department of Molecular Biology, Pennsylvania State University from 1981 to 1983. Ohnishi-sensei became Professor and Chair of the Department of Biology, Nara Medical University in 1988.