

**"My gratitude goes to all who have looked after my father so well."**

"Broad-minded and open-hearted" will probably be the best expression to define my father's personality. As a physician and a medical scientist, he ran through his professional career with all his heart. He worked to the best of his ability for the development of the frozen blood technology. My father completed his mission as director of the Japan Society for Low Temperature. He was so busy day in and day out. I do not remember ever seeing him relaxing at home. He dedicated his passion to his patients and the further development of medical science in Japan.

Being a man of such a personality, he was probably unable to cut corners on anything at all. Finding a little bit of time in his busy life, he loved to draw oil paintings and hold exhibitions not only in Japan but also in foreign countries. No matter how old he became, he always looked full of energy. So, the images of my father drinking alcohol cheerfully and laughing hilariously remain vividly in my memory.

My father, who walked straight on his path, insisted on holding an exhibition all of a sudden on New Year's Day last year. I could not hide my surprise at his hasty plan.

I found later, however, that he was diagnosed with a serious disease two years before. So, he might have recognized that his days were numbered. It was not until July this year that we were notified of his disease. After all, he could carry on with consultation, surgery, and research to the limit of his physical ability.

We believe he was gratified with so many years he could live true to himself. My late father Sajio Sumida ended his life on November 1, 2017, aged 84.

My gratitude goes to all of you who shared joyful moments with him and extended helpful hands to him when necessary. Because of you, he could get over the mountains and walk through the valleys.

Please forgive me for taking the liberty of expressing my appreciation with this letter.

Ryutaro Sumida  
On behalf of the family  
and relatives  
The day of his funeral  
November 10, 2017

