Our father, Hirotaro Narabayashi died on March 18, 2001, at the age of 78, in the Neurological Clinic, Tokyo, which he had founded in 1957. In response to his death rather unexpected to most of his acquaintance, many kind and warm messages of sympathy and condolences have been addressed to the family, Riichiro, Reiko and Yohsuke.

We gratefully acknowledge those messages, and we also express here hearty thanks for the honor to our late father to be dedicated a memorable issue of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery.

Our father had suffered from aged macular degeneration with repeated attacks of sub-retinal hemorrhage on the right to left eyes. The second attack occurred in April last year, during his routine operation and he almost lost his central vision. Despite this sudden difficulty, he could manage to operate to the end with a successful result for the patient, who, as the result, became the last case of his stereotactic surgery, after 44 years.

About a month after the last operation, he decided by himself to present the third-generation device for stereotactic surgery, which he and Dr. Chihiro Ohye, his best collaborator, designed and had used for more than 30 years, as a gift for the medical community, to Dr. Blaine Nashold in the Duke University Medical Center.

Although he had received intensive treatments and continued rehabilitation, his physical condition worsened, especially after the death of his beloved wife, Atsuko, last October. He was deeply sorrowed over this complex of burdens. His physical condition had gradually became weakened, despite his best endeavor to recover.

On Sunday morning, he suddenly passed away.

The days of neurosurgery in the Neurological Clinic were thus over, and we now hope that some works and memories of our father continue to survive.
Besides, we believe that it is worth an effort to maintain some functions of the Clinic. For the time being, Riichiro as a psychiatrist and Yohsuke as a neurologist are responsible to continue the Clinic for general patients. Then, under the name of Narabayashi Memorial Laboratory of Neurology, the Neurological Clinic (Director: Yohsuke Narabayashi), Dr. Tomokazu Oshima and Dr. Nobuo Miyashita, the remaining staff of the Clinic, are to engage in analytical research on the neurological and surgical records of interest that had been accumulated and stored by Hirotaro Narabayashi and his many associates. The address for correspondence is as follows: Dr. Yohsuke Narabayashi, 5-12-8 Nakameguro, Meguro-ku, Tokyo, 153-0061, Japan (Tel. +81 3 3712 0693, Fax +81 3 3715 3393, E-Mail to: ynar@mars.dti.ne.jp).

We thank you again for all you have done for our father and sincerely wish for fruitful years to come on all of you.

Riichiro Narabayashi
Reiko Taira
Yohsuke Narabayashi