

Tokyo, October 4th, 2025

**Dear Mrs Nagai, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,**

It is an honour for me to speak at this memorial service, to pay tribute to the memory of Professor Nagai. I am deeply thankful to say a few words about my dear colleague and friend, who was for so many years.

I first met Professor Nagai more than 40 years ago, when I was the Scientific Secretary of FIP, the International Pharmaceutical Federation, when he attended FIP Conferences. He was one of the few participants from Japan, from Asia in general, and he was the first Japanese to receive the prestigious Host Madsen Medal in 1986 for his ground breaking research in pharmaceutical technology and drug delivery. My own first visit to Japan was in 1987 when I presented the Nagai Distinguished Lecture at the annual meeting of APSTJ, which was a great honour. Professor Nagai and Mrs Nagai extended great hospitality to me, then, and ever since, during my numerous lecturing visits to Japan. They both taught me to appreciate the exquisite Japanese cuisine and Japanese culture, including Kabuki Opera. Over the years we have met at many conferences all over the world, sharing our passion to advance the pharmaceutical sciences and international collaboration. Professor Nagai opened up Japanese pharmaceutical sciences to the rest of the world and he became one of the most influential and respected scientific personalities, whose impact has reached far beyond the sciences alone, thanks to his sincere leadership and diplomatic skills.

One of my most memorable events with Professor Nagai was a one week's visit to Tokyo in 2008 with 30 of our biopharmaceutical sciences students from Leiden (see picture). He had organized visits to pharmaceutical companies and to the University of Tokyo where Professor Sugiyama was our host. During the whole week Professor Nagai accompanied us, he always walked ahead of the group as a true leader. We organized a "Leiden evening" in one of the hotels, with Japanese scientists who had spent time as postdoc in Leiden and

also with 3 former ambassadors of Japan to The Netherlands. This was an unforgettable experience for our students, they still talk about it today. The students organized a reunion the next year, when Professor and Mrs Nagai visited Leiden. With lots of “kanpai” the students were able to express their sincere thanks.

Another memorable event was the Honorary Doctorate bestowed on me by Hoshi University when Professor Nagai was its President. I cherish the medal with the pharmacist Buddha and my name inscribed. In that same year, 2001 (see picture), Professor Nagai and myself received the Doctor of Science Honoris Causa degree from the University of London, with Professor Sandy Florence as our promotor. We both received a red and yellow academic gown at this festive occasion.

During the past 40 years there were many more memorable events, where our paths crossed, too numerous to recall here today. I can only say that I feel very privileged to have known Professor Nagai for so long and to have become a close colleague and friend. His influence and legacy worldwide, cannot be overestimated. He established the Nagai Foundation Tokyo and with the help of Mrs Nagai, this Foundation has supported numerous young pharmaceutical scientists to engage with scientists in other parts of the world. A wonderful and lasting contribution to facilitate crossing borders in research and geographically, all thanks to the vision and generosity of Professor Nagai. His vision, wisdom, dignity, and way of life well spent, is an inspiring example to all of us.

Professor Nagai’s personal and professional legacy will resonate for a long time, in Japan and in many other parts of the world. We will remember him with great respect, gratitude and affection. May he rest in eternal peace.

Thank you.

Douwe D. Breimer

Past Rector Magnificus & President  
of Leiden University