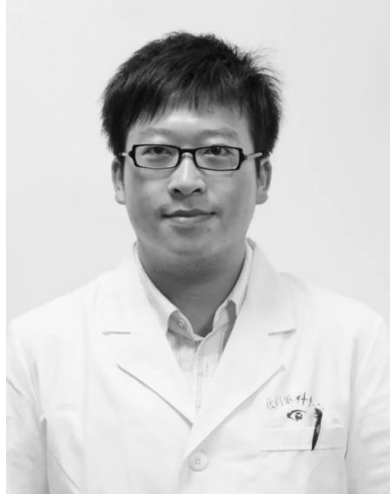


In Memory of Dr. Wenliang Li

(1986 – 2020)



Dr. Wenliang Li, a young ophthalmologist at Wuhan Central Hospital who first alerted his classmates and the public of a possible infective epidemic (now named COVID-19 by the World Health Organization), died of this coronavirus infection on February 7, 2020, at the young age of 34.

Dr. Li attained the combined Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Clinical Medicine at Wuhan University School of Medicine in 2011. After a brief spell at the Affiliated Xiamen Eye Center of Xiamen University, he joined the Wuhan Central Hospital as an ophthalmologist in 2014.

Dr. Li noticed signs of a pending infective epidemic at its earliest stage, and at the same time bravely raising the alarm. He shared his observations on social media in late December, 2019, of seven cases of possible viral infection that appeared similar to the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). All these cases were somehow related to the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market, a local wet market in Wuhan. He warned his fellow doctors to wear protective clothing for protection. His post was quickly and widely circulated online.

Unfortunately, Dr. Li contracted the virus when he treated a glaucoma patient on January 8, 2020. He finally died of the coronavirus infection on February 7, at the young age of 34.

The world is deeply saddened by the loss of a young, bright, and brave ophthalmologist, and Dr. Li will be fondly remembered with utmost respect.

Dr. Li is survived by a son and his wife, who is six-month pregnant. We convey our deepest condolences and sympathy to Dr. Li's family and friends.

Messages in Honor and Remembrance of Dr. Wenliang Li

We are deeply saddened to hear the shocking news of Dr. Wenliang Li, a brave, dynamic and young ophthalmologist who was alerting everyone about the novel coronavirus, is no more with us. Please accept my deep condolences to his family. May God rest his departed soul in peace and keep him in heaven.

Prof. Ava Hossain
President-Elect, Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology

It is very sad that a person who alerted us is no more with us and is falling victim to the coronavirus. We all stand by his family in this hour of crisis and pray to God to rest his soul in peace.

Prof. Rajvardhan Azad
Chair, Ophthalmic Education Committee, Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology

It is very sad that the man who alerted the world to coronavirus and saved many lives with his bravery should pass away from the infection. We express our deepest sympathies to his family during this very sad time.

Prof. Frank Martin
President, Asia-Pacific Strabismus and Paediatric Ophthalmology Society

Dr. Li's courage is amazing. His death is a tragedy. He has our great respect and our deepest condolences to his family.

Prof. Hugh Taylor
Immediate Past President, International Council of Ophthalmology

In the name of Thai Ophthalmologists, I would like to share my deepest condolences to the family of Dr. Wenliang Li on the loss of their loved one. Dr. Li's remarkable notice of the emerging new horrifying disease, that soon after became world attention, deserves great respect from us all. May he rest in peace.

In the meantime, our hearts are also with the Chinese health officials in their fight against COVID-19 to get the situation back to normal as best as they can.

Dr. Anuchit Poonyathalang
President, The Royal College of Ophthalmologists of Thailand