

Obituary



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A Life Dedicated to Science, Education, and the Homeland: In Memory of Prof. Dr. Şinasi Yalçın (1955-2025)

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Prof. Dr. Şinasi Yalçın

Prof. Dr. Şinasi Yalçın, MD, known as the “Teacher of Teachers,” passed away on May 1, 2025, at the age of 70 in his beloved hometown of Elazığ. On the first anniversary of his passing, we commemorate him with deep respect for both the invaluable contributions he made to the Faculty of Medicine at Firat University and the enduring legacy he left to the Turkish Otorhinolaryngology (ENT) community.

Early Years and a Life Devoted to Education: Şinasi Yalçın was born on January 15, 1955, in Elazığ. He began his education in his hometown and, in 1972, enrolled at Middle East Technical University to study Engineering. However, his passion for medicine led him to transfer to the Kayseri Gevher Nesibe Faculty of Medicine in 1974. He completed his medical education in 1980 at Dokuz Eylül University Faculty of Medicine, graduating third in his class. He completed his residency training in 1986 at 19 Mayıs University. Although he was exempt from compulsory service due to his academic excellence, he chose to serve his hometown by joining Firat University in Elazığ.

A Story of Achievement at Firat University: Appointed as an assistant professor in 1986 at the Department of Otorhinolaryngology of Firat University, Dr. Yalçın transformed a clinic with limited resources into an internationally accredited center for education and research over a period of 35 years. To modernize the clinic, he mobilized local resources in Elazığ and personally contributed to acquiring numerous facilities, from surgical instruments to advanced technological equipment.

He was promoted to full professor in 1995 and held several key administrative positions, including serving on the senate, as deputy chief physician, and as head of department. Over the course of his 42-year professional career, he trained thousands of medical students and 52 ENT specialists, leaving an indelible mark on medical education and the ENT community. He also made substantial contributions to the scientific literature through more than 300 publications, presentations, and book chapters.

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Leadership in the Turkish ENT Community and Regional Development: Prof. Dr. Şinasi Yalçın's vision extended beyond his own institution. Believing that collaboration among Anatolian clinics would foster collective advancement, he helped establish the Fırat-Dicle Basin ENT and Head and Neck Surgery Association in 1998. This association set a precedent for other regional societies in Türkiye and contributed to the development of the national organizational structure (Figure 1).

Between 2010 and 2012, he served as the 10th President of the Turkish Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery Society and as the Chairman of the 32nd National Congress

of Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery. He also emphasized the importance of cadaveric dissection in residency training and founded the Prof. Dr. Şinasi Yalçın Microsurgery and Dissection Laboratory, a pioneering initiative in Türkiye (Figures 2-4).

“The Agha of Elazığ”: Known among his colleagues as “The Agha of Elazığ,” Dr. Yalçın has won the hearts of many with his hospitality and fatherly demeanor. He has always encouraged his students to practice empathy, and by saying, “Never leave patients helpless in the emergency room,” has personally embodied the most fundamental principle of medical ethics.



Figure 1. The symposium of the Fırat-Dicle Basin ENT and Head and Neck Surgery Association, 2000



Figure 2. The Prof. Dr. Şinasi Yalçın Microsurgery and Dissection Laboratory, Professor Şinasi Yalçın, with his colleagues, 2016



Figure 3. Temporal Bone Dissection Course, 2017



Figure 4. Advisory board of the Turkish Society of Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery, 2018

Even during the most challenging periods of his illness, he remained devoted to science, continuing to attend symposia, often with respiratory support, and to share his professional experience. His happy family life with his wife Nevin, his

companion of 52 years, along with their two sons and three grandchildren, was a major source of strength behind his academic achievements (Figures 5 and 6).



Figure 5. 5th National Medical Students' Congress, 2018



Figure 6. Monthly scientific meeting of the Fırat-Dicle Basin ENT and Head and Neck Surgery Association, 2021

Prof. Dr. Şinasi Yalçın was not only a surgeon and academic but also a true role model for his students, distinguished by his discipline, generosity, and unwavering commitment to his principles. His scientific legacy and ethical values will

continue to live on through the many physicians he trained. Since May 1, 2025, every first of May has carried a profound sense of sorrow for us.

May he rest in peace.