

# BILKENT NEWS

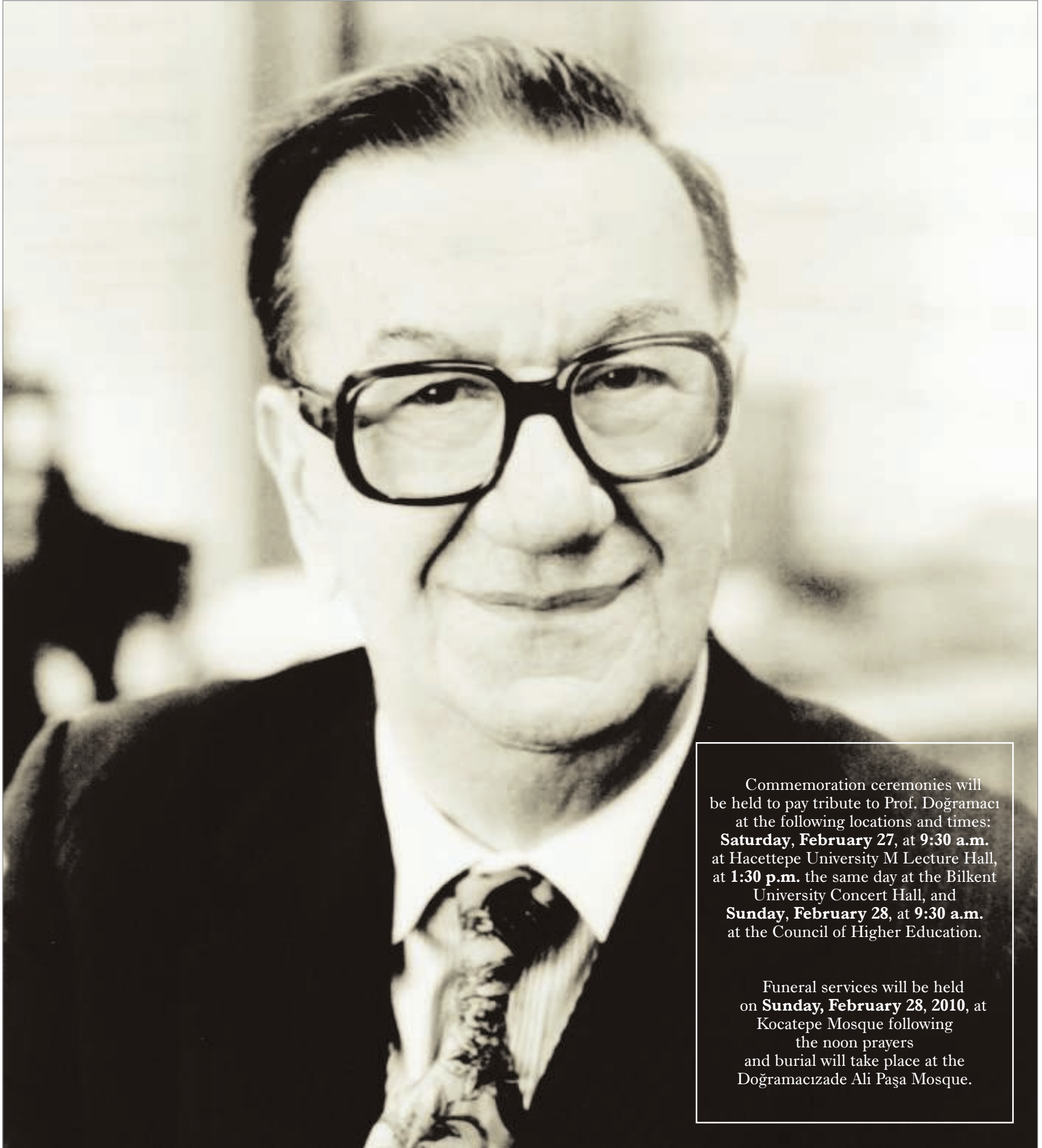
Weekly Newspaper of Bilkent University

## Bilkent Mourns the Loss of Its Founder, Prof. İhsan Dođramacı Rest in Peace, Hocabey

Bilkent University lost its founder, Prof. İhsan Dođramacı, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Bilkent University, on Thursday, February 25, at Hacettepe University Hospital where he was being treated.

Hocabey will always be remembered for his contributions to health care and higher education.

We extend our condolences to his family, the Bilkent community, the nation and the international community.



Commemoration ceremonies will be held to pay tribute to Prof. Dođramacı at the following locations and times:  
**Saturday, February 27, at 9:30 a.m.** at Hacettepe University M Lecture Hall, at **1:30 p.m.** the same day at the Bilkent University Concert Hall, and  
**Sunday, February 28, at 9:30 a.m.** at the Council of Higher Education.

Funeral services will be held on **Sunday, February 28, 2010**, at Kocatepe Mosque following the noon prayers and burial will take place at the Dođramacızade Ali Paşa Mosque.

# Biography of İhsan Dođramacı

Professor İhsan Dođramacı was born 95 years ago in Erbil, northern Iraq, which was then part of the Ottoman Empire. As the son of an influential Turkmen family, his background was intimately linked to the history and heritage of the Empire. His father, Ali Pasha Dođramacı, was mayor of Erbil, and his mother was the daughter of a representative in the Ottoman parliament.

In 1942 he would marry Ayser Süleyman. Her family included a grand vizier of the Empire and a field marshal in the Ottoman Army. Her father, Hikmet Süleyman, served as prime minister of Iraq in the 1930s. Ayser and İhsan Dođramacı would have three children, Şermin, Ali and Osman.

This family heritage always remained central to İhsan Dođramacı's life. However, his career took him far from Erbil and from the traditional pursuits of a wealthy landholder.

After completing Turkish primary school in Erbil, he graduated from the Preparatory School of the American University of Beirut and the Faculty of Medicine of İstanbul University. He trained in pediatrics in Ankara, Turkey, under Professor Albert Eckstein, and in the United States at Harvard University and Washington University in St. Louis. He and his family then settled in Ankara in 1947.

The young pediatrician rapidly advanced in the University of Ankara Faculty of Medicine, becoming professor of pediatrics in 1955. Even in those early years he was already envisioning the creation in Turkey of nonprofit private institutions of higher learning resembling those he had seen and worked at in the United States.

In 1955, in an impoverished area of Ankara, he established the Institute of Child Health attached to the University of Ankara, and by 1961 the Institute included Turkey's first university-level schools of nursing, nutrition and dietetics, physical therapy and rehabilitation, and medical technology. He then proceeded to establish the Hacettepe Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, which was a second faculty of medicine within the University of Ankara, and a school of dentistry.

Professor Dođramacı became rector of the University of Ankara in 1963 for a two-year term, followed by two years as president of the Board of Trustees of Middle East Technical University in Ankara. In 1967 the Hacettepe Faculty of Medicine and the other schools under the Institute of Child Health were chartered as a new university, Hacettepe University, today one of the leading institutions of higher education in Turkey. Professor Dođramacı served as its rector until 1975. When his term finished, he accepted an appointment as visiting professor of pediatrics at the University of Paris Descartes.

In 1980 the Turkish government

invited Professor Dođramacı to advise on the drafting of a new law governing higher education in the country. His recommendations for restructuring Turkey's higher education system included establishing a Council of Higher Education, with its president reporting directly to the president of the Republic. He was appointed to head the Council and served 12 years, until 1992.

Subsequent to this restructuring, major advances took place within Turkish higher education. In 1980 only 6.3 percent of the university-age population in Turkey was enrolled in institutions of higher learning. At that time the rate in Western Europe was 32 percent, in Greece and Bulgaria 22 percent, and in neighboring Syria 14 percent. In the following 25 years the ratio in Turkey increased to 38.2 percent. In terms of research as reflected in the number of publications in scientific journals, Turkey's ranking rose from 45th to 18th among the world's nations during the same time period.

In 1982 an amendment to Turkey's Constitution allowed for the creation of nonprofit institutions of higher education by foundations. In 1984 Professor Dođramacı established the first of these, Bilkent University, and became president of its Board of Trustees, a position he continued to hold throughout his lifetime. Eight years later the second and third foundation universities opened. Today, of the 139 universities in Turkey, 94 were established by the state and 45 by foundations.

Professor Dođramacı would eventually establish a total of five philanthropic foundations in Turkey, which in turn gave rise to hospitals and educational institutions, including Bilkent. Another of his foundations, the İhsan Dođramacı Family Health Foundation, was created for the benefit of the World Health Organization. It has been awarding a prize regularly since 1983 to individuals who have given distinguished service in the field of family health.

İhsan Dođramacı was active in the fields of medicine and education not only in Turkey, but internationally as well throughout his long lifetime. A true citizen of the world, he was fluent in Arabic, English, French and German in addition to his native Turkish.

As early as 1946, while still a research fellow in pediatrics at Washington University in the United States, he had the historic opportunity to be a signatory to the Constitution of the World Health Organization. Following his return to Turkey, WHO asked him to visit and advise on the establishment of new schools of medicine and health sciences at the University of Sherbrooke in Quebec, Canada; at the University of Brasilia, in the new capital of Brazil in South America; and in Ife, Nigeria, and Yaoundé, Cameroon, in Africa. He traveled to each of those locations and offered guidance regarding the setup and development of educational health centers that included medical schools and facilities for training other health personnel.

He headed the Turkish delegation to the World Health Assembly (WHO's decision-making body) for six years and served as chair of the European Region countries and as vice chairman of the Assembly in 1976. Over the years, Professor Dođramacı was a member of the WHO Executive Board and also served on the organization's Global Advisory Committee on Medical Research, Expert Advisory

Panel on Health Manpower, Consultative Group on Maternal and Young Child Nutrition, and Programme Advisory Committee in Maternal and Child Health. WHO recognized his contributions by awarding him the Léon Bernard Foundation Prize in 1981 and the Health-for-All Gold Medal in 1997.

Professor Dođramacı was also active in UNICEF, serving on its Executive Board for several decades. He was elected chairman of the organization's Programme Committee for three terms and chairman of the Executive Board for two. In 1995 UNICEF honored him with the Maurice Pate Award. In Turkey, he served as president of the National Committee for UNICEF from 1958 to 2003, and after that as honorary president.

In his own specialty, child health, Professor Dođramacı was chosen as president of the International Pediatric Association in 1968. He would lead the IPA for a quarter of a century, in turn as president and executive director. From 1992 on, he held the position of honorary president.

While serving as chairman of the Executive Board of UNICEF, Professor Dođramacı became a member of the Advisory Board of the International Children's Center in Paris, and he continued as a Board member from 1970 to 1984. When the ICC in Paris was dissolved in 1999 after 50 years of existence, he re-established it in Ankara, serving as its president from 1999 to 2006, and thereafter as honorary president.

He was author of a large number of scientific articles, chapters and books, mostly dealing with medicine and the health sciences. Five books have been written about his life and accomplishments and published in various countries, in seven languages.

Although Professor Dođramacı was offered the post of minister of foreign affairs and also proposed as prime minister of Turkey, he declined on both occasions in order to concentrate on his work in health and education.

Professor Dođramacı received numerous awards, medals and decorations. He held honorary doctorates from 26 universities in 14 countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Finland, Italy, Japan and Egypt. He was a member of national academies in Germany, France, India, the United States and Azerbaijan, and an honorary member of 23 national pediatric societies across the globe.

The heads of state of Turkey, Azerbaijan, Iran, the Dominican Republic, Finland, Poland, Estonia and France honored him with the highest decorations of their respective nations. The parliament of Egypt and the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, as well as other governmental agencies, also gave him their highest awards and medals. In 1998 the Council of Europe, at a ceremony in Vienna, conferred on him its Prize for Peace, Justice and Tolerance.

Encompassing nearly a century, İhsan Dođramacı's life was characterized by a deep and enduring interest in the needs of young people, whether children in the pediatric wards of hospitals or students in universities. His goals in these areas were both national and global. His commitment to improve health care and education in his homeland, Turkey, was always paralleled by a broader vision which rested on a pragmatic and humanistic understanding of transnational interdependence. Although the circumstances into which he was born and the times in which he lived played a part in the enormous success he achieved, his impact upon Turkey and throughout the world derived ultimately from his focus on a set of ideas and ideals and a personal strength of will that drove him ever forward to achieve what he saw as necessary and beneficial.



Future education reformer İhsan Dođramacı in his final year at Erbil Elementary School

# In Memory of İhsan Doğramacı

İhsan Doğramacı was born in 1915 into a wealthy land-owning Ottoman family in the town of Erbil in northern Iraq. His father was mayor of Erbil, and later a member of the Senate in Iraq, representing the Erbil Turkmens. His mother was the daughter of an Ottoman Parliament member for Kirkuk. Together, the two families were related to a large number of families who had resided in the area for hundreds of years.



İhsan's maternal grandfather Mehmet Ali Kırdar, member of the Ottoman Parliament for Kirkuk



İhsan's father Ali Paşa Doğramacı, while mayor of Erbil



İhsan's mother İsmet Hanım



The citadel of Seljuk ruler Muzaffereddin Gökborü's capital Erbil in northern Mesopotamia - İhsan Doğramacı was born in a house within the citadel



Professor İhsan Doğramacı (1954)



Associate Professor İhsan Doğramacı (1949)

During his residency in pediatrics at Ankara Numune Hospital (1939) - his mentor Prof. Eckstein is second from the left, with the young Dr. Doğramacı beside him

While İhsan was studying in Beirut, his father had become a senator, and the family had moved to Baghdad. When İhsan rejoined them, he entered the Baghdad College of Medicine, a school largely run by British teachers upon the basis of the Edinburgh University curriculum. He studied there for three years, but was never able to feel at home in Baghdad. He had always wished to go to Turkey, and so in 1936 he left for İstanbul, where he was accepted into the University of İstanbul, School of Medicine and proceeded to apply himself single-mindedly to his studies. His colleagues already regarded him as different from themselves. Their aim was to work toward getting a degree and a job, and they were content within those limits. But even at that early stage, İhsan Doğramacı was looking much farther ahead.



İhsan while a student at the Preparatory School of the American University of Beirut (1930)

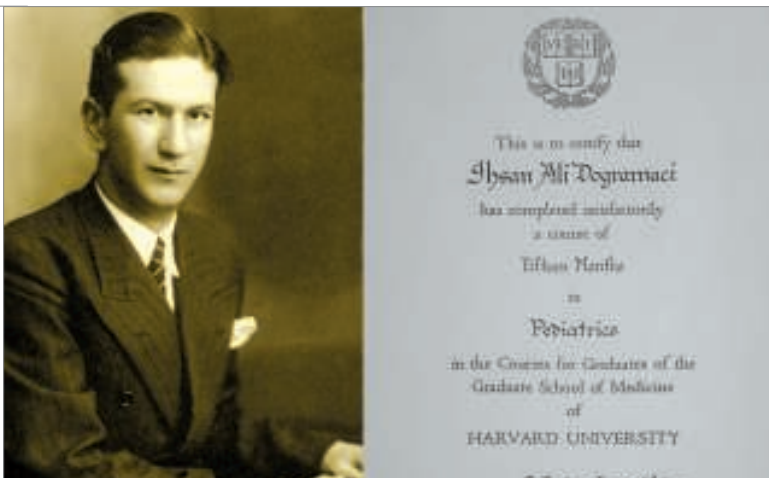
As a student at the School of Medicine, İstanbul University (1936)



During his senior year at the School of Medicine, İstanbul University (1938)



During his pediatric training at Harvard University



# From the Album of İhsan Dođramacı



İhsan and Ayser Dođramacı with their two oldest children Ali and Şermin

İhsan and Ayser's wedding day, April 16, 1942



İhsan and Ayser Dođramacı with their three children Ali, Şermin and Osman



İhsan Dođramacı signing the World Health Organization Constitution New York, July 1946



With the founding executive director of UNICEF Maurice Pate, and his wife



İhsan Dođramacı, Chairman of the World Health Assembly



With James Grant, executive director of UNICEF (1987)



With Robert Debré, founding director of the International Children's Center (ICC)



İhsan Dođramacı, rector of Hacettepe University



Prof. Dođramacı presiding at the World Health Assembly



Prof. Dođramacı chairing a session of the World Health Assembly (1966)



Representing Ankara University as its rector, at the meeting of European rectors at Göttingen, Germany (1964)

# Founder of Two Leading Universities



Building where the Child Health Clinic and Institute started (1954)



Hacettepe Children's Hospital (1961)



Hacettepe Children's Hospital emergency entrance (1961)

In the 1940s, when İhsan Doğramacı was studying in the United States at Harvard University and Washington University, he became acquainted with private, non-government organizations and universities.

Convinced that the private, not-for-profit model had great potential for application in his own country as well, he in 1951 drafted a proposal for a children's medical center in Ankara, where he had settled and set up his medical practice following his return from the US.

Prof. Doğramacı then established a foundation to support the proposed medical center. In subsequent years he would go on to establish additional foundations to support new ventures and new initiatives in medicine and education.

Meanwhile, he founded Hacettepe Medical Center, Hacettepe Hospital and Hacettepe Medical School. Following that came the creation of Hacettepe University in 1967. Prof. Doğramacı later played a principal role in establishing other universities, including those in Sivas and Kayseri, as well as the medical faculty in Erzurum.

All this time, the concept of "centers of excellence" served as a guiding idea for his plans. Having founded centers of excellence in medicine, İhsan Doğramacı now began to explore the possibility of establishing a private, nonprofit university. His goal was the creation of a great university like those in the United States; Harvard, Columbia, Yale and others of similar stature. He wanted this new university to be the best in Turkey, and beyond that, he wanted it to be one of the fifteen best universities in the world. He envisioned it as a beacon that would attract students and faculty members from all over the world. He realized this dream with the founding of Bilkent University in 1984.

Based on the script of the film "*Bilkent, History of an Idea*"

Hacettepe Children's Hospital (1958)



View of Hacettepe (1961)



Land where Bilkent University was to be established (1981)



View of Hacettepe (2006)



Bilkent University under construction in the 1980s



View of Bilkent University



İhsan Doğramacı with Prime Minister Turgut Özal and Rector Mithat Çoruh during Bilkent University's opening ceremony (1986)



İhsan Doğramacı with President Kenan Evren during Bilkent University's opening ceremony (1986)

## Achievements

- Established Hacettepe Institute of Child Health and Children's Hospital (1958)
- Established first School of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation in Turkey (1961)
- Established first School of Nursing at university level in Turkey (1961)
- Established first School of Dietetics and Nutrition in Turkey (1962)
- Established the Hacettepe Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Ankara, introducing an integrated teaching system in medicine (1963)
- Contributed to establishment of Atatürk University Faculty of Medicine in Erzurum, (1963)
- Established Hacettepe University in Ankara (1967)
- Contributed to establishment of Karadeniz University Trabzon Faculty of Medicine in Trabzon (1973)
- In his capacity as president of the Council of Higher Education of Turkey, contributed to establishment of Erciyes University in Kayseri, Ondokuzmayıs University in Samsun, Cumhuriyet University in Sivas, and Anadolu University in Eskişehir (1981-1992)
- Established Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey, the first foundation university in the country, with the intention of making it a center of excellence (1984)

## Articles

Over 100 articles in professional periodicals, mainly on pediatrics, public health and medical education

## Books

- *Annenin Kitabı* (Book for Mothers). 1952. 15th ed. Ankara: Meteksan A.Ş., 2003.
- *Prematiire Bebek Bakımı* (Premature Baby Care). Ankara: Örnek Matbaası, 1954.
- *Türkiye'de ve Dünyada Yükseköğretim Yönetimi* (Governance in Higher Education in Turkey and the World). Ankara: Meteksan A.Ş., 2007.

## Honorary Doctoral Degrees from Universities

Glasgow (Scotland), Nice (France), Nebraska (USA), Baghdad (Iraq), Guayaquil (Ecuador), Santo Domingo Autonomous (Dominican Republic), Ain Shams (Egypt), Helsinki (Finland), Soka (Japan), Baku State (Azerbaijan), Azerbaijan Medical (Azerbaijan), De Montfort (UK), Eastern Mediterranean (Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus), Jamia Millia Islamia (India), Rome-La Sapienza (Italy), Case Western Reserve (USA), and eleven Turkish universities including Anadolu, Boğaziçi, İstanbul and Marmara Universities

## Awards and Prizes

- National Award for Distinguished Service (Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey), 1978
- Léon Bernard Foundation Prize (WHO), 1981
- Christopherson Award (American Academy of Pediatrics), 1986
- Maurice Pate Award (UNICEF), 1995
- Soranos Award for Science and Friendship (Greece), 1995
- "Peace, Justice and Tolerance" Prize (Council of Europe), 1998 (The other two laureates were Franz Cardinal König and Simon Wiesenthal.)
- Health and Education Award for Merit (Turkey), 1999
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs Distinguished Service Award (Turkey), 2000
- Dr. Jushichiro Naito International Childcare Award (Japan), 2004
- Turkish Grand National Assembly Honor Prize, 2007
- Lifetime Achievement Award of Excellence in Global Health (World Federation of Public Health Associations), 2009
- Award of the Islamic Organization for Medical Sciences, 2009

## Decorations

- State Medal for Outstanding Merit (Turkey)
- Order of Haydar Aliyev (Azerbaijan)
- First Rank Order of Independence (Azerbaijan)
- Order of Homayoun First Class (Iran)
- Medal of the Egyptian People's Assembly
- State Medal of Merit (Romania)
- Gran Cruz Placa de Plata de la Orden Heráldica de Cristóbal Colón (Dominican Republic)
- Gran Oficial, Orden del Mérito de Duarte, Sánchez y Mella (Dominican Republic)
- First Rank Commander of the Order of the Lion of Finland
- First Rank Commander of the Order of Merit of Poland
- Order of the Cross of St. Mary's Land (Estonia)
- Officier de la Légion d'Honneur (France)
- WHO Health-For-All Gold Medal
- Sevda Cenap And Music Foundation Honor Award Gold Medal
- Medal of Appreciation, Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
- Médaille de la Ville de Paris

## Philanthropic Foundations He Established

- İhsan Dođramacı Foundation, Ankara
- İhsan Dođramacı Education Foundation, Ankara
- İhsan Dođramacı Science and Research Foundation, Ankara
- İhsan Dođramacı Health Foundation, Ankara
- İhsan Dođramacı Family Health Foundation, Geneva
- İhsan Dođramacı Erbil Foundation, Ankara - Erbil

## Membership in Professional Societies and Educational Institutions

- All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (Honorary)
- Medical Society of WHO (Honorary)
- Royal College of Physicians, London (Fellow)
- Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, London (Honorary Founder Fellow)
- Société Médicale des Hôpitaux de Paris (Membre Correspondant)
- Honorary membership in the pediatric societies of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Britain, Bulgaria, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Morocco, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Turkey, USA, and Uzbekistan.

## Memberships in Academies

- Académie Nationale de Médecine (France)
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- Azerbaijan National Academy of Science and Arts
- Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina (German National Academy of Sciences)
- National Academy of Medical Sciences (India, Honorary)
- Royal Aal al-Bayt Academy (Jordan)

## Professional Background and Academic Positions

- Doctor of Medicine, İstanbul University (1938)
- Postgraduate training and fellowships in pediatrics: Ankara Numune Hospital (1940); Graduate School of Medicine, Harvard University / Boston Children's Hospital; (1945-1946), Research fellow in Pediatrics, Washington University, St. Louis (1946-1947)
- Lecturer and Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Ankara University Faculty of Medicine (1947-1955)
- Professor of Pediatrics and Director, Institute of Child Health, Ankara University (1955-1967) and Hacettepe University, Ankara (1967-1981)
- Rector of Ankara University (1963-1965)
- Chairman of Board of Trustees, Middle East Technical University, Ankara (1965-1967)
- Rector of Hacettepe University, Ankara (1967-1975; in 1975 elected Honorary Rector)
- Visiting Professor of Pediatrics, Paris Descartes University (Paris V) (1976-1977)
- President, National Council of Medical and Health Sciences Education (1974-1981)
- President, Council of Higher Education of Turkey (1981-1992)
- Chairman of the Board of Trustees and President, Bilkent University (1986-2010)

# In Honor of İhsan Dođramacı

Receiving an honorary doctorate at the University of Rome-La Sapienza



Receiving an honorary doctorate at the University of Nice in France



Prof. İhsan Dođramacı was awarded numerous decorations, medals and honorary doctorates during his lifetime



Being presented with the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award, 1995



Receiving an honorary doctorate at Soka University in Japan



Receiving the WHO Léon Bernard Foundation Prize



Each year, The Bureau of the Turkish Grand National Assembly has the opportunity to award the National Sovereignty Honor Prize to an individual who has, through his or her distinguished achievements and success, significantly contributed to the promotion and representation of Turkey on the international stage.

In 2007, the Bureau voted unanimously to honor Prof. Dođramacı with the prize, citing his outstanding service to Turkish education, including the founding of Bilkent and Hacettepe Universities, as well as his academic contributions in the field of medicine. He received the award at a ceremony held on May 30 of that year.

Receiving an honorary doctorate at Jamia Millia Islamia (National Islamic University) in India



He was celebrated as Mr. UNICEF for many decades



Being presented with the Republic of Turkey State Medal for Outstanding Merit by President Süleyman Demirel (1995)



Prof. Dođramacı beside a UN vehicle during the conflict in Bosnia (1992)



Prof. Dođramacı with pediatric patients in Sarajevo (1992)

# Tributes to İhsan Doğramacı



**Haydar Aliyev, Late President of Azerbaijan**

## PRIDE OF THE TURKISH WORLD

I had been told that İhsan Doğramacı spoke many languages including Azerbaijani Turkish. Different dialects exist in different regions of Azerbaijan such as Baku, Nakhichevan, Gence and Karabağ. I realised that İhsan Doğramacı knew all these dialects. I liked him very much and invited him to Baku. The Azerbaijani people also like him very much and in a very short time we realised that İhsan Doğramacı was a rare personality brought forth by the Turkish world. His only goal has been to make every sacrifice for the progress and education of his people. İhsan Doğramacı has always been greatly admired in all international organizations he has worked for and has been elected as President by a number of them. He has always held a very special place both in the international media and international conferences. On behalf of Turks, we are proud of him.

Those who have been educated in the universities established by Doğramacı are like seeds planted in a

field. They will grow and their reputation in knowledge and culture will reach the sky.

*From Haydar Aliyev's statement at the unveiling of the İhsan Doğramacı statue commissioned by him for Bilkent University, June 2002.*

**Kofi Annan, Former Secretary-General of the United Nations**

## A CITIZEN OF THE WORLD

Professor Doğramacı, you have devoted your entire life, and your whole family fortune, to the noble causes of child health and higher education.

You started with a two-room outpatient clinic in a slum area of Ankara in 1954. It became the Ankara University Institute of Child Health and the leading Children's Hospital in the country, and today bears your name.

It also became the nucleus of a new Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, which in 1966 was described by the Vice-Chancellor of London University as a model of the educational system that England was trying to achieve!

Not content with that, you went on to found universities: first a public one in the 1960s and then Bilkent, Turkey's first private university, in the 1980s, when you presided over a reform of the country's whole higher education system.

You have never allowed bureaucratic obstruction to discourage you, and you have never let yourself be tempted by material rewards, or by offers of the highest political posts.

But you have been a better ambassador for Turkey than any diplomat. True to Atatürk's dictum, 'Peace at Home, Peace in the World', you have not confined your philanthropy to your own country.

From 1960 onwards you represented Turkey on the Executive Board of UNICEF; and in 1992, with the late Jim Grant, you donned a flak jacket to tour Sarajevo's ruined hospitals and start a fund-raising campaign for the children of Bosnia.

Even your love of music has been placed at the service of world friendship and peace. You gave this country its first international symphony orchestra, and yours is the inspiration behind the Anatolian Music Festival.

In short, Professor Doğramacı, you are indeed a model citizen of the world, such as the United Nations would wish to find in every country.

**Gavin C. Arneil, Professor Emeritus, University of Glasgow, Scotland**

## MEMORIES OF İHSAN DOĞRAMACI

A very determined man, he makes firm and usually immutable decisions on which he acts promptly and forcefully. Just as you cannot make an omelette without breaking eggs, so some of his colleagues have been upset by some decisions. An old saying is that if you ride with a tiger, the ride will be rough at times and we all knew that - but loved him just the same!

On the other hand, he is kindness itself when a colleague is in need. Every time my wife June and I arrived at Istanbul airport we had VIP treatment in transit and flew on in luxury. We called it his magic carpet! On one occasion when I was in Istanbul and due to fly home the following morning, a member of the IPA Executive who was due to fly to Ankara two days later took ill. İhsan was abroad, in Cairo I think. As I could not stay, I contacted his office in Ankara and asked them to arrange for someone to look after him in Istanbul. Next morning when I went down for breakfast, there was İhsan to fly the invalid to Ankara on his

'magic carpet'.

The Congresses he arranged in the newly freed Turkish-speaking former Soviet Republics were a wonderful experience for us. On one flight there were not enough 'business' seats, and he insisted on offering his business-class seat to a colleague and thus flew economy.

Ayser is his rock. Quiet and unassuming, she is liable to be greatly underrated in her tranquil ever welcoming way. "Just to know her is to love her" is another line from Robert Burns, and epitomises the high regard we all feel for her.

The final word on him I leave to poet Robert Burns (yes, again!). Doğramacı has many ranks, Doctor, Professor, President, Chairman, Hoca Bey and so on. Burns wrote: "The rank is but the coin's stamp, the man's the gold, for all that!"

İhsan is a golden man, a twenty-four carat golden man.

**Giuseppe Benagiano, Former Secretary-General, International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics**

## A REFORMER WITH AN IRON WILL

İhsan Doğramacı is 'a reformer', armed with the same iron will as Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of modern Turkey and the greatest reformer that country has ever had. Whereas Atatürk had the daunting task of initiating the global reform that made him the architect of the transformation of the decaying Ottoman Empire into a modern vigorous Republic, Doğramacı had the equally daunting task of continuing and completing the reform initiated by the Father of all Turks, in the field of higher education and, more specifically, medical education.

**Arne Olav Brundtland, Inaugural Laureate of the İhsan Doğramacı Prize for International Relations for Peace**

## TO HAVE THE RIGHT IDEA AT THE RIGHT MOMENT

İhsan Doğramacı is a man of ideas - and a man of action. Turkey needs such people, and not only Turkey. One of the great challenges of the world is how to communicate meaningfully between civilizations. Dr Doğramacı is in the forefront there as well. Reason, reflection, reasonableness, resolution: it is all in short supply.

Many persons have good reason to be thankful for the fact that Dr İhsan Doğramacı has used his position and his means to really make a difference.



# Tributes to İhsan Dođramacı

**Mamdouh Gabr, Emeritus  
Professor of Paediatrics, Cairo  
University, Egypt**

## REFLECTIONS ON THE UNIQUE PERSONALITY OF İHSAN DOĐRAMACI

Professor Dođramacı enjoys a charismatic personality that is appealing to everyone. His wisdom and his ability to convince others are among the reasons why he was able to build friendships all over the world. He is always very keen to treat every issue in an impartial, clear and constructive way.

Professor Dođramacı is a great donor, willing to offer his time, knowledge and wealth for the benefit of mankind. He donated his personal wealth to establish two universities: Hacettepe and Bilkent. Through his remarkable capabilities and perseverance, Bilkent University became an internationally recognized institution ranking among the top universities worldwide. It offers hundreds of scholarships to talented students in all fields.

**Talât S. Halman, Dean, Faculty of  
Humanities and Letters, Bilkent  
University**

## THE PAEDIATRIC REPUBLIC

Professor İhsan Dođramacı ranks as a pioneer and a lifelong hero of our contemporary enlightenment about the good life for children leading to enduring peace and happiness throughout the world. To that end, he has created a 'Paediatric Republic'. Eventually, if his great example is followed and his good works are continued, the world might become a 'Children's Republic.'

**Donald J. Johnston,  
Former Secretary-General,  
OECD**

## BIGGER THAN LIFE

A remarkable Turk indeed! This is almost the title of a biography of İhsan Dođramacı. One could just as easily have described him as 'a remarkable person', 'a remarkable human being' or even perhaps, 'İhsan Dođramacı: one of a kind'.

**Halfdan Mahler, Director-  
General Emeritus, World Health  
Organization**

## HUMAN ENERGY

The World Health Organisation is in the business of human energy. And human energy has many, many aspects to it. I would just like to exemplify a few of these aspects through a friend, a colleague, a guru - that is İhsan.

I think a part of energy is certainly the energy of knowledge, and İhsan has proven that he is not a proponent of what a poet friend of mine once said:

"Experts have their expert fun  
Telling one *ex cathedra*  
Why nothing can be done."

There have always been many experts inside WHO telling you *ex cathedra* why nothing could be done. And yet, there have been others who have had the courage - like you, İhsan - because I think that you have shown in your life all the time, not why nothing should be done but why something should and must be done.

**Sir Horace Phillips, Late Former  
British Ambassador to Ankara**

## A REMARKABLE TURK His Humanity

The many obstacles and setbacks in his progress have tempered but not embittered him, and he has remained humane. Until Hacettepe Hospital was opened he saw patients in his consulting rooms - not for money, but to stretch a hand out to help people. His generosity and sensitivity were widely known, as testified to by colleagues, who benefited from this, mostly on the occasion of the illness of their own children. He not only treated them free of charge but would if necessary pay the cost of their treatment abroad if this was required.

**Tomris Türmen, Former Special  
Advisor to the Director-General,  
World Health Organisation**

## AN ARCHITECT OF MIRACLES

It is a challenging task to attempt to describe İhsan Dođramacı, an extraordinary individual who possesses a rare quality being both a dreamer and a doer.

I am one of those individuals who have had the privilege of working with him closely to witness his leadership qualities in national and international scientific arenas, in the health and also the education sectors.

His charisma attracts, his convincing power unites all groups and he welcomes everybody to take part in a challenge, all with the objective of improving the health and well-being of children, families and the society he lives in. As the work expands, flourishes and the dream becomes a reality with a life of its own, Professor Dođramacı disappears! He is already involved in another big initiative leading to even bigger teams, realising another big idea. I know of no one, except Mrs Ayser Dođramacı, who can match his galloping speed with such elegance.

Compiled from the book *Children in His Heart, Youth on His Mind: Tributes to İhsan Dođramacı in Honour of His Sixty-Five Years of Service to Child Health and Education* (2003)

**Abdullah Gül,  
President of the Turkish Republic**

Professor Dođramacı is a unique person who has devoted his entire

life and his family wealth to future generations, and to the development of opportunities for the training and higher education of youth.

**Süleyman Demirel,  
9th President of the Turkish  
Republic**

My friends and I decided that this young professor, a world-renowned physician who was knowledgeable about everything, spoke many languages, and knew the world, should be our prime minister. I sent two of my physician friends to him to propose this. The next day Dođramacı disappeared from Ankara. He couldn't accept such an offer and he didn't, because his only wish was for the citizens of his country to enjoy better medical care and for the country's youth to receive a better education. At that young age he turned down a nomination as prime minister, an offer that no one could refuse. I always have seen him as a national monument. He is a living monument.

**Vecdi Gönül,  
Minister of National Defense**

Hocabey is a man of firsts. Hocabey's most outstanding trait is that he helps everyone. When helping people, political affiliations, social class, position and status are unimportant to him.

**Rahmi Koç, Honorary  
Chairman, Koç Holding**

First of all, people trusted İhsan Bey. They knew that he was an honest, frank person. They knew that he was serving the country. They would see him struggling to make things happen.

**İsmet Sezgin,  
Parliamentarian**

Above and beyond the service he has provided in science, education, and higher education, Hoca is a faithful friend.

I don't think there will be another "Hocabey." There is an old expression, "He is from an extinct people." He is even beyond that, because there has been no such people. Such individuals are very rare. These are people that history and necessity have brought us; they are created for service, they come to serve. A service that causes them to give away all their wealth and resources for the causes they believe in. One can only honor them.

**Prof. Dr. Halil İnalçık,  
Bilkent University**

I believe that by opening the way for such universities İhsan Dođramacı has performed a very

important service for Turkey's development. Perhaps today Turkey's astonishing growth and improvement are due to Bilkent, which led the way as the first nonprofit private university.

**Prof. Dr. İlker Baybars,  
Carnegie Mellon University**

To be realistic, I couldn't have imagined that this university would come to this level in 20 years. But Hoca surely did. And he was experienced; he had already founded Hacettepe University. So it is about vision, about determination and about values. Hoca is a person who is well-off financially but who knows that money isn't enough for success.

**İdil Biret,  
State Artist**

Speaking a language so well, with such a beautiful accent, is an indication of a very good ear. If he had played an instrument, I am sure he would have been a wonderful virtuoso.

**Ayten Gökçer,  
State Artist**

Hoca always initiates things. Big reforms begin with Hoca. Other clever universities take his ideas and apply them. But the initiator is always Hoca. Dođramacı is a person who whatever he does, does it best in Turkey. He has done the best for music. Today the Bilkent concert hall is one of the three leading concert halls in the world as far as acoustics are concerned. He brought the most skilled people here to achieve this.

**Gülsin Onay,  
State Artist**

After Atatürk, İhsan Dođramacı is possibly the individual who has contributed the most to music in our country.

Thankfully we have such a presence in Turkey, and what he has done has enriched us and given us a very different world.

**Jane Schaller, Executive  
Director, International Pediatric  
Association**

I am so impressed to see what a single man has done to change the world around him.

**Yüksel Söylemez,  
Retired Ambassador**

In many countries, across five continents, when Turkey is mentioned, it means İhsan Dođramacı.

# “Memories of My Ninety Years”

Adapted from *Bütün Dünya* 2000, April 2006 (Original in Turkish)

I was born in a house situated in the Erbil Castle and studied at the primary school there where the language of instruction was Turkish, the language of the town. In that period, I was also taking private English lessons. When the Province of Mosul became a British mandate by the Lausanne Treaty, education in Turkish was banned. For this reason, my family sent me to Beirut International College<sup>1</sup> for my middle and high school education. I used to express my longing for my home by reciting the verses known as "Longing for Erbil."<sup>2</sup>

## Longing for Erbil

Go, friends, go to my birthplace:  
Hyacinths grow at Erbil Fortress,  
Right through Kunyan,<sup>3</sup> a stream  
flows,  
Along whose banks stand yellow roses.

I spent my early days at Erbil schools  
Where my national feelings bloomed;  
Recalling those times I sigh and moan  
now,  
In my heart, a nightingale from there  
sings.<sup>4</sup>

The lone survivors are the tombstones  
The tears of desperate grannies  
And frowning faces of hopeless  
grandpas...  
At that scorched place linger cold ashes.

Never lose hope, no need to grieve;  
If Erbil, now suppressed, would awake  
And schools open to teach in their  
mother tongue  
One heart will be there for support.

İhsan declares that this is boundless  
care  
Nor will this love's sorrow come to an  
end;<sup>4</sup>  
He is bewildered when he looks in the  
mirror:  
Confronting him is a sad, mournful  
face.

With the assistance of private lessons, I succeeded in completing my secondary education in a shorter time than was usual. My wish was to become a medical doctor. In those years, I became friends with Vahit, who was the

son of Salih Salim, a former Mayor (Şehremini) of Istanbul. I learned from Vahit that the best medical education was given in Vienna, and in Edinburgh in Scotland. I took German lessons from a teacher who was a Brazilian citizen of German origin. I also applied to Edinburgh University. I was informed that the quota allocated for foreign students was full, and new registrations for foreigners would only be opened three years later. They told me that the university had an affiliate medical school in Baghdad, and that I could be accepted into the Edinburgh School of Medicine three years later.

One had to be eighteen years old to apply to the Baghdad School of Medicine. However, I was seventeen. I spent that one year at the Beirut American University School of Liberal Arts. There, I studied the English and Arabic languages, and took literature courses. The following year, in 1933, I registered at the Baghdad School of Medicine. Three years later, I decided to pursue my education at the Istanbul Faculty of Medicine instead of in Edinburgh.

In Istanbul, I was referred to Prof. Nurettin Berkol, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. When Prof. Berkol said that they did not recognize the Baghdad School of Medicine, I suggested that I start from the first year. Prof. Berkol said it would be a loss, but they could examine me and decide what level I would fit into, and proceed accordingly. A committee, with Prof. Akil Muhtar Özden as the head, and on which German professors also sat, examined me in all aspects of medicine. I was asked to evaluate tissue sections under the microscope. I identified normal and cancerous cells. They asked me to wait. After a short while, the head of the committee, Prof. Özden, called me into his office and informed me of their decision: "Son, you have completed medical school. We will enroll you in the fifth class, which is the last year. Then you will work as an intern for a year." At the end of the fifth year's studies, I got the highest marks in all courses, and so started my internship at the head of the class. Thus, I completed medical school in one year less than was normal.

In 1938, I started my specialization in pediatrics as assistant to Prof. Albert Eckstein at the Ankara Numune Hospital.

In the year 1940, when I was twenty-five, I began serving as a pediatrician at the Child Welfare Society Hospital in Baghdad. This lasted four years. In the following years, I continued my studies and research in the specialized fields of advanced pediatrics at Harvard and Washington Universities in the USA. In late 1947, I was elected a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Declining the offer of a university teaching position in the USA, I settled in Turkey with my wife and two children.

The Ankara University Faculty of Medicine had been opened a year previously. Prof. Eckstein wanted me to work with him there as a teaching staff member. In the following years, I was

able to establish an Institute of Child Health attached directly to the rectorate of Ankara University.

In the years 1961-1962 the Institute established departments of nursing, medical technology, physiotherapy and rehabilitation, and dietetics and nutrition offering the bachelor's degree in each area. The young staff I had sent to America six years earlier for advanced training in medical specialties returned to Turkey and joined the Hacettepe Children's Hospital established by the Institute of Child Health. In 1963 a second medical school was established within Ankara University, which was called the Hacettepe Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, and which used an entirely different system of education.

The original system of education implemented in this faculty aroused great interest at the international level. Many countries, with England and Holland at the forefront, wanted to study the system on site and use it as a model for proposed developments in their own countries. The following news item appeared in the Dutch newspapers *Algemeen Dagblad* and *De Telegraaf*:

"Jan Timbergen went to Turkey as a consultant on economics. Now, we are consulting İhsan Dođramacı on education, and especially on medical education."

In 1966, the British Royal Commission chaired by Sir Brian Windeyer, Vice Chancellor of London University, visited Hacettepe Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences to observe the new system. Following is a quotation from an article published in the January 25, 1967 issue of *Participant Journal*:

"The members of the Royal Medical Education Commission have received an excellent impression from what they have seen during their visit to the Hacettepe Medical Center. It has been confirmed that there has been a great and successful change in medicine, medical education, and hospital management in Turkey. Sir Brian Windeyer, Vice Chancellor of London University, has told our reporters:

"The education system we are trying to implement in England is being used at Hacettepe Medical Center."

On the other hand, there were also those who could not stomach the success of the Hacettepe Medicine and Health Sciences Faculty. Ahmet Emin Yalman showed his reaction to the attacks made on this institution in his book *Gördüklerim ve Geçirdiklerim*, writing that he was "face to face with the barbarians who made it their business to destroy that amazingly strong Hacettepe Organization."

Three months after the establishment of the Hacettepe Faculty of Medicine, Ankara University elected me as university rector. At the end of my two years as rector of Ankara University, I thought the time had come to establish a new and dynamic university around the Hacettepe Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, dynamism being a quality lacking in the Ankara University system.

Indeed, Hacettepe University initiated a new system different from that in other universities. During those years, boycotts and anarchy raged in the universities. Hacettepe was an exception to this. As soon as the Hacettepe Special Act was in force, the principle of inclusion of students and junior instructors in the administration was accepted.

After working as the rector of Hacettepe University for eight years, I decided to go back to my profession, pediatrics. Thus, I accepted a visiting professorship at Paris V University.

Meanwhile, I was carrying out my duties as executive director of the International Pediatric Association. In 1981 I gladly accepted an invitation to return to Turkey to oversee the reform of higher education. For six months I again investigated the regulations governing advanced universities in various countries. The act I prepared was accepted by the government, and I was appointed the President of the Higher Education Council. There were people against the Higher Education Council Act, which went into force in 1981. Time showed that their doubts and misgivings were groundless.

Upon my proposal, two articles related to higher education were added to the 1982 Constitution, making possible the establishment of nonprofit private universities by foundations. In 1984, Bilkent University was established by the three foundations that I had set up. Bilkent University thus became the first nonprofit private university in Turkey and enrolled its first students in 1986. Many scientists and statesmen who have followed the development of both Hacettepe University and Bilkent University have conveyed their admiration.

From 1992 onward, new private universities started being set up: Başkent University in Ankara, and Koç, Sabancı, and other universities in Istanbul and other Turkish cities. The new system of higher education resulted in a boost in the numbers enrolled and in the quality of higher education. Thus, whereas in 1980 only 6.3% of the 4 million young people of tertiary education age in Turkey were attending a university or other school of higher education, in 2006, 33% of the 6 million young people in Turkey are able to attend a university. The total number of universities, 24 of which are private universities has reached 77<sup>5</sup>. In the same period, the country's international scientific research ranking rose from 44<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Then known as the Preparatory School of the American University of Beirut

<sup>2</sup> Translated from the original "Erbil Hasreti" by Prof. Talât S. Halman

<sup>3</sup> Kunyan was a large Dođramacı family farm with vineyards, gardens, streams, and water-powered mills.

<sup>4</sup> Adapted from the poem titled "Fly, Birds" by Rıza Tevfik ("The Philosopher"), who lived in Beirut and was among the lecturers at İhsan Dođramacı's school at that time.

<sup>5</sup> As of February 2010 YÖK lists 45 foundation and 94 state universities, for a total of 139.

<sup>6</sup> Philadelphia, USA, Institute for Scientific Information



## What If It Had Never Happened?

Take an eraser in your hand and, starting with Hacettepe University, erase the Faculty of Medicine and all of the following: the Faculty of Dentistry, the Faculty of Pharmacology, and the School of Nursing. Then continue on to the other faculties located in the center of Ankara and on the Beytepe campus. Erase them all.

Afterwards, erase the universities that were established in the 1970s from east to west across Turkey -universities that began with little more than a desk and a chair, but where today brilliant young people are being educated in sparkling buildings.

Then, without leaving a trace, erase Bilkent University - a world-class university that was established only after long years of a legal battle to have the Constitutional Court officially acknowledge its existence. And do not hesitate to erase the other foundation universities, including Sabancı, Koç, Başkent, Yeditepe, Fatih, Bilim, and Bilgi, and scores of others. Be sure to erase the thousands of students and parents, and the academic and administrative staff associated with all these universities - not to mention the fully equipped hospitals at some. Finally, do not forget to erase the Turkish-medium schools in northern Iraq.

Then, consider the hundreds of thousands of Turkish children who have been able to receive health care from doctors equipped with the most up-to-date medical knowledge; who have been fortunate enough to enjoy the satisfaction of receiving an excellent education; and to whom we have entrusted the future of our country - consider, and say this about them:

"She wasn't able to be treated or cured"; "He wasn't able to receive an education"; "He died before reaching the age of one."

In other words, imagine that in the 1950s, a pediatrician named İhsan Dođramacı had never appeared. Imagine that he had not made all these reforms in health and education a reality by struggling with all his might - a struggle which, unfortunately, most members of the younger generations are not aware of.

And then - return to today and take a look at the tiny children attached to monitors in hospitals, and gaze into the eyes of the anxious parents waiting by their beds. Then look at the bright young people who sit in the classrooms of schools and universities throughout Turkey, their eyes focused on a different type of monitor, and at the proud and hopeful parents, waiting at home for their arrival...and, with the eraser still in your hand, ask yourself, "Would it ever have been possible?" or, "What if it had never happened?"

*DDS, PhD Yalçın Ergir*



## Dođramacızade Ali Paşa Mosque

When he left Iraq in 1944, İhsan Dođramacı's father made three requests: to kiss the ground when he set foot in Turkey, if he had a son, to name him Ali; and to build a mosque in his name.

İhsan would honor all three requests, fulfilling the last of them with the construction of the Dođramacızade Ali Paşa mosque at Bilkent, which opened on September 26, 2008.





## BİLKENT NEWS

**Yayın Yönetmeni:** Hande Seçkin Onat  
**Yayın Yönetmeni Yardımcısı:** Nil Bero  
**Yayın Kurulu:** Kürşat Aydoğan, Reyhan Ayfer, Mehmet Baray, Ümit Berkman, Nil Bero, Hande Seçkin Onat, Kamer Rodoplu

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*Bilkent News welcomes feedback from readers.*

*Please submit your letters to [bilnews@bilkent.edu.tr](mailto:bilnews@bilkent.edu.tr).*



Commemoration ceremonies will be held to pay tribute to Prof. Doğramacı

at the following locations and times:

**Saturday, February 27, at 9:30 a.m.**

at Hacettepe University M Lecture Hall, at **1:30 p.m.**

the same day at the Bilkent University Concert Hall,

and **Sunday, February 28, at 9:30 a.m.**

at the Council of Higher Education.

Funeral services will be held

on **Sunday, February 28, 2010**, at Kocatepe Mosque

following the noon prayers and burial will take place at the

Doğramacızade Ali Paşa Mosque.