



On behalf of VEDEK (Association for Evaluation and Accreditation of Educational Institutions and Programs of Veterinary Medicine in Türkiye), we are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Prof. Dr. Rıfki Hazıroğlu, a distinguished leader in veterinary education in Türkiye. Prof. Hazıroğlu is the founder and the first president of VEDEK. He served as an Excom member of EAEVE between 2010-2015. He contributed significantly to YÖKAK, Türkiye National Higher Education Quality Council, ensuring the highest standards in veterinary education and accreditation as expert and the president of VEDEK. Due to his vision, the new accreditation SOPs were aligned with EAEVE standards, allowing for joint visitations. He would always be remembered for his pivotal role in promoting the importance of accreditation to enhance the quality of veterinary education in Türkiye.

Prof. Dr. Rıfki Hazıroğlu, born in July 1955, completed his undergraduate studies at Ankara University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in 1981, earned his PhD in Pathology in 1987, became an associate professor in 1989, and was appointed as a professor in 1995. Since 2005, he served as the head of the Department of Pathology at Ankara University's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine until his retirement in 2022. From 2002 to 2010, he was the Editor in Chief of the Journal of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. He became the President of the Veterinary Pathology Association in 2005 and held his position until his passing. He was the Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Ankara University between 2009-2015.

His commitment and dedication will be deeply missed, and his legacy will continue to inspire us.