Professor Uğurlu was born in Samsun in 1927. After completing his primary and secondary education there, he began his higher education in the Faculty of Medicine at Istanbul University in 1945 and graduated in 1951. He was appointed as a government doctor to the Tonya District of Trabzon because of his compulsory service to the Ministry of Health after he did his military service. Afterwards, he worked as a Fight against Malaria and Municipality Doctor in Samsun and Ankara. He went to the United States of America in 1958 and began to work as a radiology assistant in New York. One year later he left there, and he went to Minneapolis, Minnesota and Norfolk, Virginia to specialize in internal medicine. He also specialized in cardiology at the University of Virginia. He came back to Turkey in 1966 and began to work as a specialist in the Internal Medicine Unit of Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, which was then being founded. As one of the founders of Cardiology Unit, he also took charge of the cardiac catheterization laboratory. He worked as an instructor in the Department of Internal Medicine between 1968 and 1972 and assumed the title of associate professor in 1972. He went to the United States of America by receiving permission from the university and worked as a visiting scholar in the Department of Cardiology at St. Louis University between 1976 and 1977. In 1978, he was promoted to the position of cardiology professor.

Professor Mahmut Şevket Uğurlu, one of the founders of the cardiac catheterization and angiography laboratory, operated this laboratory effectively and with outstanding success despite the difficult conditions of the time. He also provided the Department of Cardiovascular Surgery, which was founded in the same years, with considerable support. Therefore, he played an important role in Hacettepe Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery becoming one of the foremost medical centers in Turkey.

Professor Uğurlu provided great services to the Turkish cardiology community and made an effort to educate numerous students and assistants with his calm, patient, tolerant and modest personality and devoted work. After retiring in 1994, he worked as a freelance doctor for a while. He passed away on November 5, 2016. We regard his memory with deep respect.