

Healthcare Pioneers: Dato Samuel Kai San YAPP



Dato Samuel Yapp Kai San is a well respected senior surgical consultant working in the RIPAS Hospital. He is currently the most senior consultant and the longest serving healthcare professional in the Ministry of Health, Brunei Darussalam.

He started his medical career in 1962 when he was admitted to the Leeds Medical School at the tender age of 19, under the scholarship of the Government of Brunei Darussalam. He graduated in 1968 and completed his houseman's year at St. James's Hospital. Initially, he was keen to pursue a career in medicine, but later changed his mind upon completion of his medical housemanship. After his surgical attachments in urology and general surgery, Dato Yapp took up an anatomy demonstrator job in Edinburgh. He obtained his Primary in Surgery, the first Bruneian to do so and then joined the Brunei Medical Service in October 1970. He worked for three years as a surgical trainee under Pehin Harris. At that time, there were four other local doctors (Dato Joseph Lim, Dato Sherlock Chin, Dato Johar and Dato Hussain). Dato Yapp was one the two doctors who was responsible for the

revision of the salary scale for doctors leading to the introduction of the 'M' scale.

Dato Yapp went back to the United Kingdom in 1974 for a further five years training. He later took over most of the general, urology and paediatric cases from his mentor, Pehin Ian Harris who continued to handle thoracic and orthopaedics cases. Through the years, Dato Yapp has kept up with advances in the surgical specialty and learned how to perform laparoscopic procedures such as laparoscopic cholecystectomy, appendicectomy and assisted colectomy.

He is a mentor to many current surgical trainees and is well respected by his colleagues, surgical and non-surgical alike. He was bestowed the title of Dato Paduka in 1985 and subsequently with the title of Dato Setia in July 2012. Dato Yapp also holds many responsibilities such as being the chair of the Infectious Control and National Antibiotic Committees. In spite of his many professional commitments, Dato Yapp still finds time to pursue golf, one of his many hobbies.