

## OBITUARY



### **Dato Dr Balakrishnan Ratnam 1936-2013**

Dato Dr Balakrishnan Ratnam hails from Bentong, Pahang. He was born on 30th August 1936 and is the oldest of four siblings. He did his primary education in Sulaiman English School Bentong, secondary Education in Anglo Chinese School Klang and higher school education in Anderson School Ipoh, before proceeding to The Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, Ireland to study medicine in 1955.

His main aim in wanting to be a doctor was to cure his own beloved mother who suffered from horrendous asthmatic attacks. Unfortunately, his dream was never realized as she had passed away when he was only in his third year.

He returned to Malaysia in 1961 and was posted as houseman in Malacca. In 1963 he married his childhood sweetheart, Sivasothy Seenithamby and they were blessed with a son, Indran Balakrishnan who is a medical microbiologist with The Royal free Medical School in London.

In 1965 he was transferred to the General Hospital in Kuala Lumpur and while doing Orthopaedics with the late 'Koko Majid' took a passion for the discipline. He went on a Government scholarship to the UK and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh before proceeding to do a stint in Orthopaedics as The Robert Jones Agnes Hunt Hospital in Oswestry, Wales under the guidance of Professor Roaf.

In 1971 he went on to do his Masters in Surgery in the University of Liverpool before returning to Malaysia where he was posted to Malacca. He started the first rehabilitation centre. In 1975 he was transferred to General Hospital Ipoh. He was one of the founder members of the Ipoh Specialist Hospital and started his practice there in 1981. He retired from active practice in 2001 and did a stint as lecturer in Perak Medical College until 2010 when due to failing health he was forced to retire. He was the Malaysian representative of SICOT meetings until 1995.

For his contribution towards the community, he was conferred the Dato' Paduka Mahkota Perak (D.P.M.P.) by the Sultan of Perak in 2008. He was also awarded the JSM by the Agong in 1980.

Dato Dr Balakrishnan was the President of the Arshya Vidya Nilayam, a spiritual enlightenment society and Auditor of the Society of Caring Hand Ipoh, a Home for underprivileged girls.

"This individual soul is unbreakable and insoluble, and can be neither burned nor dried. It is everlasting present everywhere, unchangeable immovable and eternally the same'.

Bhagavad Gita 2.24

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