

PERSONALITY FOCUS



Dr Chandramalar Santherathilagan
Consultant Corneal Surgeon @ Hospital
Sungai Buloh.

She hails from Ipoh and completed her medical studies from the world-renowned KMC Manipal India following which returned home in 1996. While even in college she had developed a keen interest in Ophthalmology and was the top of her class during her undergrad days.

She joined the Ophthalmology Masters programme in USM and after graduating she completed her gazettement in Penang. Being a constant learner she did not rest on her laurels and decided to undertake Sub-specialization considering that the 5 (now 6!) layers of the cornea appealed to her the most. At this point, the saying that the cornea, and not the eye, being the window to the soul attracted her as a bee is to honey.

She did her cornea sub specialization in HKL with a year at Adelaide under the tutelage of Professor Douglas Coster, an Emeritus Professor in Cornea at Flinders University. She impressed the Cornea team to such an extent that she was offered a position at Flinders but the love to serve her country brought her back.

Upon her return she continued her service at Hospital Sungai Buloh as a Consultant Corneal surgeon. Together with Dr Shamala Retnasabapathy, they have steered Hospital Sungai Buloh to the forefront of corneal excellence in Malaysia and is now the main national corneal referral centre.

She has been active in many associations including having been the President of the Malaysian Association of Cell and Tissue Banking (MACTB), member of the Committee of Panel of Corneal Experts and Committee of Malaysian Society of Transplantation. She also conducts Masters Exams and takes classes for undergraduate programme for Management and Science University (MSU) and Taylor's University.

Dr. Chandramalar runs the corneal eye bank in Hospital Sungai Buloh and is the liaison person for bringing in donor corneal tissue from the USA. Being in this position, she always strives to increase the number of local cornea donors. To spread awareness amongst the Malaysian public regarding the importance of corneal tissue donation, she campaigns "Leave your eyes for someone else to see".

The importance of corneal health cannot be emphasised more in this country as she believes the cornea is the "beating heart of the eye".

For being such a high-achiever, Dr. Chandramalar is a simple person at home. Married to an Urologist and with two children, she goes seamlessly from a consultant with a busy schedule to her role as wife and mother.

Dr Chandra always believes in the 'Service Above Self' slogan which has now become the trademark welcome sign for the corneal clinic in Hospital Sungai Buloh.

DR. K. JOHN MATHEN

Consultant Ophthalmologist & Corneal Surgeon