

PERSONALITY FOCUS: A FAREWELL TRIBUTE



Dr Zulkifli bin Ghani

I am privileged and honoured to have known Dr. Zulkifli having trained under him during his last few months of service and am humbled to be writing this tribute article about the first VR surgeon to have served in the East Coast.

EARLY YEARS

Dr Zulkifli bin Ghani was born on 26th October 1960 in Kampung Bunut Payung Kota Bahru Kelantan. He is the 4th child of 10 and pursued his tertiary education at Universiti Malaya where he obtained his medical degree in 1985. He served as a medical officer in Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah, Klang for 2 years before being



Medical student days

transferred to Hospital University Sains Malaysia (HUSM) where he served for a further 4 years. He was a medical officer in ENT (Ear, Nose and Throat) before his calling to Ophthalmology.

CAREER IN OPHTHALMOLOGY

His career in Ophthalmology started when he was offered to pursue Masters in Surgery (Ophthalmology) in Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia in 1990. After successfully completing his Masters, he joined Hospital Raja Perempuan Zainab II (HRPZ) as a gazetted specialist and later move on to successfully lead the department from years 1996 until 2010.



Dr Zulkifli with his fellow comrades

CAREER IN VR

In the early 2000's, there were no VR services in the East Coast of Malaysia. Due to the high volume of patients requiring this service, Dr Zulkifli was awarded a scholarship to train as a VR surgeon. He did his Fellowship in Princess Alexandra Eye Pavillion, Edinburgh UK from 2000 until 2001. After his return, he became the first VR surgeon to serve the East of Malaysia. He began expanding the service with the help of a dedicated team of staff and doctors. Dr Zulkifli is also very passionate about paediatric VR and has been managing these patients here despite their challenging presentations.

FELLOWS

Dr Zulkifli is someone who always believes in knowledge transfer and in training his junior doctors to be good and safe Ophthalmologists. Dr Zamri Noordin was his first full-fledged vitreoretinal fellow in the year 2014-2015. After completing training, Dr Zamri joined the HRPZ II VR team and is serving to date with his own fellows.

Besides VR surgeries, Dr Zulkifli is also a much sought after and competent cataract surgeon. He has also contributed significantly as a cataract surgeon in many cataract camps in Malaysia.



Fellows/Trainee: From top Left: Dr Zamri Noordin (VR fellow 2014-2015); Dr Kenneth Rohan Lee (VR fellow 2019); Prof Dr Zunaina Embong (VR attachment) ; Dr Maizan Yaakub (VR attachment 2005)

AWARDS

In his 24 years of service in HRPZ II, he has been awarded the Excellent Service Award (Anugerah Perkhidmatan Cemerlang) three times; in 1998, 2006 and in 2020. He was also granted the “Darjah Kebesaran Setia Mahkota Kelantan yang Amat Terbilang (PSK)” in the year 2010.

PERSONAL LIFE AND FAMILY

Dr Zulkifli is married and is blessed with 6 children, 2 of whom are also medical doctors and 1 of whom is an optometrist. Staff describe him as well-liked, kind and generous and someone who loves to help the poor and needy. He is also very modest and believes in living life in moderation.



Dr Zulkifli and the late Dato Dr Ahmad Mt Saad

“Dr Zulkifli is a very down to earth and unassuming person. He is very nice, sincere, caring and good to anyone around him. He would drop whatever he is doing to show care and attention when needed (I saw how he really cared for the late Dato Dr Ahmad). He is always cool, unflustered and forgiving”- Dato’ Dr Haslina binti Mohd Ali (Vitreoretina Consultant, Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah, Alor Setar)



Farewell dinner



Video Title: **Farewell Dr Zulkifli bin Ghani**
(In Service: 1985-2020)

Video contributed by:

1. Dr Zulfadli bin Mohd Zawawi
2. Puan Tengku Aida binti Tengku Abdul Aziz
3. Aznor Azwan bin Ab Aziz

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