

Healthcare Pioneers: Dato Peter Loy de Villiers Hart



Dato Dr Hart with the renal team and five renal dialysis patients

Dato Dr Peter Loy de Villiers Hart was one of the State Specialist Physicians covering the entire range of internal medicine including paediatrics in the 1960s and 70s. He graduated from St Bartholomew Hospital Medical College London University in 1945. In his houseman year, Dato Hart worked with the famous Mr Ivor Lewis. He later trained in the Royal Cancer Hospital (now Royal Marsden Hospital) and Westend Hospital (Neurology). He worked in Kuala Lumpur General Hospital for four years, Malacca General Hospital for three years and in Malawi for two months before joining the Brunei General Hospital in early 1962.

Dato Dr Hart initiated many services. He started the haemodialysis program in Brunei in the late sixties. Dato Dr Hart went back to London to do a six month attachment to learn about haemodialysis at the Royal Free Hospital. He also took advantage of going to other hospitals to learn about their dialysis programmes. When the dialysis program was started in Brunei, there was only one dialysis machine. Dato Dr Hart and the nurses working with the dialysis patients were also the maintenance

personnel for the dialysis machine. Every morning, doctors would ask the nurses in charge '*How are the patients today?*'. However, in the dialysis ward, Dato Dr Hart would always ask '*How is the machine today?*'.

Dato Dr Hart introduced the concept of intensive care. He also introduced echocardiography knowing that he needed to know the structural abnormalities that ECG and chest radiography could not provide. Patients with cardiac abnormalities were referred to New Zealand for treatment. During that time, minor cardiac surgeries were also carried out in Brunei General Hospital by Pehin Mr Ian Harris. Among the many services introduced, he introduced and was the first clinician to perform flexible endoscopy in the country. He also had several publications in renowned journals such as the British Medical Journal. He also reported on the cholera outbreak of 1965. He left the service in 1979 and worked in Bahrain for four years. He opened the Hart Clinic in 1986 and worked until 2006 when he officially retired. Dato Dr Hart is currently residing in the Brunei Muara district with family.

Based on interviews with Dato Dr Peter L de V Hart and a written testimonial by his colleague (Prof Ashley Woodcock).