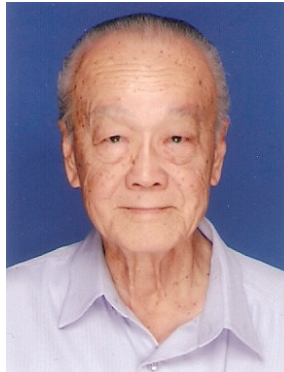


# Healthcare Pioneers: The Dressers (Hj Ahmed Yunos Bin Hassan and Chin Yun Sang)



Hj Ahmed Yunos during one of his visits to remote villages using a government transport (right).  
Mr Chin Yun Sang (left).

Dressers played an important part in the history of Brunei healthcare system. They essentially functioned as a doctor, nurse as well as allied healthcare professional providing essential care to patients. However, their roles changed as the healthcare system progressed with recruitment of more doctors and nurses. To become a dresser, candidates were required to sit the requisite test. This issue's Historical Pioneer features two of the many dressers employed by the Brunei healthcare system.

Hj Ahmed Yunos was originally from Labuan. Like many of his families, he moved to Brunei in search of better opportunities. His work as a dresser took him and his family to all parts of Brunei including Bandar Brunei, Tutong, Temburong and Muara. Once a month he would travel by riverboat to the remote parts of the Temburong district to provide healthcare for the residents there. He also performed the functions of a traveling dispensary by delivering essential medications. In the later part of his career he was main healthcare provider at the Muara Port Clinic. His services were so required that

he was asked to return to service after his retirement. The local residents in Muara would often go to his home located next to the mosque (which still exists) to seek medical advice and obtain medications, sometimes even in the middle of the night.

Mr Chin Yun Sang joined the service in 1950 at the age of 22 after completing his training in Kuching, Sarawak. He was sent later to the Singapore General Hospital for two months in 1953 and then again in 1967 to the Brook General Hospital in London for six months of further training. He worked in the operating theatre of the Brunei General Hospital assisting the State Surgeon (Pehin Harris, *BIMJ* 2011; 7(5):249) in operations that included trauma cases, appendectomies and even heart valve surgeries. He later became the superintendent of the operating theatre and trained many other dressers. Mr Chin retired in May of 1983 before the official opening of the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital and currently resides with his family in Kampong Pasai. Mr Chin can still be occasionally seen at RIPAS Hospital where he attends the Cardiology clinic as a patient.

Guest editor: Dato Samuel Yapp Kai San (Senior Consultant Surgeon, RIPAS Hospital).

Based on interview with Mr. Chin Yun Sang and transcript provided by Dayangku Dr Siti Nur'Ashikin (Consultant Neurologist), grand daughter of Hj Ahmed Yunos Bin Hassan.