

Healthcare Pioneers: Dato Dr Haji Johar Bin Haji Noordin



Black and white picture from the University of Glasgow Medical Year Book.

Dato Dr Haji Johar was the first Bruneian to study in the University of Glasgow, Scotland and graduated with a medical degree (MBChB). Dato Johar entered medical school in 1962 and graduated in 1968. Prior to this, Dato Johar studied at Millfield School, Somerset, England from 1955 to 1961 under a scholarship awarded by the Brunei Government. He is listed a Distinguished Old Millfieldians (<http://omsociety.strattons.com/old-millfieldians/distinguished/j/> Accessed 25th July 2013). Prior to this, he studied at the only Pekan Brunei Secondary School, a school that several other Brunei healthcare pioneers attended.

Dato Johar joined the Medical Department at the Brunei General Hospital (*BIMJ* October 2012 to *BIMJ* April 2013) and worked under the charge of Dato Hart (*BIMJ* 2011;7(4):191). He was later joined in the same Department by Dato Dr Haji Hussain Bin Daud. Dato Johar was appointed as the Deputy Director of Medical Services under Pehin Franks. Apart from his medical duties, Dato Johar was involved with public health matters and conducted several research projects in the early 70s, and au-

thored two papers in 1976 (*Aedes aegypti* control in Brunei and Bionomics of biting midges in Brunei) in the Brunei Museum Journal with V. John Zachariah, Chief of Laboratory services and head of the Malaria Eradication Project (*available from selected Government Department libraries*).

Dato Johar became the Director of Medical and Health Service when Pehin Franks retired in 1982. He was later appointed as the first the Minister of Health of Brunei (1986-1997) after the Ministry of Health was formed in 1984. Healthcare expanded during his terms as Director and later Minister of Health; relocation of medical services from the Brunei General Hospital to the newly completed Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital in 1984, the introduction of hepatitis B vaccination for high risk groups (1984), universal vaccination (1988), acquisition of computed tomography scan (1987), introduction of the MMR vaccination, starting of a computerised medical record system (1988), launch of the 'Fokus Kesihatan' newsletter (1989), water ambulance (1989), nurses' short and long-term training and many more.

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

Sources: 100 years of caring; 1907-2007 Book, The Brunei Museum Journal and Millfield School website. Facts checked by Dato Johar.