

## Healthcare Pioneers: Dato Sherlock Chin Syn Lok



Dato Sherlock Chin is the first Bruneian renal physician. He was born in Kuala Belait town and is the second of four brothers. His father was the headmaster of the English School in Kuala Belait, owned by the Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP) company until he moved to Pekan Brunei to join the Treasury department as a clerk in 1948. The family stayed in a government quarter in Sumbiling, near the Temporary Hospital (*BIMJ 2012; 8 (3):115*) before the construction of the Brunei General Hospital. He studied in the St George's School for almost two years before going to Singapore to further his study. At that time, there was no secondary school with the opening of the Brunei Government School several years later. In Singapore, he studied two years in the Malayan Union Seminary, Serangoon before going to the St Andrew School where he studied for five years and completed the 'A' level. He then returned to Brunei and did voluntary work in the BGH for two years. Dato Chin was very impressed with the surgeon in charge, a surgeon from Edinburgh. He was not able to secure a place in the Edinburgh University but fortunately secured a place in the Aberdeen University Medical School.

Prior to starting Medical School, he had to redo the 'A' level in 1959 at the Woodchester Park College.

Dato Chin graduated in 1966 and prior to joining the Medical Service in Brunei (1<sup>st</sup> March 1968), he did some training in nephrology at the Foresterhill Hospital, a newly built hospital for nephrology in Aberdeen. This was done under the instruction of the Brunei Government in preparation to develop and start the renal service in Brunei. When Dato returned, his mentor Dato Hart was in London receiving training. Dato Chin started planning on the development of the service and the service officially started upon the return of Dato Hart. Both Dato Chin and Dato Hart continued to develop the renal service by training more staffs and increasing the number of dialysis machines to allow more patients undergo dialysis.

Dato Chin later took charge of the service and continued to improve the service, with introduction of the service to the other hospitals and opening of satellite dialysis centres. Dato Chin retired from the service in 1998.

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

Data source: Interviews with Dato Sherlock Chin