

Professor Dato Dr S Selvarajah (1935–2010)



It was with great sadness that the medical fraternity received the news of the passing of Prof S Selvarajah on January 9, 2010 in Malaysia, at the age of 75. His passing was a monumental loss to the entire medical world, especially the ophthalmic community. Our deepest condolences extend to his family, friends, colleagues, patients and students who held him in the highest esteem.

A pioneer in the Malaysian medical world, Prof Selvarajah obtained his MBBS in 1958 at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya in Singapore. Following that, he specialised in Ophthalmology and was awarded a Government Study Award to the United Kingdom. He successfully passed the examinations and obtained the coveted FRCS (Edin) and the Diploma in Ophthalmology.

His subsequent illustrious achievements in Malaysia are well known. In government service, he was Senior Consultant and Head of Ophthalmology at Hospital Kuala Lumpur. In 1990, he was appointed Professor at the University Kebangsaan Malaysia, and then as First Professor at the newly established medical school at the University Putra Malaysia. His latest appointment was as the Guest Professor at the International Medical University in Kuala Lumpur.

Prof Selvarajah received numerous accolades in his lifetime, namely, the Overseas Gold Medal awarded by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, where he had been appointed as Examiner for the FRCS examinations. For his services to the State, he was awarded the DIMP by HRH the Sultan of Pahang, with the title of Dato. He was also awarded the DPMP by HRH the Sultan of Perak, which also carries the title of Dato.

Overseas, his expertise was much sought-after by various international bodies, such as the Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis, a prestigious body whose membership is limited to only 60. He was the Past President of the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (1995–1997), and a Member of the International Council of Ophthalmology (1995–2000) and its Advisory Committee (2001–2002).

He leaves behind his beloved wife, Datin Dr KB Badsha and their son, Sharman.

Professor Arthur Lim

President-Elect

Medical Alumni Association, Singapore