

OBITUARY

In Memory of

Teodoro R Castro, MD, FPOA
Philippine Orthopaedic Association (POA) President 1985
Died May 14, 2021



Dr Castro's legacy manifested itself through his work ethic and discipline. A spine surgeon and joint replacement expert, his knowledge and skills were from multiple subspecialty training programs in Europe, Asia, and the United States. Known to most as a dedicated and zealous worker, he led the Philippine Orthopaedic Association in 1985 and, also, served as the Medical Center Chief of the Philippine Orthopedic Center. Dr Castro was known for always giving 101% in all his endeavours; be it a difficult and challenging surgical case, a lively and controversial scientific discussion, or simply while enjoying a delicious and tasty meal.

We will always miss his controversial demeanour inside and outside the operating theatre. Learning from him was always considered as "tough love" as his pearls and gems of teaching would come with occasional emotional outbursts. He will always be remembered as a simple man who had simple tastes and simple joys, and those who have worked with him can readily attest to this.

Philippine Orthopaedic Association

OBITUARY

In Memory of

Antonio M Montalban, MD, FPOA
Philippine Orthopaedic Association (POA) President 1984
Died July 7, 2021



Dr Montalban was a pillar of orthopaedics in the Philippines, being a model teacher and mentor in the classroom, in the clinics and in life. He was a paediatric orthopaedic specialist, building the section of paediatric orthopaedics in the Philippine General Hospital (PGH), where he served as its Medical Director from 1994-1997. He led the POA in 1984 and helped to create the ASEAN Orthopaedic Association.

He advocated lifelong education for his trainees, helping them acquire avenues for further training. He was the editor of the Philippine Journal of Orthopaedics, consistently

supporting the growth of Orthopaedic research in the country. As director of the PGH, Dr Montalban set up the Department of Emergency Medicine and later founded the Philippine Society of Emergency Care Physicians, attracting many specialists nationwide. Dr Montalban fondly endeared himself to all he worked with, maintaining ties with his home province south of Manila, in Butuan, where he would go back for visits and medical missions.

Philippine Orthopaedic Association

OBITUARY

In Memory of

Antonio C Acosta Jr, MD, FPOA
Philippine Orthopaedic Association (POA) President 1977
Died August 16, 2021



A highly respected spine surgeon from the National Orthopedic Hospital (now the Philippine Orthopedic Center), Dr Acosta was one of the first officers of the Philippine Board of Orthopaedics (PBO) established in 1972. He eventually became Chairman of the PBO, and president of the Philippine Orthopaedic Association. He extended professional ties internationally and became president of the APOA Spine Section, as he maintained close

friendships with world known spine surgeon Prof Arthur CMC Yau, bringing honours to both the NOH and the POA. Dr Acosta continued to practice spine surgery as chief of the Spine Unit at the Capitol Medical Centre in Quezon City, until his retirement.

Philippine Orthopaedic Association

OBITUARY

In Memory of

Associate Professor Dr Ya Mohammad Hassan Shukor
Malaysian Orthopaedic Association (MOA) President 2011/2012

“A legend that will always be remembered”

1954 - 2022



*Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure.
You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure.*

Associate Professor Dr Ya Mohammad Hassan Shukor was born in Bukit Mertajam on 4th May 1954. He was the youngest of three siblings. Not many knew that he had a twin brother who died in-utero. His father passed away when he was seven years old leaving his mother to single-handedly raise him together with his sister and brother. Inspired by his mother, he developed a passion to serve at a very tender age. She had eloquently said, “Give back with all your might and see the world change one small step at a time”. For him, this had become his lifelong inspiration.

He started his passion-filled journey in Sultan Abdul Halim Secondary School in Kedah from 1967 until 1971. He braved through hardships and graduated as a doctor from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). He then pursued a path less travelled and became an eminent orthopaedic surgeon and lecturer in UKM. His academic leadership was acknowledged with his appointment as head of the orthopaedic department in UKM from 2006 to 2008. He was subsequently elected as president of the Malaysian Orthopaedic Association in 2011.

Whilst looking after his patients, he also left us the gift of knowledge. He was a passionate teacher, one full of wisdom that many like myself looked up to. He became a father figure to all his trainees, nurturing seeds of inspiration wherever he went, leaving a trail of successful and humble surgeons along the way, mirroring himself.

As someone who has had the privilege to be his mentee, I am forever inspired by his selflessness, his humility and compassion for the people around him. Not only was he a very skilful surgeon, he also knew how to connect and speak from his heart. He was content and fulfilled with his calling and made efforts to perfect his art.

Something that I will fondly remember are his words during our last meeting - to serve and to share, and to do it with grace, not for oneself, but for the greater good of the people. It was a gift which I hold dearly and a promise which I will keep.

Professor Hassan leaves behind his wife, Saridah Abdul Hamid and four beautiful children - Sara Imanina, Harraz Zaiyani, Hijjaz Hammani, and Muhammad Imtiyaz. He left us a priceless legacy, one which we will carry on forever in our hearts. May Allah the Almighty grant him the highest level in jannatul firdaus for all that he has contributed to mankind.

Thank you, my beloved professor, mentor, and a loving father to all of us. You will forever be missed.

Mohd Yazid Bajuri

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OBITUARY

In Memory of

Datuk Dr Sivanantham Muthiah
Malaysian Orthopaedic Association (MOA) President 1985-1987



Dr Sivanantham, a senior orthopaedic surgeon in Malaysia, died on 29 November 2021 in Kuala Lumpur, aged 85 years. Dr Sivanantham, (or Siva as popularly addressed), hailing from a native place called Allagapur, 15 kilometres from Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu, India, and settled in Kedah, a northern state in peninsular Malaya, had studied medicine in South India, graduating in 1963. He joined the Orthopaedic Department in General Hospital Kuala Lumpur when Tan Sri Abdul Majid Ismail was head, around 1965, as medical officer, and then under Dr Mahmood Merican who took over in 1969.

In 1970, he proceeded to England on scholarship, and after passing the Part I examination of the Royal College of Surgeons Glasgow, he obtained the FRCS England and FRCS Edinburgh in quick succession in 1971-72. He then proceeded to Liverpool for the Masters in Orthopaedic Surgery (MCh Orth) degree, which he obtained the following year.

Returning to Malaysia, he was posted to the Orthopaedic Department General Hospital Kuala Lumpur, becoming the head in 1974, taking over from Dr Khaw Joo Hua who left for private practice.

Dr Sivanantham's accomplishments are noteworthy.

Dr Sivanantham was one of the founder members of the Malaysian Orthopaedic Association in 1967, along with Dr Mahmood Merican, Dr Pretam Singh, Dr P Balasubramaniam and Dr Subir Sengupta. Dr Abdul Majid Ismail was the founder President.

He was appointed the first head of the newly established Institute of Orthopaedics on the grounds of GH KL in 1975. He was honoured in 1976 with the title of Dato by the King for his contributions to the country.

Dr Sivanantham served in 1985-87 as President of the Malaysian Orthopaedic Association, and in 1987 as the President of the ASEAN Orthopaedic Association.

He had developed a keen interest in bone oncology, and along with Dr Kannan Kutty, Pathologist, had published widely.

Dr Sivanantham, in his position as the head of the primary orthopaedic centre in Malaysia, was involved in the training of numerous medical officers as specialists. Even after his retirement from government service in 1996, Dr Siva continued bedside teaching of undergraduate students in private medical schools in Kuala Lumpur.

Dr Sivanantham was always a great supporter of the orthopaedic fraternity and would never miss an orthopaedic function. He was always a regular attendee (along with his wife) at orthopaedic annual general meetings and functions, locally as well as in ASEAN countries.

Dr Jagjit Singh, a senior orthopaedic consultant in private practice, who was Registrar under Dr Sivanantham, recalls: "He was particular about the value of the mentor-mentee approach, and under his watch, we managed to cobble together various orthopaedic workshops with invitees from

the ASEAN region and Europe. He continued to inspire his colleagues, to envision hope, to proclaim light and life, to encourage and remind us of his humble background”.

Dr Jagjit Singh, in concluding, quotes fittingly Terry Pratchett (the humanist) that “no one is finally dead until the ripples they cause in the world die away, until the wine made has finished its ferment, the clock wound up, winds down, until the crop they planted is harvested. The span of someone’s life is only the core of their actual existence”.

Dato Dr M Sivanantham will always be remembered for his conviviality and simplicity and ability to control his emotions.

He is survived by his wife, Datin Dr Inbavalli, daughter Dr Kannagi, and son Rajan, and grandchildren.

May his soul Rest In Peace.

Dr Abdul Hamid Bin Abd Kadir

Assunta Hospital
Petaling Jaya, Malaysia

With contribution by Dr Jagjit Singh, from KPJ Sentosa Specialist Hospital, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

OBITUARY

In Memory of

Professor P Balasubramaniam
Surgeon-Scientist-Mentor
1929-2022



Professor P Balasubramaniam - fondly known as Prof Bala, was born in the Sentul railway quarters, Kuala Lumpur on 26 October 1929. This was the era of the great depression and hardship was rife. He and his mother were sent to Ceylon when war was imminent but his father who continued working with the railways was killed during the Japanese bombing of Singapore during the Second World War.

Young Bala was then brought up in Ceylon. He studied in the University of Colombo and completed medical training in 1955. Orthopaedic training in Colombo began in 1957. This was followed with higher surgical training in surgery and orthopaedics in England in 1962. He passed the fellowship examination of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1965.

He returned to Kuala Lumpur in 1966 and started his career as a lecturer in the newly established Universiti Malaya (UM), becoming professor and head of the orthopaedic department in 1978. He had shown by his early publications that good basic science research is possible even with a modest budget.

Prof Bala was a founding member of two orthopaedic associations - the Malaysian Orthopaedic Association in 1967 and the Asean Orthopaedic Association in 1981. He was an active member of both associations and was an invited speaker to many international orthopaedic conferences.

In 1981 he moved south to join the National University of Singapore. His career flourished and he soon rose to become vice-dean of the medical faculty. His wife of 21 years, Ratnavali De Silva passed away in 1983 leaving him to single-handedly raise 3 teenage children – Lakshmi, Asoka and Indira.

He was a mentor and a friend to many of us in Malaysia and internationally. He was a visiting professor to Universiti

Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) since the 1980s and was subsequently appointed as an adjunct professor in 1999. His weekend teachings in UKM on the art and science of orthopaedics were well attended by trainees. His tutoring style was interactive, using the didactic and Socratic methods of teaching. He was also visiting professor to Universiti Sains Malaysia and an examiner for the Malaysian Board of Orthopaedics.

Prof Bala had a soft spot for Indonesia. His earliest visit was to Hasanuddin University, Makassar under the auspices of the World Orthopaedic Concern in 1978. He was later appointed visiting professor and examiner to the Indonesian Orthopaedic Surgery Board in 1984 and went often to the University of Indonesia, Airlangga University, Padjajaran University, Brawijaya University and Hasanuddin University.

He returned to UM in the new millennium when he was appointed to the Petronas Chair in Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation from 2001-2002. He was conferred an Honorary Doctorate in Medical Science from UKM in 2012 for his contribution to orthopaedic training spanning almost half a century.

Prof Bala passed away peacefully on 22 March 2022 aged 92 years. I was privileged to have known him for nearly four decades. His humility, comprehensive knowledge of orthopaedics and passion for teaching were truly inspirational. He laid a strong foundation in orthopaedic education and his legacy continues with training the next generation of orthopaedic surgeons.

Sharaf Ibrahim

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