

## Rajakumar – The Greatest Medical Intellect



*Dr Rajakumar with old friends and classmates. (From left: Arthur Lim, Rajakumar, Poh Soo Kai and Poh Soo Chuan)*

**D**r M K Rajakumar was a great physician of rare wisdom, an administrator of unusual skill, and a leader in world medical organisations.

He was one of the most remarkable international personalities in medicine and one of most respected and beloved.

Rajakumar's life revolved around more than just medicine, politics and administration. He was also a most charming doctor and a brilliant conversationalist on any topic. He was imbued with deep understanding and wisdom, in addition to being a great thinker who embraced the joys of living with an intense empathy for the less fortunate.

We had known and liked each other since our early endeavours as medical students in the 1950s (at the National University of Malaya). We both spent much time climbing the ranks of our professional organisations – Rajakumar as a physician and general practitioner and I as an eye surgeon. Although battling in different developments, we had always been mentally akin embracing similar principles.

Rajakumar received numerous awards and was elected to many key positions of the medical organisations in recognition of his exceptional abilities. He was one of the few doctors elected an academician by the Academy of Sciences of Malaysia. He was also appointed an Honorary Professor of the Capital Institute of Medicine, Beijing, China (1989) and received the award of Honour from the Chinese Medical Association, Beijing (2003). He was elected President of the World Organisation of Family Doctors (WONCA) 1986-89, President of the Malaysia Medical Association (1979-1980) and President of the Academy of Family Physicians of Malaysia (2003-2005).

I felt sad when I first learnt that his health had been troubling him for the last two years, although it did not restrain our enthusiastic discussions on how we could work together to push world medicine to a higher level especially in the People's Republic of China.

To Rajakumar's family especially his beloved wife and three children, I send my condolences and my love. To everyone, let us remember Rajakumar as the extraordinary intellect whose thoughts were always a level above ours. He will always be remembered as my dearest friend and colleague. ■

Prof Arthur Lim  
President, Alumni Association