

Hospital Stadium

(Part 1: Rumah vs. Bodoh)

By Dr Tan Yia Swam, Editorial Board Member



I dedicate this to fellow fans of Iron Chef – watch it on Asian Food Channel or YouTube! If this doesn't make sense to you, you are either too young, or don't have cable.

"Treating illness is why we became doctors. Treating patients is actually what makes most doctors miserable." - Dr G. House

Announcer: Nearly a decade ago, a man's fantasy became reality, in a form never seen before; Hospital Stadium – a giant healing arena. The motivation for spending his fortune to build Hospital Stadium was to encounter new, original techniques, which can be called true and inspired healing.

Chairman: "Allez Cicatriser!"

Announcer: To realise his dreams, he started choosing the top doctors in various specialties, and he named his men the "Iron Doctors", the invincible men of healing skills.

Iron Doctor Medical: Anatawa Bodoh "Ruler of Revery".

Iron Doctor Surgical: Iskiorata Absass "Lord of Laparotomies".

Iron Doctor Radiology: Watashiwa Numerro Uno "Sultan of Scans".

Iron Doctor Emergency: Nevaendin Admeetionz "Guardian of Gates".

Hospital Stadium is the arena where Iron Doctors await the challenges of master healers from all over the world. When one Iron Doctor from the group is challenged, both he or she and the challenger have one hour to tackle the theme problem of the day.

Using all their senses, skills, and creativity, they will prepare management and treatment plans never seen before!

And if ever a challenger triumphs over the Iron Doctor, he or she will gain the people's ovation and fame forever!!

In every battle, reputations are on the line in Hospital Stadium where Iron Doctors

pit their diagnostic skills and clinical acumen against master healers everywhere.

What inspiration will today's challenger bring? And how will the Iron Doctor fight back? The heat will be on!

Chairman: If memory serves me right, Dr Rumah of Paya Lebar-Pandan Loop Teaching Hospital (PPTH) has long been known to be a one-of-a-kind clinician. In a world that's moving rapidly towards sub-subspecialisations, amidst surgeons who specialise in nipple reconstruction, ophthalmologists who specialise in diseases of the iris, and cardiologists who specialise in electrophysiology, it is refreshing to see a doctor who is not only a generalist, but one who is also able to diagnose the rarest conditions ever known to man! His witty sarcasm is entertaining to anyone who is neither his patient, nor on his team; and in fact, serves to challenge his team to excel and perform to greater heights! I wish to experience his intuitive and brilliant leaps of diagnostic genius for myself! Therefore, I have invited him to Hospital Stadium, in a showdown with my team of Iron Doctors!

personally speaking

Dr Rumah: I'm here only because the Chairman invited me personally. I think that having a one-hour limit to diagnose and treat potentially complicated medical problems is a travesty. A really good and comprehensive management plan needs time to think and ponder through, to investigate and rule out differentials. However, I do feel sorry for the Iron Doctor today, because who better than me is used to coming up with solutions to difficult problems within one hour?

Chairman: Now I long to see Dr Rumah's brilliance in action. This clever physician who diagnosed the case of the wandering spleen,

the one who was able to diagnose a spinal arteriovenous malformation (AVM) and also treat ergot poisoning from mouldy bread! Is there nothing that will defeat him? I welcome our esteemed, if unpopular, colleague from PPTH!

(Applause)

Announcer: Entering Hospital Stadium is Dr Guregori Rumah! We summon the Iron Doctors. Dr Rumah, who will you challenge today?

Dr Rumah: The only one with knowledge that may meet my own is Iron Doctor Medical. I challenge Dr Anatawa Bodoh!

Chairman: Today's diagnostic challenge is... the case of the persistently low haemoglobin count!

Announcer: Bang a gong, we are on!

(To be continued... I welcome readers to write in to vote – who will win, who will lose? Or will it be a draw?) SMA



Miss Tan is happily settled into her current job. She still meets her fill of rude and nasty people (not all of them patients or their relatives), but somehow, she manages to handle it with a bit more equanimity. Life is too short and precious to waste being upset with people who have unhappy lives and taking it out on everyone around them. She tries to bring a bit more cheer to friends and colleagues, by helping them see the humour (or tragic comedy) in the kind of work we do. She welcomes comments at tys@sma.org.sg