

OBITUARY
PROFESSOR JOHN JOSEPH BOSCO
31.1.1945 - 24.4.1999



Professor John J. Bosco was a leading figure in the field of clinical haematology in Malaysia, and was gearing for greater things as the first Malaysian Clinical Dean of the International Medical University, when fate dealt a cruel blow. John collapsed and died while enjoying a game of tennis on April 24, 1999. The staff of the University of Malaya Medical Centre was stunned when this news was announced.

John J. Bosco was born in Seremban on the 31st of January 1945. He graduated with the Medical degree from the University of New South Wales, Australia in 1970. He continued and obtained his post-graduate qualifications in Internal Medicine also from Australia. He worked and gained experience in the fields of immunology and clinical haematology in Sydney before returning to Malaysia.

He joined the Haematology Unit of the Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya as a lecturer in 1979. His love for clinical medicine very soon drew him to the Department of Internal Medicine.

The Department of Pathology staff were sad to lose him **but** we were glad for him because it was a good career move which allowed his clinical skills to be put to good use. His rapid rise to Associate Professor and then to full Professor was a recognition by the University authorities of his talent and contributions as a physician, researcher and teacher.

The students loved him and John showed his love for them by imparting his clinical knowledge unselfishly. I am sure the Master of Pathology (Haematology) postgraduate students would not have forgotten the readiness and enthusiasm with which he taught them clinical haematology.

He had excellent interpersonal communication skills which stood him in good stead whether he was talking to a student, a patient, a colleague or to someone in authority. He was able to make everyone he met feel welcomed and at ease by his pleasant and friendly disposition.

He has done much for **haemato-oncology** in Malaysia. He was instrumental in setting up the adult Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at the University of Malaya Medical Centre. He was also the first President of the Malaysian Haematology Society.

The number and cross-section of people who attended his funeral services at the St. Xavier's Church in Petaling Jaya is testimony to the many lives he has touched in one way or another. The pathologists in Malaysia express our deep condolences to his wife Professor Gracie Ong and their children **Anne-Marie**, Julian and Joanna.

Although John is not with us now, I am sure his deeds will be a shining example for many young doctors to emulate. A flower may wither and die but its fragrance lingers on.

Professor N Menaka