

Prof Donald Ritson Gunn was the professor of orthopaedics from 1961-67 in Singapore. He was credited with starting formal orthopaedic training programme in Singapore. He was a much respected teacher and he collected a formidable slide library as well as set up the orthopaedic research laboratory. DG lecture was set up by his grateful students to honor him and is to be awarded to a senior member of the SOA for contributions to the development of orthopedics in Singapore.

It is my great privilege to read the citation for this year's DG lecturer, Dr Seow Kang Hong.

Dr Seow was born in Singapore, educated at the Chinese High school and graduated with MBBS in 1974 from the University of Singapore. He served his National Service like all good Singaporeans and obtained his Fellowship from the Royal College of Edinburgh and Glasgow in 1981. He chose to specialize in Orthopedics and one of the first to do his HMDP training in the United States, visiting many famous centers of excellence which was to shape his subsequent practice. He joined SGH Orthopedic O unit as a consultant in 1982 under Prof N Balachandran. When the University department moved to Kent Ridge and the 2 Orthopaedic units in SGH amalgamated in 1998, Dr Seow was made head of the newly formed Adult Reconstruction Service in SGH, department of Orthopaedics, hence my predecessor and my mentor. He served as deputy head of the department from 1998 to 2002. Among his numerous awards include the SGH CEO Outstanding Service Award in 1993 and the Pingat Bakti Setia National Day Award in 2010. He was SOA President in 1994-95. He retired from public service in 2011 and now enjoys a successful private practice in the Parkway hospitals.

Like all the orthopaedic surgeons who worked with Dr Seow, we have fond memories of our time together in SGH. I would like to share 3 things we remember about him.

1. Dr Seow had a wide repertoire as a surgeon and was a good mentor because of his wide experience. He was the last of his generation who could practice paediatric orthopaedic to geriatric orthopaedics. He could do spine instrumentation, joint replacements, ligament reconstructions. His surgery was neat and fast and a joy to watch. He read widely and I remembered his eloquent defense of the Putti-plat operation that he did, so upsetting the visiting prof Charles Rockwood that he called Dr Seow "Mr Putti" and said to him, "wait, I'm going to get my gun!". Dr Seow was very good with orthopaedic radiology and was invariably correct with his "I tell you this, there's only one diagnosis". He was effectively bilingual and was often invited to lecture on Arthroplasty in China where he was honoured with several visiting professorships.
2. The second thing we learnt from Seow was the importance of good doctor-patient relationship. We realized that patient outcome scores were often more closely correlated to good bedside manners than surgical technique. Dr Seow's reputation as a caring and approachable doctor was such that it spread by word of mouth in HDB kopitiam.
3. The third point was that Dr Seow was always impeccably dressed and groomed. And he has Mrs Seow to thank for this as I understand that she studied dress design in Paris before she married him. Dr Seow often hosted journal club at his home and Mrs Seow was a great cook and an excellent host.

Dr Seow served 25 years as a consultant in public service. He was a great teacher, a mentor and a role model for a generation of orthopaedic surgeons of my time. I present before you the 2016 DG lecturer Dr Seow Kang Hong

