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PRIME NEWS

1st Malaysian doctor to get UK medal

RCSEd AWARD:

HUKM surgeon says his students are his inspiration

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HOSPITAL Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's (HUKM) director of advanced surgical skills centre (ASSC) Professor Dr Hanafiah Harunarashid has become the first Malaysian to receive the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd) International Medal.

Dr Hanafiah said he dedicated his success and the award to his family, friends and students, as

well as Malaysians.

He received the RCSEd International Medal during a ceremony at Edinburgh College on Friday.

A consultant vascular surgeon, Dr Hanafiah, 48, is recognised for his role in establishing the ASSC, as well as his promotion of quality assessment for the Malaysia Red Crescent Society (MRCS) and UK Joint Surgical Colleges' Fellowship Examination and other RCSEd activities conducted in Asia, particularly in Malaysia.

He was in the pioneer group that set up the vascular unit at UKM and the Asean Sheffield Medical College.

Fondly known as Doc Peah and Hana to some, he said his students were his inspiration.

"I love my students. I am close to them. Some call me Mr Hana, some call me Prof, but they know they can approach me anytime. In fact, I feel that I learn as much from them as they learn from me. They are my

true inspiration."

He said his alma mater, Malay College Kuala Kangsar (MCKK), was more than a school.

"It is an institution that shaped my life. I was a prefect, debater, president of societies and a student leader. I was also active in sports."

After 19 years of serving as a surgeon in the United Kingdom, Dr Hanafiah said he returned to Malaysia in 2007.

"I left MCKK and studied medicine at the University of St Andrews. I got the gold medal for the best student and 17 distinctions. I had the opportunity to go to Cambridge, but I chose Edinburgh University instead.

"I worked under Professor Sir David Carter, a surgeon to Queen Elizabeth II, and many others who inspired me to become a surgeon.

"However, winning awards and medals mean nothing if I can't give back to society. Without the schol-



Professor Dr Hanafiah Harunarashid (centre) with Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh president **Dr Ian Ritchie** (right) and vice-president **Dr Mike Lavelle-Jones** at Edinburgh College in Scotland on Friday. Pic courtesy of Professor Dr Hanafiah Harunarashid

arship and opportunity at school, I wouldn't be where I am today.

"I want to serve my own people. I want my children to know their roots and where they came from," said the father of five, who also enjoys cooking.

When asked about his recipe for success, he said: "There is no substitute for hard work. Surgical training is a lifetime process. Remember, people put trust in your hands. You must make sure you do your best and be the best. But don't forget to

be humble. We are merely human, not God."

RCSEd vice-president Mike Lavelle-Jones said Dr Hanafiah was selected because of his skills and experience as a mentor and surgical trainer and involvement in establishing ASSC.

"Through his efforts, we were able to reintroduce the MRCS examination after a gap of 7 years. In 2013, we saw the launch of the MRCS OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination) examination at ASSC."