



Citation for Prof Abu Rauff

By Dr Ngori Sing Shang

MR PRESIDENT, honoured guests and colleagues, it is my distinct pleasure and honour to read a citation for Prof Abu Rauff on the conferment of SMA Honorary Membership. Prof Rauff has been my mentor and teacher since the beginning of my surgical career and many of yours as well.

Prof Rauff had his early education in Darjeeling, India and attended medical school in Calcutta from 1956 to 1962. He then went on to pursue a surgical career in the UK and received his Fellowship from the Royal College of Surgeons of England and Edinburgh in 1968. After working there, he came to Singapore and has been with the Surgical Unit A of the University of Singapore since 1972.

During his illustrious career, he contributed tremendously towards improving the education and skills of surgeons in Singapore, and has helped numerous patients towards recovery from their surgical illnesses.

He was one of the pioneers of renal transplant surgery since 1976, and to date, he is still active in this area. Prof Rauff is a master surgeon! He is a surgeon's surgeon! As a student, I had always admired him for his surgical craft and commitment to surgery. He is a tremendously driven person and will never refuse to come back to the operating room to help another colleague to overcome some surgical difficulties during an operation. Many times, he would turn up in the early hours of the morning, and stayed on to encourage and lecture us on where we went wrong in an operation! The times when he scolded us were when he felt we should have called him in earlier. He never showed any displeasure or anger despite being called in the early hours of the morning.

I cannot recall a time that he didn't turn up when we called him... unless he was on leave or out of the country or unless his wife did not want him to go! It was during those times

that you began to realise how surgery could cause so many problems, and how so many complications can occur unless you know how to deal with them. Through Prof Rauff, we learnt as we watched his masterly moves to correct a surgical problem and averted many disasters.

As a student, as a trainee surgeon and even as a consultant, Prof Rauff continues to be our mentor and teacher, sharing with us his collections of interesting and difficult surgical problems. I am always amazed at his abilities to pull a patient out of surgical danger. You can literally see his eyes light up after that!

This is his passion and this is his life!

From now on, none of us will ever get a chance to be like Prof Rauff or to do what he was able to do. Subspecialisation or super-specialisation has cut out the work for us!

This is a man who has sacrificed much of his time to teaching selflessly, passionately and diligently. This is a man who will come to your help whenever you need him, and without questions. For that, I admire him greatly... a true surgical hero! I submit to you all that Prof Rauff is most worthy to be conferred as SMA Honorary Membership for all his meritorious service to Medicine and to our community! ■



Prof Abu Rauff receiving the SMA Honorary Membership from Minister Ng Eng Hen