

Four women cardiologists among 74 made NHAM Fellows

COMMUNITY

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THEY were the first women cardiologists in the country two decades ago and the challenges of their profession have brought them together, as close friends and confidants.

"The four of us have become girlfriends, partners in crime," Dr Jeyamalar Rajadurai said recently.

Jeyamalar, and her other three "girlfriends" - Datuk Seri Dr Robaayah Zambahari, Dr Ong Mei Lin and Dr Devi Ramasamy - were among the 74 honoured by their peers when they became the first group of the Fellows of the National Heart Association of Malaysia (NHAM).

"We cry on each other's shoulders. Besides that, we also go shopping together and at other times, keep in touch by telephone, SMS or e-mail. We were thrown together by being the first four women cardiologists," Ong said.

"We have gone through all of life's events together, the happy times and the sad times," she said.



Well done: (From left) Jeyamalar, Robaayah and Ong are among the first cardiologists in Malaysia to be made Fellows of the National Heart Association of Malaysia (NHAM).

Robaayah, senior consultant cardiologist and medical director of the National Heart Institute (IJN) said the four supported each other.

"We ended up hanging out together more than with our family members because of the working hours. We would discuss cases together and in time, became very good friends," she said.

On receiving the fellowship, Robaayah and Ong said it was an honour to be among many of the pioneers in the field and valued the recognition by their peers.

NHAM president Dr Hendrick Chia said the fellowship was started to address the need for accreditation of cardiologists and heart specialists in Malaysia.

Besides senior cardiologists, he added that the fellowship was also conferred on physicians, cardio thoracic surgeons and cardiac anaesthetists.

The NHAM Fellowship Credentialing Committee will recommend the minimum requirements for the fellows in cardiology such as duration and content of training, review applications every six months and withdrawing the fellowship if it feels that it is warranted.

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