

Tunku Sara binti Tunku Ahmad Yahaya attended primary and secondary school at Bukit Nanas Convent, Kuala Lumpur. She graduated from the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, University of London. Upon graduating, she started duty as a houseman at Universiti Malaya Medical Centre (then known as University Hospital or UH) and stayed on in Orthopaedic Surgery as a trainee lecturer with the University of Malaya.

To gain experience in the exciting new field of Hand Microsurgery, she worked under the guidance of international pioneer of hand and microsurgery, (now Emeritus) Professor Robert W.H. Pho in Singapore.

On return to UM in 1984 she began her career as a lecturer, rising to Associate Professor in 1996 and Professor in 2001. She formally began the Hand and Microsurgery Clinic (formerly called minor injury clinic) at UH in 1993 with 5 patients. The clinic is now able to manage a maximum of 150 patients per week. A separate team began attending to hand injuries and emergencies around the clock.

She was Head of Department from 1999 to 2012. During her term, the number of staff has increased to cover all major subspecialities (most are specialties in their own right). The research output is now considerable. The clinical Masters in Orthopaedic Surgery (UM) has grown from a yearly intake of 2 to 25 candidates with foreign candidates. The department now runs more than 12 courses a year, most oversubscribed and with international participants. The basic microsurgery course offered is a 5 day intensive hands on course.

She is a member of the first Conjoined Board of Orthopaedics and was Chairman Malaysia in 2006/2007. She was a member of the Orthopaedic Speciality Credentialling Committee of the Malaysian Medical Council and is an examiner for the subspeciality fellowships in Orthopaedic Surgery for the Ministry of Health. She was instructor for the Basic Surgical Skills Course, Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh for 6 years. She is a member of the Academy of Medicine and College of Surgeons of Malaysian.

She presents papers regularly, locally and internationally, has written numerous papers in local and international journals and book chapters. She is a reviewer for the Asia Pacific Journal of Hand Surgery, the Malaysian Medical Journal, The Malaysian Orthopaedic Journal and the UMMC Journal (JUMMEC). She has supervised more than 20 masters' students in their research projects for the Masters of Orthopaedic Surgery, Bioengineering, Medical Science and General Surgery.

She was President of the Malaysian Orthopaedic Association from 2006 to 2007, and founder member of the Malaysian Society for Surgery of the Hand and was President 2004 to 2009. She represented Malaysia internationally in both capacities.

In 2003 she was awarded the Dato' Setia diRaja Kedah by his Royal Highness the Sultan of Kedah. Her mother Elinah, is a Pianist and Musician. She performed many charity concerts as a classical singer while her mother accompanied. She also loves dancing and is currently learning the art of tap dancing. She does self defense to keep fit and previously attained the green belt in Capoeira. She also loves skiing when it is possible. Her father Tunku Ahmad, an accountant and corporate figure and her husband Zulkifli trained as an Architect and is a property developer. They are both interested in plants and animals and all things "green". They are blessed with two lively children Nur Aishah and Yaqub.