

## Dr Christina Ng

44, Consultant Medical Oncologist; Founder and President of Empowered

Working at a local government hospital inspired Consultant Medical Oncologist, Dr Christina Ng to embark on a new journey of intense learning and fulfillment. As founder and president of Empowered, the Cancer Advocacy Society of Malaysia, Dr Christina offers her expertise to educate people about cancer (colorectal cancer, especially) and to give those living in rural areas greater access to information on the disease, cancer screening and early treatment.

“Colorectal cancer is now the most common cancer affecting men and second most common cancer in women in Malaysia. It was during my tenure with Universiti Malaya Medical Centre that I realised the need to go into the community to organise early detection exercises,” she says.

This not-for profit organisation’s agenda is to save lives and help cancer patients go through their entire journey from the initial screening right up to subsequent treatment, counselling and follow-ups. A team of specialists collaborate with Empowered to ensure that subsequent treatment such as colonoscopies are effectively administered. All costs are borne by Empowered. “They don’t come to us, we go to them. Our projects are always executed within the communities as we recognise that health is not the main priority in under-resourced communities due to pressing survival needs,” says Dr Christina.

As project leader, she propels her team, including collaborating organisations and more than 100 medical student volunteers to channel their best efforts, resources and medical expertise into target communities with an attitude of compassion and perseverance.

