

Medical insights

TV3's new series *Medik TV* not only enlightens viewers on the goings-on in operating theatres, it also gives them a chance to pose questions during the screening, reports **JASYANTHRI NADARAJA**.

BLOOD, diseases and death have become part of the life of journalists who are working on TV3's new series *Medik TV*.

"It is a tough job for broadcast reporters who work with *Medik TV* because they need to spend a lot of time in the operating theatres.

"They have to get used to seeing blood and death," said the programme's senior producer, Mazlin Nordin, after the programme launch by Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng in Kuala Lumpur recently.

Mazlin said that the team working for *Medik TV* faced different

challenges compared to a news journalist.

The half-hour show produced by TV3, which is aired on Saturdays at 5.30pm, made its debut on Jan 10. It discusses medical issues that often plague Malaysians, such as heart disease, diabetes, cancer, backache and asthma.

During the launch, scenes from the series on medical procedures such as heart surgery were shown to the audience.

Mazlin added that the show emphasised on interaction with viewers.

"It is more personalised compared to other medical shows. We allocate time for viewers to call in. The programme also shows how a family copes with medical problems, how they are affected mental-



Host Nurfarahin Jamsari.

ly and psychologically plus the financial and emotional hardships they might be facing."

She also said that the interaction between the callers and the specialists who appeared on the show is important because sometimes callers would be apprehensive about seeking treatment.

Medik TV host Nurfarahin Jamsari revealed that they received overwhelming response from viewers after the first telecast because of the live interview with a cardiologist.

"About 20 people called in during the show but only one to two calls could be aired because there was not enough time. Nevertheless, there is a doctor on standby who will respond to callers," said Nurfarahin.

She added that a lot of research was needed and discussions would be held among the crew members as part of the preparation.

Co-host plastic surgeon Dr Nasir Zahari said that the callers usually asked about the symptoms and treatments for the illness highlighted for the particular week. He added that the patients who appeared on the show were those recommended by their doctors.

Broadcast journalist Shahnun Hanif A. Suhaimi said that the crew had to do research and study the cases besides learning medical terms in order to converse with doctors easily.

"Though the patients are from urban and rural areas, the crew sometimes pays more attention to patients from the rural areas so that more rural folk can share their experiences on TV.

"The shooting is done two weeks prior to the screening but if there is a more significant case, *Medik TV* would air it first," he said.