

Dr. Raymond Fong

Dr. Raymond Fong was born in Hong Kong and immigrated to the United States at the age of five. Like most Chinese immigrants, his family settled in Chinatown and his parents worked in the garment factories.

Dr. Fong graduated in the top 1% of his class at Stuyvesant High School. (although he did have to repeat fourth grade in Chinese school). He then attended Harvard University on scholarship where he graduated with honors in biochemistry in three years. During this time, he became inspired by a group of highly dedicated visionaries at the nascent Chinatown Health Clinic, people who were passionately advocating for culturally sensitive and affordable health care for the impoverished community. This was during a time when Asians were (and still are) seen as the ideal minority; when the passage of Medicare was opposed by the AMA; and the notion that health care as a right was perceived as Communist and un-American.

After graduating from Cornell Medical School, and completing his ophthalmology residency at the Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, he immediately set up practice in the community. Although there was a stigma attached to setting up in the inner city communities such as Chinatown, he simply explained it to his professors and colleagues: "It was home".

Dr. Fong specializes in cataract surgery and LASIK, having personally performed over 30,000 cataract surgeries and over 10,000 LASIK procedures. Consistently named one of the "**Top Doctors- NY Metro Area**" by Castle & Connolly guide since the book's inception in 1993, Dr. Fong is founder and co-director of iLaser, one of only 5 LASIK centers in the United States designated by Alcon, the largest eye care company in the world as a "Center of Excellence". He is a surgeon director at both the New York Eye Surgery Center and Brooklyn Eye Surgery Center; a consultant for Alcon Surgical, where he evaluates the next generation of surgical devices ; and is involved in research as an FDA Principal Investigator in over two dozen FDA trials.

After 42 years, Dr Fong is proud of his continued involvement with the Chinatown Health Clinic (presently known as the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center) as the president of its foundation. Starting from a church basement with volunteers, the Clinic now is the largest health care provider in the community, with over 200,000 visits per year. This year, the foundation will help launch a \$60 million fundraising drive to build an additional center in Queens.

Dr Fong was a past president of the Chinese American Medical Society. He is also on the Board of Trustees of the Stuyvesant High School Alumni organization. Go, Peglegs!