ISSN: 2660-8114
A TRI-ANNUAL PUBLICATION

YEAR 2020 ISSUE 3

pulse@UM

- Healthy adult life following childhood cancer
- Virtual exercises with older adults: the CAMHEP-PISA initiative
- Helicobacter pylori eradication: A frontier digital health system for management of treatment via antibiotic resistance profiles
- Breast milk sharing in ethnically diverse Malaysia

SPECIAL ISSUE

HEALTH AT THE CROSSROADS

An interdisciplinary approach

A RESEARCH BULLETIN BY THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA

02 TABLE OF CONTENTS

06 Cover Stories

06 Healthy adult life following childhood cancer

08 Virtual exercises with older adults: the CAMHEP-PISA initiative

10 Helicobacter pylori eradication: A frontier digital health system for management of treatment via Antibiotic Resistance Profiles

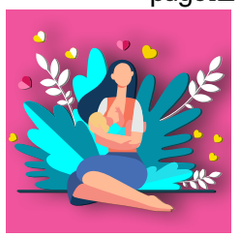
12 Breast milk sharing in ethnically diverse Malaysia

page**10**

14 Research Spotlight

14 Faculty of Medicine: eLearning Object Co-creation Hackathon

page**12**



16 Inaugural Lectures

16 Training the modern surgeon - Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani

17 Seeking the hidden heart - Professor Dr Yang Faridah Abdul Aziz

18 Knowlesi malaria - Professor Dr Lau Yee Ling

19 Conservative spine surgery: the true minimally invasive spine surgery - Professor Dr Dharmendra Ganesan

20 Awards

20 2020 Impact Oriented Interdisciplinary Research Grant (IIRG) recipients

22 2020 Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS) recipients

24 Top 3 departments in 2019 based on ratio of ISI publications to number of staff

25 Honourary fellowship in the American College of Surgeons - Prof. Dr. April Camilla Roslani

26 List of achievements in 2020

29 2020 Highlights

29 UM FOM publication records

30 UM Ranking

31 Total grants received

32 Collaboration

33 Retired FOM staff

34 A tribute to Professor Dato' Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman

35 2021 Upcoming events

The Editorial Team

Pulse@UM is a tri-annual research bulletin in English published by the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Malaya. The views and opinions expressed here are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of UM, and the editorial board. Materials from the Bulletin may be reprinted with proper attribution.

If you would like to learn more about the information from this bulletin, or would like to contribute or subscribe to future issues, please get in touch with us at editorialpulse@um.edu.my.

For the online version of this bulletin, visit:
https://resfom.um.edu.my/bulletin/bulletin-pulse/

CONTRIBUTORS
We would like to acknowledge and thank the following contributors to this issue:
Amira Fatin , April Camilla Roslani, Chua Kek Heng, Dharmendra Ganesan, Hany Ariffin, Hong Wei Han, Lau Yee Ling, Lee Yew Kong, Lim Hooi Min, Maznah Dahlui, Nadia Atiya, Ng Chirk Jenn , Nik Daliana Nik Farid, Norsafatul Aznin A. Razak, Othniel Panyih, Tan Maw Pin, Tengku Ain Kamalden, Teo Chin Hai, Tik Maimunah, Yang Faridah Abdul Aziz

EDITORIAL BOARD
Advisors:
April Camilla Roslani, Ng Chirk Jenn, Adeeba Kamarulzaman

Editor-in-Chief: Nur Afiqah Mohd Salleh

Editors:
Azlina Abdul Aziz, Ang Qi Xuan, Choo Wan Yuen, Fadzilah Hanum Mohd Mydin, Kee Boon Pin, Nur Afiqah Mohd Salleh, Nurul Farhana Mohd Nasir, Tan Choo Hock, Tan Kae Yi

COVER PHOTO
For editorial use only

FOREWORD FROM THE DEPUTY DEAN

Greetings, colleagues! I trust that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy wherever you are at the moment. As we head into the final stretches of 2020, we should take a moment to reflect on the ups and downs of the year. Undoubtedly, this has been a challenging year for all of us and we stand in solidarity for those who are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in every aspect. Despite the challenges, it is in these moments that we find ourselves to be resilient in restoring our abilities to adapt to the changes. If there is a single element that builds resilience, it is social connectedness – within family units and the workplace community .

Speaking of connectedness, it is my pleasure to introduce the theme of this year's final issue, "Health at the Crossroads: An Interdisciplinary Approach" which reflects what we do best in both practice and research. Over the years, we have attempted to break down barriers as we stimulate meaningful discussions across multiple disciplines, not just within the faculty but beyond the realm of medicine. Through interdisciplinarity, we create a powerful learning experience for ourselves, and more importantly, offer impactful and innovative solutions to improve the health of our society.

To celebrate interdisciplinary research, the cover stories in this issue have showcased the work of our very own Impact-Oriented Interdisciplinary Research (IIRG) grant recipients from the faculty. We included stories about a collaboration with the Sports Centre in conducting virtual exercises with older persons; utilisation of a digital health system to assess antibiotic resistance profiles of the Helicobacter pylori bacterium; Islamic legal principles on breast milk sharing; and the power of educational psychology to improve paediatric cancer survivorship.

Despite the hurdles during this unprecedented time, outstanding achievements have been made by our Faculty members throughout the year – the delivery of inaugural lectures by our four prominent academicians; increase in number of successful IIRG grant and Fundamental and Transdisciplinary Research Grant Schemes (FRGS and TRGS) applications; a fellowship award in the American College of Surgeons (ACS); and being listed in Stanford University's list of the World Top 2% scientists.

The "2020 Highlights" in this issue will walk you through major events in a nutshell. We provide you with infographics on the number of publications; top department publications; University Malaya's exceptional jump in regional and global ranks; amount of funding received from grants secured and a list of collaborations.

Finally, but not least, one of the major highlights of the year that brings about mixed emotions is the departure of our Professor Dato' Dr. Adeeba Kamarulzaman as the Faculty's Dean and the appointment of Professor Dr. April Camilla Roslani as the new Dean. As we congratulate and welcome our new Dean, it is also our pleasure to treasure our former Dean's lasting contributions in a special section of this issue; "A tribute to Professor Adeeba Kamarulzaman" and the last foreword message from her.

To my colleagues, be proud of this year, because I am certainly proud of our collective success. Through this issue, we look forward to bringing you all the latest research and events from the faculty as we move forward into what is certain to be an exciting year! Happy New Year! ■

Professor Dr Ng Chirk Jenn
Deputy Dean (Research)

LETTER FROM PROF. ADEEBA

Dear colleagues,

With the pandemic still very much with us, I hope all of you are well and maintaining the resilience and steadfastness that have seen us get through the year thus far growing stronger together.

As we approach the end of 2020 and as I leave you with my final words, I firstly think of the many, many thank yous I owe as a departed dean. I am indeed gratified by what we have accomplished together and pleased to see that the many initiatives that were started in different areas of the faculty are now thriving.

The well-deserved national and international awards to individuals or teams; the countless grants that make our research possible; the strengthening of our relationship with local partners and abroad, the development of research facilities including laboratories; and more recently, the new strategic plan to guide the faculty forward. Thank you for your endless hard work, perseverance and commitment and for allowing me to oversee this exciting growth during my deanship.

I am thrilled to pass the baton to Prof April Camilla Roslani. Prof April will indeed have her own strategies but I believe that together we have built a strong foundation, poised for even greater success in the new era of growth under her leadership. Please join me in supporting Prof April as she embarks on this role in the coming years.

The Pulse magazine, over the years, celebrates our achievements by enlightening its readers the latest news and events happening among our faculty members. It serves not only to keep us informed of the various research activities within the faculty, the awards and medals received, as well as engagement with the community, but also to inspire us to continue the chain reaction of impactful work. It is a great pleasure to serve as the advisor of the Faculty's PULSE Magazine over the course of my deanship, and to see these developments being narrated in each issue.

As is evident in this issue of Pulse, Interdisciplinary has always been the core of our identity, whether we realize it or not. We transcend out ordinary experiences and limitations by appreciating perspectives and expertise other than ours. We integrate natural, clinical, public health and social science realms in our attempt to address complex and wicked problems in medicine. Nevertheless, there is much more that can be done to improve our capacity in communicating across disciplines and integrating knowledge and insights, guided by evidence-based methods of interdisciplinary science.

I hope that we can continue to ask ourselves, how can we, as researchers in our respective fields, sustain our innovative spirit by developing our ideas within and across disciplines?

Quoting the words of Charles Darwin, "It is the long history of humankind (and animal kind, too) that those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed." Or to give it a more contemporary slant, Michael Jordan once said, "Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships."

The year 2020 has brought challenges none of us could have imagined, yet, we are resilient, as demonstrated in our list of achievements throughout the year in this issue. I hope you enjoy this issue of Pulse and upcoming ones as much as I do.

I am honored to serve as your Dean, and I wish you all continued success in the years ahead. Thank you. ■

Professor Dato' Dr.
Adeeba Kamarulzaman
Dean of Medicine,
University of Malaya
1 July 2011 – 3 December 2020

Figure 1: Art-based intervention to address psychomotor deficit in a child with brain tumour

HEALTHY ADULT LIFE FOLLOWING CHILDHOOD CANCER

UM researchers work together to improve paediatric cancer survivorship.

Background

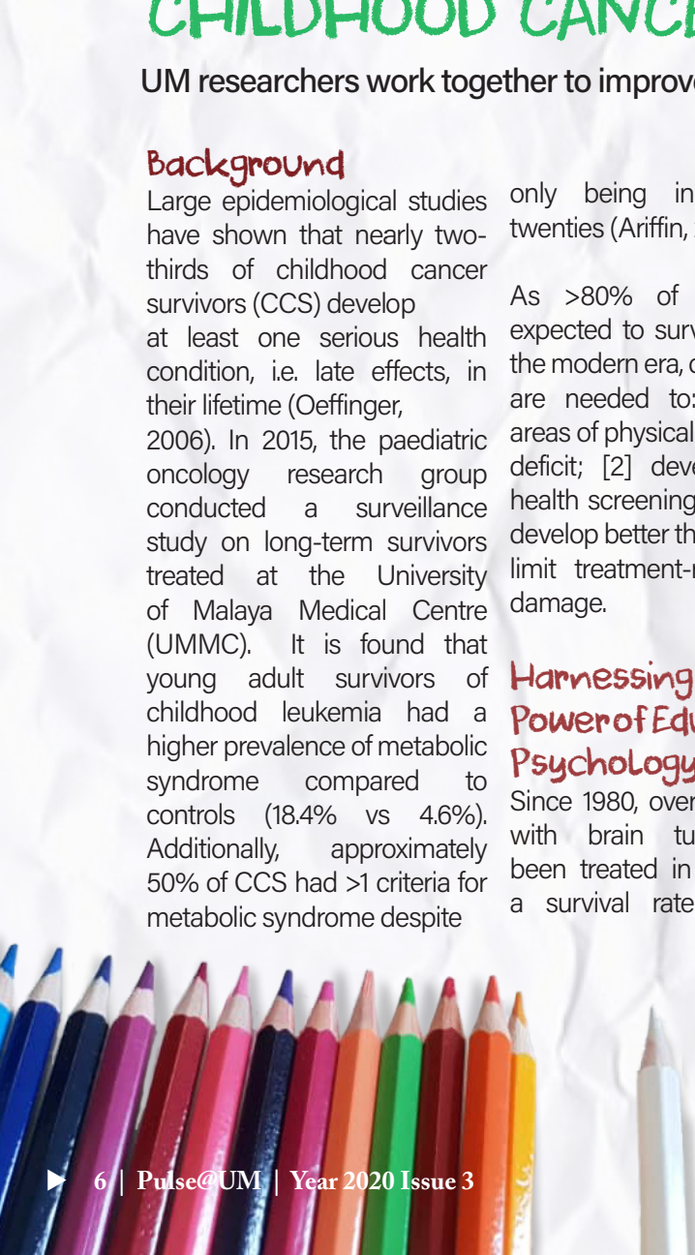
Large epidemiological studies have shown that nearly two-thirds of childhood cancer survivors (CCS) develop at least one serious health condition, i.e. late effects, in their lifetime (Oeffinger, 2006). In 2015, the paediatric oncology research group conducted a surveillance study on long-term survivors treated at the University of Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC). It is found that young adult survivors of childhood leukemia had a higher prevalence of metabolic syndrome compared to controls (18.4% vs 4.6%). Additionally, approximately 50% of CCS had >1 criteria for metabolic syndrome despite only being in their mid-twenties (Ariffin, 2017).

As >80% of children are expected to survive cancer in the modern era, concrete steps are needed to: [1] address areas of physical and cognitive deficit; [2] develop effective health screening tools and [3] develop better therapies which limit treatment-related organ damage.

Harnessing the Power of Educational Psychology

Since 1980, over 200 children with brain tumours have been treated in UMMC with a survival rate of 60-70%, comparable to developed countries. Unfortunately, therapies for brain tumours lead to many long-term and devastating side-effects. Notably, cranial irradiation is associated with neurological deficits such as deterioration of IQ and poor memory (Ries, 2008). Additionally, as the child with brain tumour transitions into adolescence and adulthood, he/she often faces academic and psychosocial challenges (Langeveld, 2004).

In collaboration with researchers from the Faculty of Education and funded by a UM grant (IIRG-021B), an intervention programme for survivors of brain tumours was launched in 2019. The multi-faceted programme includes individual and family therapy and counselling, psychological rehabilitation and cognitive behavioural based interventions. Of note, due to the restrictions arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, these programmes have shifted to the online platform, ensuring continuity of care for the patients.



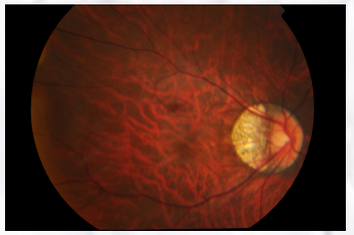


Figure 2: Retinal image of a young adult childhood cancer survivor showing marked retinal vascular attenuation

Eyes as Windows to the Heart

The eye is the only privileged organ where blood vessels and unmyelinated nerve fibers can be seen and examined directly. The eyes have proverbially been touted as 'windows to the soul' but now also serve as a screening tool for heart disease. Working together with the UM Eye Research Centre and collaborators from Universities of Edinburgh and Dundee, retinal vessel analysis using software named VAMPIRE (Vascular Assay and Measurement Platform for Images of the Retina) was performed to identify CCS at increased risk for developing cardiovascular disease (Azanan, 2020). At-risk survivors were identified using images taken via a retinal camera to seek evidence of microvasculopathy (vascular attenuation). This, in addition to physical and biochemical evidence of endothelial dysfunction, facilitated identification of at-risk patients and allowed implementation of appropriate intervention measures.

Developing Better and Safer Therapies

Treatment protocols for childhood cancers have focused on achieving an optimal balance between cure and toxicities. Modern treatment protocols such as the sequential Malaysia-Singapore leukaemia (MaSpore-ALL) clinical trials are risk-adapted based on better understanding of tumour biology and treatment response to improve therapeutic precision. Hopefully, these efforts will yield the ultimate prize of excellent cure rates with minimal long-term side-effects; thus allowing childhood cancer survivors to lead healthy and productive adult lives. ■

AUTHORS

Professor Dr Hany Ariffin
Department of Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine

Associate Professor Dr Tengku Ain Kamalden
UM Eye Research Centre, Department of Ophthalmology, Faculty of Medicine

Dr Norsafatul Aznin A. Razak
Department of Educational Psychology and Counselling, Faculty of Education

References:
1. Ariffin H, et al. Young adult survivors of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia show evidence of chronic inflammation and cellular aging. Cancer 2017; 123 : 4207-4214
2. Tay CG, et al. Vincristine-induced peripheral neuropathy in survivors of childhood lymphoblastic leukemia. Pediatric Blood Cancer 2017; 64(8): e26471
3. Ariffin H. Challenges in surviving childhood leukemia. Lancet Haematology 2019; 6(6): e286
4. Azanan MS, et al. Retinal vessel analysis as a novel screening tool to identify childhood ALL survivors at risk of cardiovascular disease. J Pediatric Hematology Oncology 2020; 42 (6): e394-400
5. Ramli N, et al. Assessing changes in microstructural integrity of white matter tracts in children with leukaemia following exposure to chemotherapy. Pediatric Radiology 2020; 50 (9): 1277 – 1283
6. Chandrasekaran S, et al. Premature ocular aging features in childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia survivors. J Adolesc Young Adult Oncology. 2020. doi: 10.1089/jayao.2020.0064

Artwork: Ang Qi Xuan

VIRTUAL EXERCISES WITH OLDER ADULTS

the CAMHEP-PISA initiative

With the COVID-19 movement restrictions orders, many of us are having difficulties juggling work and household responsibilities-childcare, virtual classes or loss of paid helpers. Others are more unfortunate, especially those working with the private sector who are experiencing loss of income. However, it is at times like this that society pulls together, despite having challenges of our own. This is the time to have more people to volunteer and among those who are still employed or with savings, to donate goods and money. At the same time, everyone should stay as healthy as possible, to avoid burdening the healthcare system.

However, little is known of the potential impact of our movement restriction orders on the psychosocial health of our older members of the community. The heightened risk of severe COVID-19 illness for older persons will undoubtedly lead to fear amongst the older population and those who look out for them. This may be further compounded by both self-imposed and enforced isolation from our various categories of movement restriction. While the general public are advised to practice physical distancing, older people are advised to stay at home to avoid physical contact since they are the most vulnerable group. This is where #UMPrihatin or the "Caring For Mental Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic (CaMHeP)" project with an extension of a Seniors arm comes in. The Ageing and Age-Associated Disorders Research group was invited to contribute

Figure 1: Participants performing fine motor exercise to improve coordination.

to this important research initiative which began in April 2020 to mitigate the potential psychological effect of the pandemic on our general population.

We re-engaged our Promoting Independence in our Seniors with Arthritis (PISA) cohort by recruiting them into an exercise study. Individuals were given a choice of conducting home based exercise using an exercise booklet and video created for the PISA study by Prof Selina Khoo and her team from the Sports Centre . Alternatively, they were given the choice to connect using Google Meet at 7.30am every morning to participate in virtual exercises. The exercises were led by Amira, our PhD student and Jarvin, a physiotherapist volunteer.

Forty-three older adults agreed to take part. Compared to their scores at the latest visit in PISA in 2018, there was a significant increase in anxiety scores. Participation was very encouraging, with 70% electing to participate in our virtual exercise sessions, while others preferred to exercise on their own at home. Data analysis on their adherence and effects on psychological health is now complete after the one-month intervention.

As the saying goes, it only takes a spark to get the fire going. The group has stayed together, and continues to meet every morning to this day. They have also agreed to share their story with the press, not once but twice! ■

Links to Star articles:

AUTHORS

Professor Dr Tan Maw Pin
Department of Medicine,
Faculty of Medicine

Amira Fatin
PhD student
Department of Medicine,
Faculty of Medicine

Figure 2: A live virtual group exercise sessio by instructor.

Helicobacter pylori Eradication

A Frontier Digital Health System for Management of Treatment via Antibiotic Resistance Profiles

AUTHOR

Professor Dr Chua Kek Heng
Department of Biomedical Science
Faculty of Medicine

Helicobacter pylori is a bacterium that has quietly lived in the gut of nearly two-thirds of the world population,world population. However, many people are asymptomatic. Having this bacterium, a silent killer, living in the human body can lead to stomach ulcers and further increase the risk of developing stomach cancer up to six times higher compared to an uninfected individual. In the early 1990s, *H. pylori* was successfully eradicated in nearly 90 percent of the cases using 7-day first-line antibiotics. However, it has now become a challenging infection to treat as this bacterium has changed and resisted the killing effects of commonly used antibiotics. Hence, to develop a more effective treatment regimen for *H. pylori* infection, it is crucial to gain insights into the antibiotic resistance profiles of the bacterium.

Artwork: Ang Qi Xuan

The assessment of antibiotic resistance profiles in clinical settings often involves the cultivation of bacteria from infected patients, which requires a longer turnaround time for results. However, it is difficult to grow H. pylori in a laboratory; therefore, in vitro cultivation is not a wise approach to track the infection. In this cross- disciplinary collaborative project, we aim to study the changes of the bacterium's genetic materials related to drugs commonly used in local clinical practice, especially clarithromycin against *H. pylori* using extracted DNA from biopsy samples. This could directly guide the researchers or medical personnel to identify an appropriate drug to eliminate and control the growth of *H. pylori* in the human body while bypassing the bacterial cultivation step.

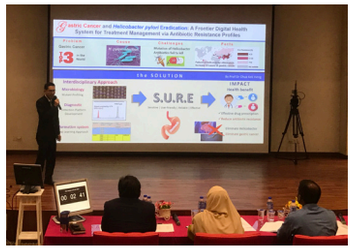


Figure 1: Project leader, Prof. Dr Chua Kek Heng, was presenting at the pitching session on 21st March 2019

The antibiotic resistance profiles obtained from this research will further be utilised to establish a molecular screening panel for use in the local community. The information generated from the screening panel will be subsequently subjected to suitable ruled-based methods, e.g. what-if models to suggest appropriate drug treatment. The output of this project certainly will benefit physicians in decision-making as well as patients to ensure they receive the effective antibiotic for treatment. ■

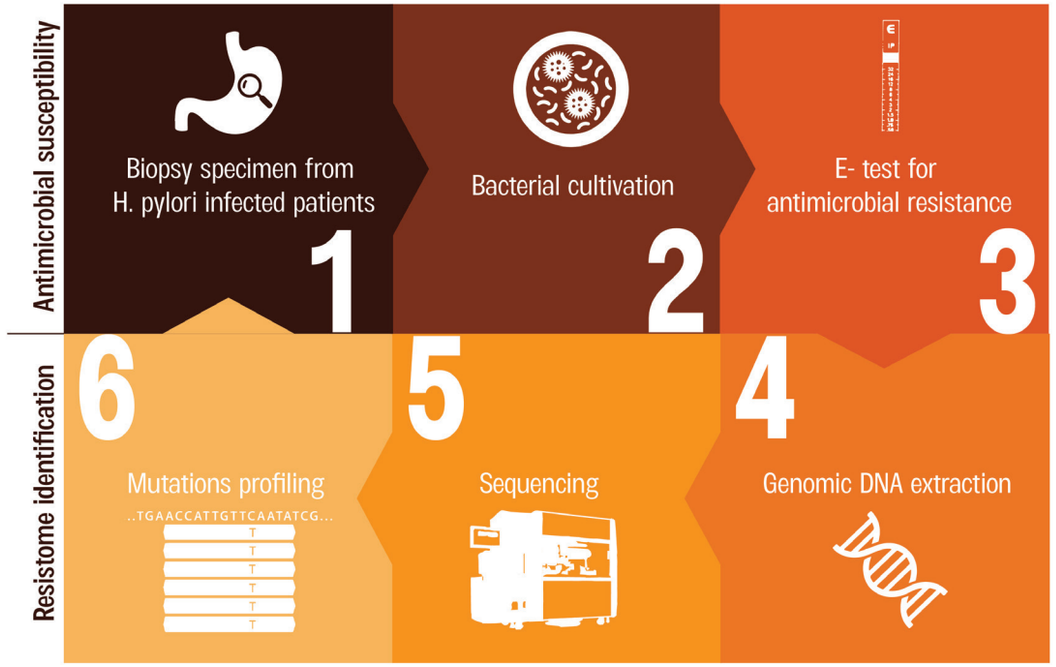


Figure 2: Overall workflow – integration of different disciplines towards the development of antibiotic resistance profiles in H. pylori.

Artwork: freepik.com/pch . vector

Breast Milk Sharing

in Ethnically Diverse Malaysia

Breastfeeding has well-established health benefits to mothers and infants. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that infants who are not able to receive breast milk from their own mothers should receive breast milk from others as an alternative. This programme will emphasise the socio-medical and scientific basis of breastfeeding and breast milk sharing in Malaysia, a multicultural country, from the perspective of religion particularly Islam Therefore, the project will primarily examine the level of obligation to breastfeeding as well as the permissibility of resorting to alternatives to breastfeeding that are found to be beneficial in certain circumstances particularly with regards to premature newborn and critically ill infant . However, in a Muslim-majority country with a multiracial background like Malaysia, milk sharing practices remains controversial due to the concept of "milk kinship" in Islam. This requires an in-depth analysis of the legal principles and maxims of Islam pertaining to breast milk sharing. These premises will be examined by Sub-programme One of the project which hopes to present solution to breast milk sharing initiative according to the Quran and Hadith, and views of contemporary muslim scholars.

Meanwhile, the scientific basis of the influence of breast milk on growth and development of the newborn also requires empirical evidence to reinforce acceptance and practice of breast milk sharing. Hence, scientific evidence on the nutritional aspects especially of the protein composition and immuno-protective components of breast milk will be investigated in Sub-programme Two which seeks to provide greater understanding of the dynamics & variability of human milk content at the molecular level as one of its aim. It is hoped that this will provide important insights on whether the profiles of biomolecules in human milk differ from the first to the second year of lactation, as well as their roles in the development of the infant's immune system and growth.

In order to translate the outcomes from the two sub-programmes at the community level, recommendation and implementation of the practices will require further analysis especially on the perception and acceptance of breast milk sharing en masse. The scope of this objective will come under the investigation of Sub-programme Three which will determine the knowledge, attitude and practices towards breast milk feeding and sharing of the general population and healthcare professionals in Malaysia.

Overall, the findings obtained from this study will be important in providing new insight into the perspective of breast milk sharing in Malaysia especially in developing a policy that addresses the ethical and safety issues while ensuring that guidelines proposed adhered strictly to the teachings of Islam. ■

Figure 2: Our IIRG team joined the Gift of Love event in conjunction with World Breastfeeding Week 2019. The event organized by The Breastfeeding Advocates Network (TBAN) on 4th August 2019.

Diagram 1: Programme and Sub-programme leaders during IIRG Award Ceremony

AUTHORS

Professor Dr Maznah Dahlui
Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine

Associate Professor Dr Nik Daliana Nik Farid
Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine

Tik Maimunah
Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine

Research Spotlight

Faculty of Medicine

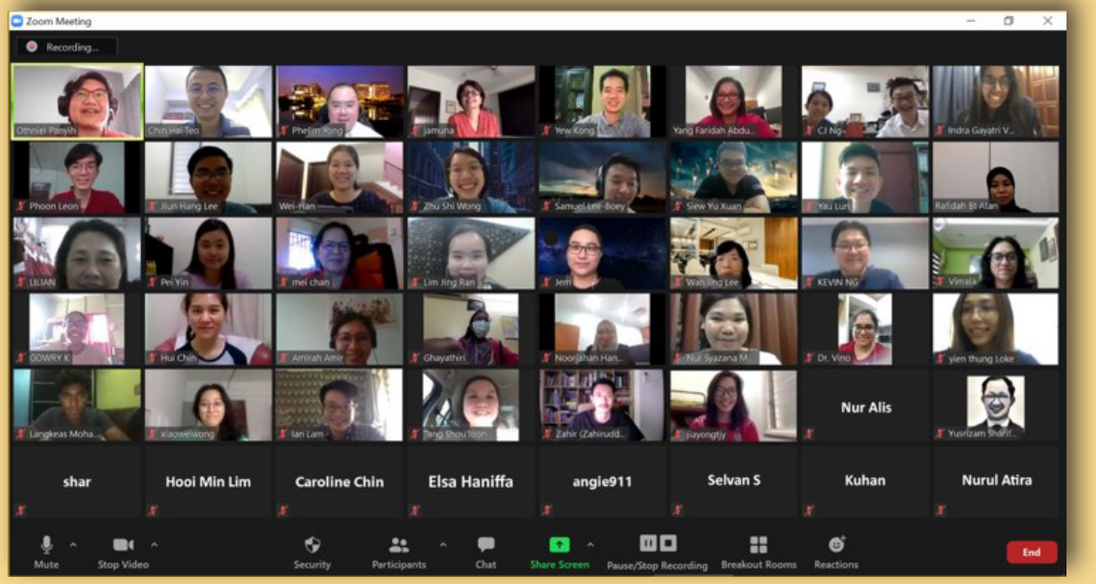
eLearning Object Co-creation HACKATHON

The sudden CMCO extension turned out to be a blessing in disguise for the inaugural eLearning Object Co-creation Hackathon held last Thursday (5th November 2020) as it forced the event to go 100% online. Truly fitting for a hackathon focused on eLearning development.

The event saw teams of students and facilitators pushed their online collaboration skills in designing storyboards for eLearning objects on the topic of Patient Safety on Zoom, using MURAL as a collaborative design platform.

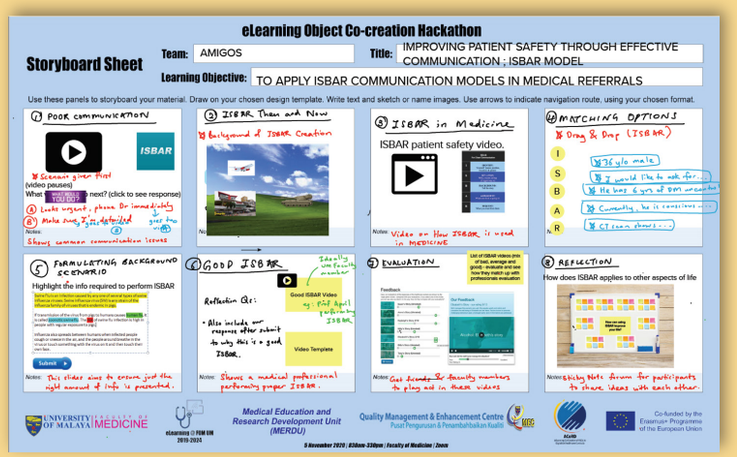
This event was co-organised by the Faculty of Medicine eLearning Unit and the Medical Education and Research Development Unit. A total of 48 medical graduates and students, nursing students, staff and lecturers participated in this event. The stars of the event were of course the students who co-created seven brilliant storyboards on patient safety in a short span of a few hours.

Attached is a poster compilation of the participants and their storyboards. The best storyboards (from the top three winners) will be developed into Reusable Learning Objects to benefit teaching and learning in the Faculty of Medicine FOM. ■



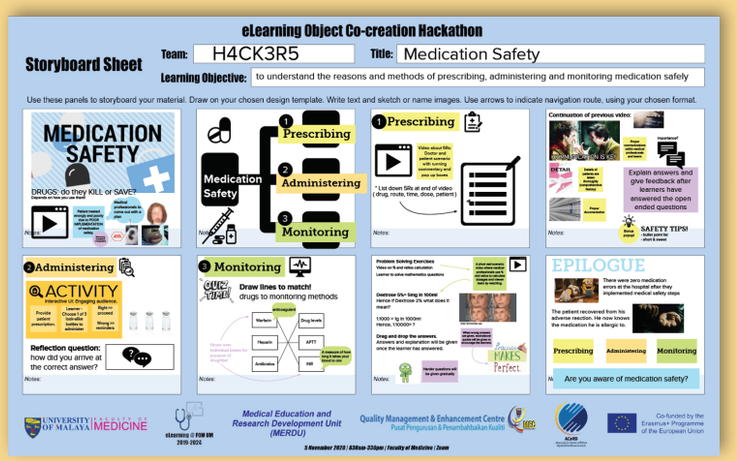
FIRST PRIZE

Ian Lam Thian Yin, Langkeas A/L Mohanavel, Samuel Lee-Boey Jian Wen



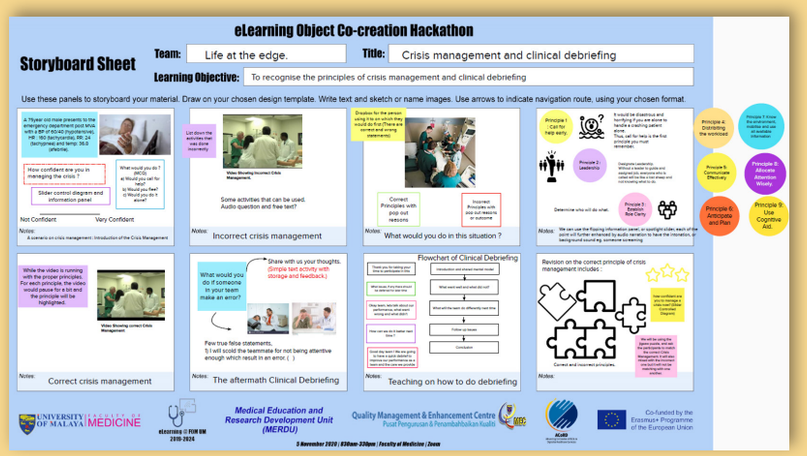
SECOND PRIZE

Ch'ng Yau Lun, Wong Xiao Wei, Wong Zhu Shi

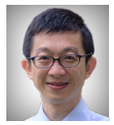


THIRD PRIZE

Indra Gayatri A/P Valliyappan, Lee Jiun Hang, Lim Jing Ran



THE ORGANISING TEAM



Professor Dr Ng Chirk Jenn
Department of Primary Care Medicine, Faculty of Medicine

Dr Hong Wei Han
Medical Research & Development Unit, Faculty of Medicine

Dr Lee Yew Kong
Department of Primary Care Medicine, Faculty of Medicine

Dr Lim Hooi Min
Department of Primary Care Medicine, Faculty of Medicine

Dr Othniel Panyih
Department of Primary Care Medicine, Faculty of Medicine

Dr Teo Chin Hai
Department of Primary Care Medicine, Faculty of Medicine

TRAINING THE MODERN SURGEON: LESSON LEARNT FROM PROFESSIONAL ATHLETICS

PROFESSOR DR. APRIL CAMILLA ROSLANI

On 114th July 2020, Prof. Dr. April Camilla Roslani delivered an inaugural lecture entitled, "Training the Modern Surgeon: Lessons learnt from Professional Athletics." A synopsis of this lecture is as follows:

Surgery is a craft specialty, an art with scientific underpinnings. From the earliest examples in Ancient Egypt, to barber surgeons performing crude operations bereft of anaesthesia, to present day highly complex procedures utilising state- of-the-art technologies, the technical aspects have evolved tremendously.

However, the ideal surgeon must master more than technical skills. The profession, patients and society now demand perfection – and training programmes must now include professional behaviours – leadership, communication, teamwork, situational awareness – while still emphasizing value-based practices. The ability to understand the evidence-base, contextualize it to the local culture, healthcare settings and individual needs, needs to be honed with care, and often requires many years of rigorous training.

Challenges abound. Although Malaysia aspires to achieve a developed nation status, the surgeon to population ratio is woefully low, particularly in the public sector, where most trainers reside. Socioeconomic disparities further drive brain drain. Sub-optimal trainer-trainee ratios, training opportunities, increasingly technical and high-risk surgeries, lack of resources and rising medicolegal challenges, accentuated by the recent pandemic, mean that trainers must adopt novel strategies to ensure surgical standards are not compromised. The physical and mental health of trainees and surgeons has also gained prominence as factors affecting patient outcomes. This lecture will address how the surgical profession has risen to these challenges, adapting strategies from the spheres of professional athletics, aviation and the military. ■

Link to online lecture:

SEEKING THE HIDDEN HEART

PROFESSOR DATO' DR. YANG FARIDAH ABDUL AZIZ

The Inaugural Lecture is an avenue for professors to share their knowledge and thoughtsin their respective fields of expertise with their colleagues, students and the public. It also marks the culmination of the lifework and milestones of a lecturer's journey in academia. On the 13th of November 2020, the Faculty of Medicine conducted the first full online delivery of an inaugural lecture by Professor Dato' Dr. Yang Faridah Abdul Aziz, titled 'Seeking the Hidden Heart.' The change in the style of conduct of this ceremonious event was due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the rising number of cases within the Klang Valley. While it is a less exuberant affair, the pomp and circumstance of the inaugural lecture was maintained with strict standard operating procedures.

The lecture was hosted by Professor Dr. Anushya Vijayananthan and chaired by Professor Dato' Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. Yang Faridah delivered her lecture in three chapters: First, as a clinical specialist, with a niche in cardiac imaging. Second, as an administrator, balancing and managing expectations of the university as well as the heart of any organisation, its human resource. Third and lastly, as an academic, aiding in strategising and improving the learning experiences of students with the hope of producing future doctors who are in touch with their hearts. She ended the lecture by urging everyone to seek the hidden hearts in their lives, wherever they may be. An event like this could not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the people behind thescene. Acknowledgements and gratitude were extended to the staff at the Office of the Dean and the Visibility Unit of the Faculty of Medicine. ■

Figure 1: Professor Dato Dr Yang Faridah delivering her inaugural lecture titled: Seeking the Hidden Heart

Figure 2: Donning the ceremonial gowns at TJ Danaraj Library before the inaugural lecture: From right: Professor Dato' Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman, Professor Dato Dr Yang Faridah

Link to online lecture:

Since 2009, Prof Lau has established a research team working in medical parasitology. In her inaugural lecture, she shared with us her journey in research associated with the fifth human malaria parasite, Plasmodium knowlesi, which originated from macaques. Although the history of P. knowlesi infection in humans is relatively short, its zoonotic nature hinders malaria elimination efforts. To grasp the current perspective of knowlesi malaria, her talk explored different aspects of the disease, including risk factors, diagnosis, treatment, molecular and functional studies.

KNOWLESI MALARIA

PROFESSOR DR. LAU YEE LING

Like other Plasmodium species, P. knowlesi parasite is transmitted through the bite of the female Anopheles mosquitoes, which eventually propagates in humans to cause severe parasitemia. The infection has been an area of interest over the past few years, given its medical importance. The increased incidence was suggested as being associated with deforestation and agricultural activities that resulted in the shifts of human settlements and changes in the macaque and mosquito habitats. Besides, the infection is deadly due to the relatively short asexual cycle of P. knowlesi (24-h), as the infection can progress rapidly and cause death. Thus, early diagnosis and prompt treatment are very much needed.

Given that there are limitations in differentiating various Plasmodium species, which is important for the choice of treatment, she ventured into malaria diagnostics with the support of various research grants. She and her team successfully developed and patented a sensitive, specific, rapid, and easy-to-use molecular diagnostic – loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP), applicable for bedside use. She mentioned that the diagnosis of all five human malaria species remains challenging, and an ideal molecular point-of-care diagnosis is in urgent need. Today, malaria has been managed cautiously, mainly due to drug resistance in treatment. Although the current state of P. knowlesi treatment shows no resistance towards antimalarials, she reiterated that the research on new therapeutic candidates should not be halted as multiple antimalarials resistant Plasmodium sp. strains are emerging in Southeast Asian countries. In line with the effort to combat the challenges, she and her team has also successfully established a model culture of P. knowlesi using human erythrocytes. The breakthrough allows P. knowlesi studies to be conducted in vitro, useful for validation vaccine and drug targets. Additionally, various molecular studies have also been carried out in identifying genetic polymorphisms and molecular markers in P. knowlesi to provide a deeper understanding of its pathophysiology.

At the end of her talk, she highlighted the fact that malaria control and elimination are greatly impeded by the uncontrollable passage of P. knowlesi in macaque populations, which could lead to human malaria outbreak via zoonotic transmission. It is hoped that the current knowledge on P. knowlesi along with the availability of effective vaccines can better prevent, control, and eliminate these parasites.

Link to online lecture:

CONSERVATIVE SPINE SURGERY:

THE TRUE MINIMALLY INVASIVE SPINE SURGERY

PROFESSOR DR. DHARMENDRA GANESAN

In his inaugural lecture entitled Conservative Spine Surgery - The True "Minimally Invasive" Spine Surgery delivered on the 3rd of September 2020, Prof. Dr. Dharmendra Ganesan shared his experience as a neurosurgeon. A synopsis of this talk is as below:

"Conservative spine surgery" is a concept or perhaps a philosophy that I coined after 12 years of practicing as a consultant neurosurgeon with a subspecialised interest in spinal neurosurgery. UM deals with a plethora of patients with spinal conditions, where degenerative spinal disorder (DSD) is the one most commonly diagnosed. In managing DSD, it is imperative to understand that the symptom of pain could emanate from various anatomical structures from the spine and its surrounding structures. It is also important to appreciate the natural history of these conditions as it is equally important, to be cognizant of the immediate, short and long-term risks and benefits related to the treatment, as well as the short and long-term effects of the intervention on the inherent spine adjacent to the treatment area, which undergoes wear and tear as we age. By reflecting on the management of these cohorts of patients, I would like to discuss the importance of clinico-radiological features in identifying a clinically relevant, surgical pathology when strategising treatment. Hence, determining the appropriate choice of "minimally invasive" surgical management, in treating that one, individual patient with the background belief that "less is more" in spine surgery.

In the quest of moving with the times, we have to embrace new technology and treatment modalities, however the onus is on us surgeons to do the critical appraisal prior to practising it and this is an area I wish to expound on. In addition to that, I will also highlight the conundrums in the application of evidence- based surgical treatment in a patient-centered management.

Link to online lecture:

Impact Oriented Interdisciplinary Research Grant (IIRG) Programme

Impact-Oriented Interdisciplinary Research Grant Programme (IIRG) is launched to enhance the impact of UM research in meeting the nation's expectations. The value of interaction among researchers from various disciplines cannot be underestimated, to develop impactful research projects that address real world issues relevant to the society and industry. It is at these interfaces between different disciplines that creativity and innovation thrive.

ADDRESSING ALCOHOL PROBLEM AMONG ORANG ASAL (AAPOA) USING ICT

Associate Prof. Rusdi Abd Rashid

1 Alcohol intervention project among Orang Asal (AIPOA) - Associate Prof. Rusdi Abd Rashid
2 Web-based intervention for reducing alcohol consumption among Orang Asli in Malaysia - Associate Prof. TS. Dr. Sri Devi Ravana
3 Development of alcohol detection device integrated with online database system - Dr. Mohd Sayuti Bin Ab Karim
4 The cultural perception on alcohol consumption among Orang Asli - Dr. Noralina Binti Omar

CLINICAL AND MOLECULAR GENETIC FACTORS AFFECTING POST-OPERATIVE SEIZURE OUTCOME IN TUMOR-RELATED EPILEPSY (TREP)

Prof. Dr. Lim Kheng Seang

1 Clinical, electrophysiological and neuroimaging characteristics of tumor-related epilepsy - Prof Dr. Lim Kheng Seang
2 Peri-operative optimization of tumor-related epilepsy- Associate. Prof. Dr. Vairavan Narayanan
3 Germline and somatic mutations in tumor-related epilepsy - Associate Prof. Dr. Ng Ching Ching

SENOTHERAPEUTICS: THE NEW GERIATRIC MEDICINE

Associate Prof. Dr. Wong Pooi Fong

1 Design and synthesis of senotherapeutic agents - Dr. Ramu Meesala
2 Identification of senotherapeutics for vascular aging - Associate Prof. Dr. Wong Pooi Fong
3 Senotherapeutic therapies as strategies for healthy aging: perspectives from public and stakeholders - Prof. Dr. Wong Li Ping

EDUCATE, MONITOR AND PREDICT OUTCOMES WITH RESEARCH IN DENGUE (EMPOWeRED)

Prof. Dr. Ng Chirk Jenn

1 Empowering patients with dengue to seek evidence-based health information for self-care using a gamified patient education tool – the DeSCa study - Associate Prof. Dr. Ang Tan Fong
2 Development and evaluation of a dengue self-monitoring system to reduce treatment delay in Malaysia – the DeSMoS study - Prof. Dr. Ng Chirk Jenn
3 Improving dengue severity prognostication using artificial intelligence - Associate Prof. Dr. Rafdzah Ahmad Zaki

A STUDY TO ENGAGE MALAYSIAN PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS (PWID) TO COMPREHENSIVE HIV KEY SERVICES (SEMARAK)

Dr. Nur Afiqah Mohd Salleh

1 Implementation of a community- based, patient navigation model to engage people who inject drugs (PWID) into HIV prevention and treatment services - Dr. Nur Afiqah Mohd Salleh
2 Social support among PWID engaged in HIV key services: an assessment oof family educational and psychosocial needs- Dr. Ahmad Shamsuri Muhamad
3 Enabling data linkage to assess health outcomes among PWID engaged in a community-based intervention - Prof. Dato' Dr. Adeeba Kamarulzaman

BUILDING A SAFE SPACE FOR MALAYSIAN WOMEN IN HEALTHCARE

Prof. Dr. Sajaratulnisah Othman

1 Implementation of primary healthcare for family violence (IMOCAFV): development of an international consensus of implementing family violence model of care in primary care setting - Prof. Dr. Sajaratulnisah Othman
2 Domestic violence among workers in healthcare: impact on mental health and work performance -Associate Prof. Dr. Norbani Che Ha
3 Intimate partner violence (IPV) victimization and maternal parenting practices: the mediating role of mental health - Dr. Haslina Mohamad

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

Associate Professor Dr Ong Kien Chai *The molecular basis of retrograde axonal transport in Enterovirus A71 (EV-A71)neuroinvasion*

ANAESTHESIOLOGY

Associate Professor Dr Loh Pui San *Developing an Allometric Pharmacokinetic Model: Towards the Prediction of Intravenous Lignocaine with variable renal clearance*

ANATOMY

Dr Siti Rosmani Binti Md Zin@Zakaria *Investigation into the Potential Endocrine-Disrupting Effects of Technical Xylene on the Reproductive Function and Prenatal Development*

Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS)

The objective of FRGS is good quality human capital and to encourage the generation of theories, concepts and new ideas that can accelerate new discoveries and innovative creations.

BIOMEDICAL IMAGING

Dr Azlan Bin Che Ahmad *Understanding the mechanism of bone marrow adipogenesis in the conditions of ineffective erythropoiesis (IE) in thalassaemia patients using MRI*

Dr Tan Li Kuo *Understanding how Patient-Specific Body Composition affects Radiation Organ Dosimetry in Interventional Radiology*

CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

Associate Professor Dr Ung Ngie Min *Understanding pattern of prostate motion through real-time tracking for optimizing duration-dependent radiotherapy treatment margins*

MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY

Dr Anis Rageh Mohammed Al Maleki *The essential roles of metabolic reprogramming and epigenetic variation in the development of antimicrobial resistance in Helicobacter pylori*

Dr Kumutha Malar Vellasamy *Characterisation and utilisation of multiple ?omics' approaches in understanding the pathogenesis of gut and clinical B. pseudomallei isolates.*

Dr Maria Kahar Bador Binti Abdul Kahar *Insights into the cross-reactivity of 2019 novel human coronavirus and its seroprevalence in Malaysia*

Dr Tee Kok Keng *Understanding the Pathogenic Role and Transmission Patterns of Newly Emerging Bat Viruses (Including the Novel COVID-19 Coronavirus) in Humans with Acute Unexplained Respiratory Illnesses*

MEDICINE

Professor Dr Lim Shen Yang *Investigating the genetic causes for early-onset Parkinson's disease and their effects on cellular function in a Malaysian cohort*

MOLECULAR MEDICINE

Dr Muhammad Fazril Bin Mohamad Razif *Mining the Genome of a Malaysian Medicinal Mushroom, Lignosus tigris: Uncovering Genes Encoding High-Value Bioactive Proteins*

Dr Nurshamimi Binti Nor Rashid *Elucidating of the roles of JAK-STAT pathway on mitochondrial biogenesis and functions in megakaryocytes for platelet production during dengue infection*

Associate Professor Dr Shatrah Binti Othman *Investigating the mechanisms involved in cell-cycle arrest and mitochondrial dysfunction mediated by dihydroorotate dehydrogenase inhibitors in breast cancer cells*

OBSTETRIC AND GYNAECOLOGY

Associate Professor Dr Sofiah Sulaiman *Decrypting the Intricate Interplay between Chlamydia trachomatis and Host Cell Mitochondria*

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

Dr Khairul Anwar Bin Ayob *A study of CD14+ monocyte migration and osteoclast maturation responding to stimuli from human revision xenograft transplanted in NOD-SCID mice model*

PARASITOLOGY

Professor Dr Fong Mun Yik *Characterising the zoonotic potential of Plasmodium cynomolgi, a malaria parasite prevalent in macaques in Malaysia and Southeast Asia*

PHARMACOLOGY

Dr Zaridatul Aini Binti Ibrahim *The role of RIP1/IL-1a/IL-8 pathway in mediating epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT), cellular invasion in colorectal cancer*

PHYSIOLOGY

Dr Nelli Giribabu *Investigating the mechanisms behind male infertility in hypothyroidism with obesity: the role of thyroid and leptin hormones*

PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE

Associate Professor Dr Ng Chong Guan *Antidepressant Decision Aid for Major depressive disorder patients (ADAM); Exploring how and why it impacts shared decision making*

Associate Professor Dr Yee Hway Ann @ Anne Yee *Elucidation of the effects of cigarette, electronic cigarette and dual-use on cellular morphology, biochemical and genetic profile alterations of smokers.*

SOCIAL AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

Professor Dr Moy Foong Ming *Are palm oil related dietary biomarkers associated with obesity and cardiovascular risks among adult population: a prospective cohort study*

SPORT MEDICINE

Associate Professor Dr Zulkarnain Bin Jaafar *Elucidating the predictors for early detection of subclinical cardiovascular changes in female adults with high adiposity.*

SURGERY

Dr Retnagowri A/P Rajandram *Construing the roles of adipokines and their mechanism in Renal Cell Carcinoma (RCC)*

Clinical Departments

Department of Clinical Oncology

ratio: 1.90
19 publications

Pra/Pre-Clinical Departments

Department of Pharmacology

ratio: 3.29
46 publications

TOP 3 DEPARTMENTS for 2019

based on ratio of number of ISI publications to number of staff

2

Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

ratio: 1.58
41 publications

2

Department of Social & Preventive Medicine

ratio: 3.14
66 publications

3

Department of Medicine

ratio: 1.55
127 publications

3

Department of Parasitology

ratio: 3.08
37 publications

Honorary Fellowship in the American College of Surgeons (ACS)

Professor Dr April Camilla Roslani
BSc, MBBCh, MSurg, FRCSGlas, FRCSEd, FAMM
Professor, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Malaysia

The faculty congratulates Prof. April for her recent award of Honorary Fellowship from the American College of Surgeons (ACS). This prestigious award is conferred annually to renowned surgeons from across the globe, and for this year, Prof. April received this award with eight other prominent recipients. This fellowship is exceptional as selection is based on the recommendation of existing fellows, and indicates the outstanding contribution of the recipients in the field of surgery. What is more special is that Prof. April was the only female recipient in this round of selection. Prof. April was presented the award during a virtual Convocation ceremony, at the virtual ACS Clinical Congress 2020.

Dr April Camilla Roslani (centre) was elated to be awarded the Honorary Fellowship at ACS

Prof. April received her undergraduate training at the University of Wales, and her specialist training at Universiti Malaya and National University of Singapore. She holds fellowships in both the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

Prof. April specialises in colorectal surgery with a special interest in colorectal cancer. Her outstanding research contribution is depicted in her numerous publications in high-impact journals, covering diverse areas of research, from clinical to basic science research and with multiple collaborators, both locally and internationally. She has also been invited as a speaker in national and international conferences, attesting to her prominence in the surgical field. Her other researchcontribution includes acting as Editorial Board member of several international journals such as Annals of Coloproctology and Colorectal Disease.

Prof. April was the Head of Department of Surgery and was recently appointed as the Deputy Director of University of Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC). She is also the President of the College of Surgeons, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia and the Asia-Pacific Federation of Coloproctology.

Congratulations again to Prof. April and we hope your achievements can be a source of inspiration and motivation for the FOM community. ■

ACHIEVEMENTS

We are thrilled to announce the following achievements by our faculty members

1

Professor Dr. Hany Mohd Ariffin
Department of Paediatrics
Appointment of Fellow of Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)

2

Professor Dr. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian
Department of Parasitology
Appointment as ASM Council Member for 2020/2021

3

Datuk Professor Dr. Awg Bulgiba Awg Mahmud
Department of Social and Preventive Medicine
Appointment as Secretary General ASM Council Member for 2020/2021

4

Mr. Subashan Vadibeler
Final year medical student
Supervised by Dr. Nadia Atiya from Department of Medical Microbiology
Rhodes Scholar 2021

5

Associate Professor Dr. Fung Shin Yee
Department of Molecular Medicine
Appointment as Fellow of Pioneering Intellectual Property Programme (PIP) for ASEAN Young Researchers 2020

6

Professor Dr. Ng Kwan Hoong
Department of Biomedical Imaging
Awarded Inaugural Fellow of the International Union of Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine (IUPESM), a member of the International Science Council (ISC)

7

Associate Professor Dr. Tengku Ain Kamalden and team
Department of Ophthalmology
Awarded the Alcon Research Institute (ARI) Young Investigator Grant

8

Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr. Lam Sai Kit
A member of the international task force which is part of The Lancet COVID-19 Commission to investigate the origins of COVID-19 Member for 2020/2021

9

Mr Cheng Kim Jun and his supervisors, Dr. Zaridatul Aini Ibrahim and Dr. Elsa Mejia Mohamed
Department of Pharmacology
Awarded the Malaysia Toray Science Foundation (MTSF) Science and Technology Research Grant

10

Professor Dr. Lau Yee Ling
Department of Parasitology
Recipient of the Malaysia Toray Science Foundation (MTSF) Science and Technology Award

11

Associate Professor Dr. Ung Ngie Min
Clinical Oncology Unit
Recipient of the Southeast Asian Federation of Organizations for Medical Physics (SEAFOMP) Young Leaders Award 2020

12

Professor Dr. Lau Yee Ling
Department of Parasitology
Recipient of the Prototype Research Grant Scheme

13

Dr. Zaridatul Aini Ibrahim
Department of Pharmacology
Recipient of MAKNA Cancer Research Award (CRA) 2020

14

Dr. Ng Kwan Hoong
Department of Biomedical Imaging
Recipient of the 2020 Merdeka Award

15

Professor Dr. Sasheela Ponnamplavanar
Department of Medicine
Dr. Cindy Teh Shuan Ju
Department of Medical Microbiology
Dr. Tang Li Yoong
Dr. Chong Mei Chan
Dr. Che Chong Chin
Department of Nursing Science
Dr. Kumutha Malar Vellasamy
Dr. Ngoi Soo Tein
Dr. Nuryana Idris
Department of Medical Microbiology
Awarded with the prestigious Transdisciplinary Research Grant Scheme (TRGS)

Congratulations
on these outstanding achievements!

University of Malaya Faculty of Medicine

PUBLICATION RECORDS IN 2020

550 total publications in year 2020

37.1% (n=204)
of the publications were published in World's **Top 25%** impactful journal

ISI Publication Quartile

Q1	204 (37.1%)	Q2	150 (27.3%)
Q3	104 (18.9%)	Q4	89 (16.2%)

Congratulations

UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA
on being the
TOP 60
UNIVERSITY
IN THE WORLD

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2020

2019 #87

2018 #114

2017 #133

2016 #146

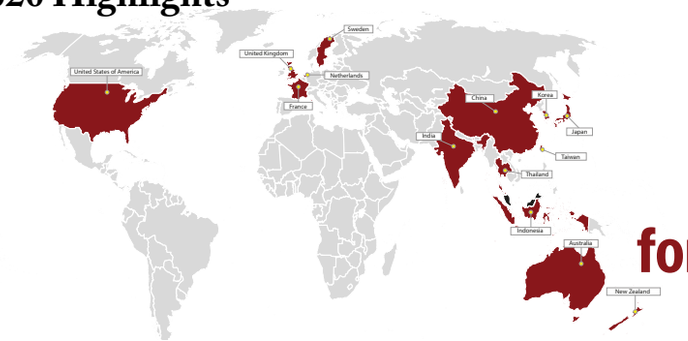
UNIVERSITI MALAYA

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS TOP 50 UNDER 50

Total Grant Received in 2020

RM7,462,810.50

Internal or Government Grant	RM 5,367,342.70
National Private Grant	RM 991,971.41
International Grant	RM 1,103,496.39



International Collaborations for the Year 2020

NAME OF UNIVERSITY/INSTITUTIONS	COUNTRY	TYPE	UM PIC
The University of Melbourne	Australia	MOA	(1) Prof Dr. Nur Aishah Mohd Taib
The University of Melbourne	Australia	MOU	(1) Prof Dato' Dr. Adeeba Kamarulzaman (2) AP Dr. Reena Rajasuriar (3) AP Dr. Rina Karunakaran (4) Dr. Cindy Teh Shuan Ju
The University of Melbourne	Australia	MOA	(1) Prof Dato' Dr. Adeeba Kamarulzaman
Guangzhou Women and Children's Medical Center	China	MOU	(1) Prof Dr. Hany Ariffin
Universite Claude Bernard Lyon 1	France	MOU	(1) Prof Dato Dr. Yang Faridah Abd Aziz
Universite Claude Bernard Lyon 2	France	MOA	(1) Prof Dato Dr. Yang Faridah Abd Aziz
Annamalai University	India	MOU	(1) Dr. Jaime Jacqueline Jayapalan
Kurnool Medical College, Andhra Pradesh & MNR Medical College & Hospital (multipartite)	India	MOU	(1) Prof Dr. Lau Yee Ling (2) Dr. Lai Meng Yee
Universitas Teuku Umar	Indonesia	MOU	(1) AP Dr. Mas Ayu Said
National Institute of Infectious Diseases	Japan	MOA	(1) AP Dr. Ong Kien Chai
Seoul National University R&DB Foundation	Korea	MOA	(1) AP Dr. Chan Yoke Fun
Erasmus University Rotterdam	Netherlands	MOU	N/A
Erasmus University Rotterdam	Netherlands	MOA	N/A
Auckland City Hospital	New Zealand	MOA	(1) Prof Dr. Lim Kheng Seang (2) Dr. Fong Si Lei
Karolinska Institutet, Universiti Malaya and Cancer Research Malaysia (Multipartite)	Sweden	MOA	(1) Prof Dr. Nur Aishah Mohd Taib
National Chiao Tung University, Biogenes Technologies Sdn Bhd & PD Biomedical Company (Multipartite)	Taiwan	MOA	(1) AP Dr. Kiew Lik Voon (2) Dr. Leo Bey Fen (3) Prof Dr. Chung Lip Yong (4) Dr. Heh Choon Han
Rangsit University	Thailand	MOU	(1) Prof Dr. Ong Teng Aik
Chiang Mai University	Thailand	MOU	(1) Prof Dr. Ong Teng Aik (2) Dr. Jasmine Lim (3) Prof Dr. Ahmad Hatim Sulaiman
The Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of The University of Cambridge	United Kingdom	MOA	(1) Prof Dr. Tan Maw Pin (2) Prof Dr. Chin Ai Vyrn (3) Prof Dr. Shahrul Bahyah Kamaruzzaman
St George's University of London, Universiti Malaya and Hanai Jiwa Ibu, Malaysia (Multipartite)	United Kingdom	MOA	(1) Prof Dr. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian (2) Prof Dr. Sarinah Low Abdullah
BMJ Publishing Group Limited	United Kingdom	MOA	(1) Pn Zaharah Ramly (2) Prof Dato' Dr. Adeeba Kamarulzaman
The Chancellor Masters and Scholars of The University of Cambridge	United Kingdom	MOA	(1) Prof Dr. Jamunarani Vadivelu
Coriell Institute for Medical Research, USA	USA	MOA	(1) Dr. Wong Kah Hui
Broad Institute Inc/ Addgene	USA	MOA	(1) Dr. Wong Won Fen (2) Dr. Ang Kuan Ping
University of California	USA	MOA	(1) Dr. Wong Won Fen (2) Dr. Ang Kuan Ping
Broad Institute Inc/ Addgene	USA	MOA	(1) Dr. Wong Won Fen (2) Dr. Ang Kuan Ping
West Virginia University Research Corporation/ Addgene	USA	MOA	(1) Dr. Wong Won Fen (2) Dr. Ang Kuan Ping
Broad Institute Inc/ Addgene	USA	MOA	(1) Dr. Wong Won Fen (2) Dr. Ang Kuan Ping

HAPPY Retirement!

PROF DR JAMIYAH BINTI HASSAN
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology

DATUK PROF DR ROHANA BINTI YUSOF
Department of Molecular Medicine

PROF DR NORMADIAH BINTI M KASSIM
Department of Anatomy

PROF DR NOOR AZMI BIN MAT ADENAN
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology

MDM NORSIAH BINTI RAHMAT
Department of Nursing Science

PROF DR KHOO EE MING
Department of Primary Care Medicine

A/PROF DR MOHAMED RAZIF BIN MOHAMED ALI
Department of Orthopaedics

PROF DR KHATIJAH BINTI ABDULLAH @ LIM GEOK KHIM
Department of Nursing Science

A/PROF DR NAZARINA BINTI ABDUL RAHMAN
Department of Pathology

DR SIM JOONG HIONG
Dean's Office

PROF DR SITI ZAWIAH BINTI OMAR
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology

Thank you FOR YOUR SERVICE

A TRIBUTE TO
PROFESSOR DATO' DR. ADEEBA KAMARULZAMAN

It is with bittersweet emotion that we announce the departure of Professor Dato' Dr. Adeeba Kamarulzaman as the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya (UM FOM). Prof. Adeeba who is also a Professor of Medicine and Infectious Diseases has led UM FOM for the past nine years since 1st July 2011.

Over the course of her tenure, Prof. Adeeba has had an immeasurable impact on our academic staff and student community. Among her many accomplishments are establishing the Infectious Diseases Unit at the University of Malaya Medical Centre in 2007 which has since become a tertiary referral centre for infectious diseases and HIV and which is also involved in undergraduate and postgraduate medical training including training of Infectious Diseases Specialists and establishing the Centre of Excellence for Research on AIDS (CERiA). Through CERiA, she has continuously championed HIV research nationally and globally, particularly among those in vulnerable populations. Her collaborations with the Yale School of Medicine and Johns Hopkins University have benefited UM, not just in terms of research output, but also in building capacity in HIV research, implementation science and research ethics to ensure research training is accessible and research is conducted ethically and responsibly.

In 2012, she spearheaded the development of a new MBBS curriculum for our medical school that aimed to be more responsive to the needs of the students, patients and the country's healthcare system and which has gone on to produce the best medical graduates for the country. And through her efforts as the Chair of the National Postgraduate Medical Curriculum Project, we can look forward to a cohesive and a higher standard of training with patient safety at the heart of any curriculum.

Prof. Adeeba has also been very instrumental in putting UM on the world map, having been recently appointed as the President of the International AIDS Society for the 2020-2022 term, the first Asian to hold the position. In addition, through her efforts in establishing research and academic collaborations with academic institutions, NGOs and industries nationally and internationally, FOM has become the leading faculty in UM in terms of international collaborations and research grants.

These are just a handful of the many achievements that Prof. Adeeba leaves behind, but they do not fully capture her legacy. Much of what she has achieved cannot be summarised on a resume or in a bullet point. Throughout the last nine years, Prof. Adeeba has been an exceptional role model and an inspiration to many. She has truly left a lasting impression on the many colleagues she has worked with and the students she has taught. We will forever cherish her presence, strong leadership, abundant energy, eternal optimism, innovative approach to challenging situations, her ability to bring out the best in others and most of all her unwavering commitment to her colleagues and students.

Please join us in thanking Professor Dato' Dr. Adeeba Kamarulzaman for her service, dedication and many contributions during her tenure as Dean of Medicine. We wish her the very best as she continues to serve UM FOM as a Professor of Medicine and Infectious Diseases! ■

UPCOMING EVENTS 2021

FEB 8 - 9 — A Quantitative Methodology Workshop for Health Research

Introduction to Qualitative Research Workshop — MAR 11 - 12

JUN 16 - 17 — Systematic Review Workshop

Master's Degree: A Primer For The Clinical Masters Candidate — JUN 29 - 30

AUG 23 - 24 — A Quantitative Methodology Workshop for Health Research

Introduction to Qualitative Research Workshop — SEP 7 - 8

UNIVERSITI MALAYA

RESEARCH OFFICE
FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Research Office,
Dean's Office,
Level 3, Block 1,
Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya,
Jalan Universiti
50603 Kuala Lumpur

Tel: +603-7967 7515

Email address: resfom@um.edu.my
Research Office website: https://resfom.um.edu.my
Faculty of Medicine website: https://medicine.um.edu.my

Research Office - FOM UM
@fom_um
@fom_research_um