Institute of Medical Molecular Biotechnology Newsletter



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FORENSIC ENTOMOLOGY WORKSHOP

WITH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE (NUS)
20th - 24th FEBRUARY 2023



IMMB is proud to welcome lecturers and students from the forensic science program of the **National University of Singapore** who participated in the **Forensic Entomology Workshop 2023**. This workshop, started from February 20th until 24th February 2023, consisted of a series of lectures, discussions, and fieldwork joined by a total of 37 NUS students led by **Associate Prof. Stella Tan** (Associate Provost for Student Conduct and Director of the Forensic Science Program at NUS), **Dr. Shawn Lee**, and **Mr. Ng Wei Bo**, who were the accompanying lecturers for this NUS delegation. They were also involved in teaching and management of this Forensic Entomology Workshop.

For the first two days of the workshop, participants were exposed to the IMMB laboratory facilities and basic of entomology through the lectures by AP Dr. Heo Chong Chin (IMMB Director) and practical sessions consisted of trap preparation, placement and inspection. The participants were also exposed to the techniques on how to collect, identify, classify, and the basic preserve samples for research work. On the third day, participants had to observe and collect insects in the field. The source of these insects was obtained from chicken carcasses that had been rotted for several days to mimic the real situation of corpse decay in a crime. On the fourth day, participants had the opportunity to visit the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) in Kepong. The participants were also listening to the sharing of studies and experiences of researchers from the FUN ENTO LAB research group led by AP Dr. Heo and his team members; Dr. Abby Kimpton Jones (Postdoctoral Researcher), Dr. Tania Ivorra (Postdoctoral Fellow), Mr. Abdul Rahman Kazim Ali (MSc student), Mrs. Nur Adilla Zaini (PhD student), Ms. Nurul Azmiera Zamri (PhD student) and Ms. Nur Aliah Natasha Azmi (PhD student).

The final day began with lectures by AP Dr. Heo Chong Chin with the title of "Application of Forensic Entomology" followed by a lecture from UiTM forensic pathologist, AP Dr. Razuin Rahimi who shared her experiences and expertise under the heading of "Forensic Entomology: From Autopsy to the Courtroom" on the final day of the workshop. UiTM Forensic Odontologist, AP Dr. Mohd Yusmiaidil Putera Mohd Yusof and Forensic Radiologist, AP Dr. Mansharan Kaur Chaincel Singh were also sharing their experiences through this workshop. Afterwards, the participants presented their task results in groups during MOOT Court session and were assessed by AP Dr. Thuhairah Hasrah Abdul Rahman, Associate Prof. Stella Tan and AP Dr. Heo. The closing ceremony began with the concluding remarks and certificates presentation by AP Dr. Thuhairah Hasrah Abdul Rahman, the Deputy Dean of Research & Innovation of the Faculty of Medicine UiTM. The 5-day experience of organizing this international workshop is expected to improve staff expertise, UiTM's reputation and leave meaningful memories for both parties from UiTM and NUS.

ACTIVITIES, INITIATIVES & INVOLVEMENT



MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MoA) EXCHANGE CEREMONY BETWEEN UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA (UiTM) AND NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE (NUS) was held on 21st February 2023. This MoA aims to enhance UiTM's competitiveness on the international level through knowledge-sharing initiatives, cooperatively hosted international conferences, staff exchanges, research, and publications. The exchange of agreement documents was initiated by the Assistant Vice Chancellor of UiTM Global, Prof. Dr. Shahriman Zainal Abidin, on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Datuk Ts. Dr. Roziah Mohd Janor and witnessed by the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Associate Prof. Dr. Fazah Akhtar Hanapiah. In conjunction with this occasion, a 5-day (20th-24th February 2023) Forensic Entomology Workshop was held with 37 NUS students and 3 academic staff, including 17 forensic science master's students, organized by IMMB. This workshop was part of the expertise exchange program pioneered by an entomologist from the Faculty of Medicine UiTM Sg Buloh, Associate Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin through online sharing sessions since 2020.



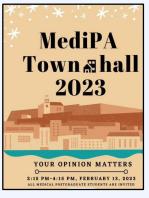
ADVANCED RT-PCR WORKSHOP: PUBLISH YOUR RT-PCR DATA IN A HIGH IMPACT JOURNAL WITH EASY AND FAST STEPS was conducted on 1st February 2023 with Dr. Albert Soo (a technical specialist) from Prima Nexus Sdn. Bhd. as the invited speaker. In this workshop, participants were guided on how to master their CT value accurately. Other than that, the speaker also shared his knowledge on how to avoid the biggest mistake in RT-PCRT, how to generate data from a pool of CT values, and tips to avoid common mistakes in primer design. This seminar was successfully attended by 25 participants.

A SITE VISIT AND AUDIT FROM THE MALAYSIAN INDUSTRY GOVERNMENT GROUP FOR HIGH TECHNOLOGY (MIGHT), MINISTRY OF HIGH EDUCATION (MOHE) & RESEARCH MANAGEMENT CENTRE (RMC) TO IMMB was held on 13th & 16th February 2023. The aim of the visit and audit was to update the progress of the research project carried out by the project leader, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin, Dr. Tania Ivorra, Dr. Abby Jones and PhD student, Nur Aliah Natasha Azmi with an allocation of RM350,200.00 by Dana Penyelidikan Padanan Antarabangsa (MYPAIR). MIGHT supports research and development projects to promote the scientific and technological cooperation between Malaysia and Spain in these projects. Research Management Centre (RMC) was also involved in this visit and audit, led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Johari (Coordinator of Research Monitoring Unit).





APPLICATION TRAINING OF NEW EQUIPMENT IN IMMB. IMMB had organized a demonstration and hands-on training on the Multiskan FC Microplate Photometer on 17th February 2023 with an invited facilitator from Thermo Scientific Sdn. Bhd. This training covered the features and software of the machine, how to use and set the protocol, as well as the important parts of machine maintenance. This training is very important to improve participants' skills and expose them to the latest technologies. This training was attended by 15 postgraduate students.



MediPA TOWN HALL MEETING 2023. The Medical Postgraduate Association (MediPA) organized a virtual town hall meeting for 2023 on 13th February 2023. This meeting was held to introduce new MediPA committee members in addition to sharing the activities planned for 2023. Besides, this meeting also aimed to discuss student welfare and issues in terms of lab skills, finances, facilities, and others.



SPRING CLEANING
DAY – ARCHIVE
ROOM, GF, IMMB
(consumable storage).
This bi-annual event
was conducted on 7th
February 2023.

Around 15 users were present during this cleanup session. The cleaning process involved the removal of unused or expired consumables to optimize the storage space. This allows more consumables to be stored in an organized manner and made easily accessible.













Ramadhan Kareem

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May this Ramadhan bring peace. happiness and prosperity to everyone

Sincerely from: IMMB, Faculty of Medicine



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Upcoming Events Tazkirah Ramadan

28 MARCH 2023 10 AM - 11 AM USTAZ MOHAMAD NAJIH IRSYAD AHMAD PUHAD ASSISTANT REGISTRY ISLAMIC AFFAIRS UNIT

USTAZ DR MUHAMMAD IRFAN MHD. RUSDI

SENIOR LECTURER
ACADEMY OF CONTEMPORARY ISLAMIC STUDIES

4 APRIL 2023 10 AM - 11 AM

11 APRIL 2023 10 AM - 11 AM USTAZ MOHAMAD NAJIH IRSYAD AHMAD PUHAD ASSISTANT REGISTRY ISLAMIC AFFAIRS UNIT

USTAZ DR MUHAMAD ZUHAILI SAIMAN

SENIOR LECTURER ACADEMY OF CONTEMPORARY ISLAMIC STUDIES 18 APRIL 2023 10 AM - 11 AM