

# Institute of Medical Molecular Biotechnology Newsletter



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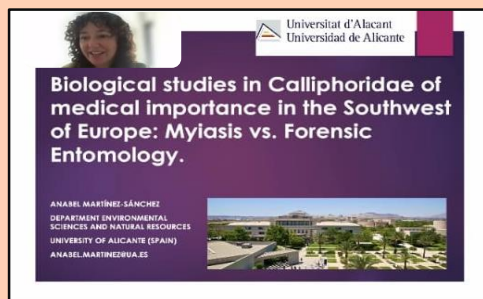
**CONGRATULATIONS** to all researchers from the **Faculty of Medicine UiTM** for their achievements at the **Majlis Sanjung Sarjana UiTM 2023**. This ceremony was organized by the **Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) UiTM** to celebrate achievements that were in line with UiTM's aspirations to continue carrying out impactful and translational research towards becoming a globally renowned university by 2025. Furthermore, the director of IMMB, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin**, was also honored with an award at this ceremony for his achievement in obtaining **Patents Granted** throughout the year 2022.

**IMMB INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR 05/2023.** On 20th July 2023, IMMB had the honor of hosting **Prof. Dr. Tommy Tsan – Yuk Lam** from **LKS Faculty of Medicine, School of Public Health, The University of Hong Kong**. His main research interests are the evolution, epidemiology, and ecology of infectious diseases. He has also published three articles in *Nature* and one article in *Science*. He had visited the research facilities, lab equipments and learned about current research at IMMB. Additionally, he conducted an **international webinar** entitled "**Using Genomics to Study Emerging Viral Pathogens**," where he shared his expertise on the ecology and evolution of emerging pathogens using genomic approaches. The webinar was moderated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin and attended by 22 participants.



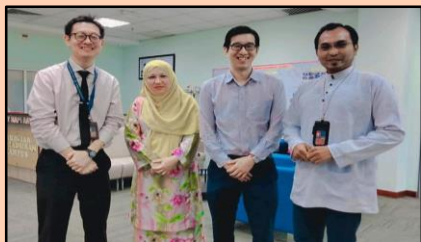
IMMB was honored to receive a visit from **DNDi (Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative)** on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023, a nonprofit research organization established by the WHO to develop new treatments for neglected patients. The DNDi delegation was represented by **Ms. Vanessa Daniel (Alliance and Operations Leader)**, **Mr. Tilak Ramanaidu (Senior Regional Affairs Officer)**, and **Mr. Chung Han Yang (Access & Advocacy Senior Officer)**. During this visit, we had the opportunity to get to know DNDi better and learn about its focus in Southeast Asia, particularly in HCV and dengue, as well as its research activities and developments.

The **IMMB International Webinar Series 05/2023** took place on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023, with **Dr. Anabel Martínez-Sánchez** from the **Department of Environmental & Natural Resources, University of Alicante, Spain**, as the invited speaker. She shared her expertise on the topic entitled "**Biological studies in Calliphoridae of medical importance in Southwest Europe: Myiasis vs. Forensic Entomology**". During this session, she provided valuable information on the importance of Diptera in medical sciences, and myiasis classification based on affected tissues or organs. The session was attended by 26 participants and was chaired by Mr. Azhar Ahmad.



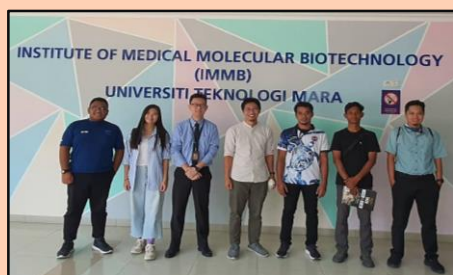
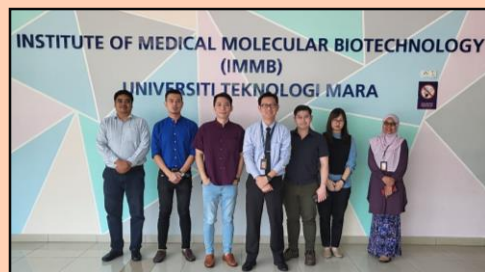
The **IMMB International Webinar Series 06/2023** took place on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023, with **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yuan-Sen TING** from the **College of Science, Australian National University**, serving as the invited speaker. He shared his expertise on the topic entitled "**Robust Scientific Hypothesis Generation with GPT Models**". During this engaging session, he provided valuable information on the history of AI, its development, and its potential in research and publication. He also shared various examples of how accurate the GPT hypotheses are. This topic proved to be exceptionally helpful for researchers, providing them with a starting point to understand and explore the world of GPT. This session was attended by 14 participants and was chaired by AP. Dr. Heo Chong Chin.

# ACTIVITIES, INITIATIVES & INVOLVEMENT



**VISIT FROM YOUNG SCIENTIST NETWORK.** IMMB had the honor of receiving a visit from the **Young Scientist Network, Academy of Sciences Malaysia (YSN-ASM)** led by **Dr. Chau De Ming, Chair of Science Integrity Working Group**, on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Dr. Chau De Ming was taken on a tour of the research facilities at UiTM Sg Buloh campus, including IMMB. The tour was led by the Director of IMMB, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin**, and assisted by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Siti Hamimah Sheikh Abdul Kadir**, the Deputy Director of the Institute of Pathology, Laboratory, and Forensic Medicine (I-PperForM). During the tour, a comprehensive explanation of the available research facilities, ongoing research projects, and future plans was provided. He also had a chance to visit the Assistant Rector of UiTM Selangor, **Prof. Dr. Ahmad Taufek Abdul Rahman**, who is also an active member of YSN-ASM.

On 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023, IMMB had the pleasure of hosting a **VISIT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PARASITOLOGY OF UNIVERSITY MALAYA**. The visit was led by **Dr. Lucas Low VL** from the **Tropical Infectious Diseases Research and Education Centre (TIDREC, UM)**, and it was attended by three senior lecturers from the **Department of Parasitology: Dr. Lee Wenn Chyau, Dr. Cheong Fei Wen, and Dr. Stanley Tan**. During the visit, various topics were discussed, including IMMB's internalization efforts, new research niche and collaborations in the field of Tropical Medicine. Additionally, the visitors had the opportunity to explore IMMB research facilities and gain insights into the ongoing research activities.



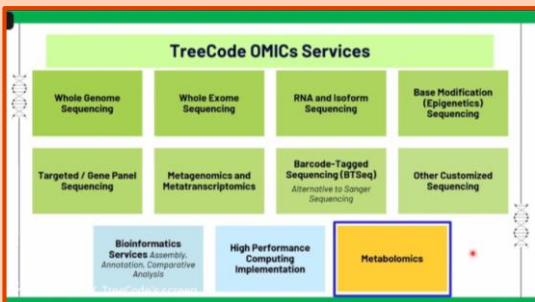
**VISIT FROM SEATRU UMT** on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023. IMMB is proud to have received a visit from **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Uzair Bin Rusli**, the **Head of the Sea Turtle Research Unit (SEATRU)** at the **Institute of Oceanography and Environment (INOS), Universiti Malaysia Terengganu**. Joining him on the visit were Ms. Lyvia Chong, the Operation Manager of SEATRU, along with other researchers, Mr. Mustaqim Rosdan, Mr. Afif Aiman, and Mr. Syafiq. This visit successfully discussed forms of cross-niche collaboration between IMMB and SEATRU, INOS, which is a leading HICoE entity in its field in Malaysia.

Director of IMMB, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin**, participated as a panelist in the forum titled **"BSFL: The Future Protein in the Food Chain - A Promising Edible Alternative"** during the **Food & Drinks Malaysia Expo 2023** organized by **Comexposium and Salon International De L'Alimentation** at MITEC Kuala Lumpur from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The forum aimed to address the growing global interest in Black Soldier Fly Larvae (BSFL). Alongside **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo**, **Mr. Vic Pui Wee Kong**, Chief Executive Officer (Entomal Biotech), and **Mr. Cyril Caujolle**, Chief Commercial Officer (Flylab Tech Co. Ltd.), also served as panelists, while **Melissa Ong**, Group Chief Officer (Impact Circle) moderated the discussion.



**BENGKEL HALA TUJU DAN PERANCANGAN STRATEGIK IMMB 2023 - 2024.** The workshop discussed various topics to improve IMMB, including enhancing core operations, bolstering staff competence, engaging in impactful activities, and fostering the internationalization of IMMB. Moreover, participants also benefited from the invaluable mental health management sessions with UiTM Sg Buloh campus's counselor, **Mrs. Farah Farhanah Abdul Aziz**, along with the insightful sharing of **"IMMB: The Way Forward 2023-2024"** by the director of IMMB. We were also pleased to have **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Thuhairah Hasrah Abd. Rahman**, the Deputy Dean of Research & Innovation, Faculty of Medicine in this workshop.

***"Everything is theoretically impossible, until it is done"* – Robert A. Heinlein**

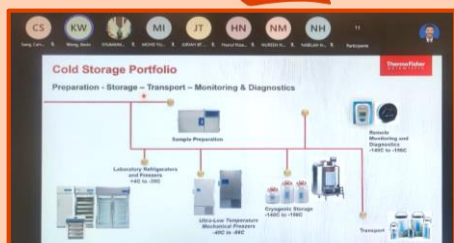


Title : Next-Generation Sequencing: The Past, Present and Future  
 Speaker : Dr. Kanagesswari Muniandy, Monash University Malaysia  
 Date : 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023

**IMMB Technical Talk:** This initiative aims to enhance the knowledge of students and staff through collaboration with external parties. The topics selected are based on the needs and availability of methods and equipments at IMMB. During this talk, participants are exposed to the concepts, uses, and potential of each method or equipment. The knowledge gained from this talk can be beneficial for participants in their laboratory work, writing, or during viva sessions. Additionally, this presentation marks the initial step in exploring cooperation between IMMB and the industry.

July 2023

## TECHNICAL Talk



Title : Freezer & Refrigerator Best Practices Guide  
 Speaker : Mr. Kevin Wong, Product Manager, Thermo Fisher Scientific  
 Date : 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023



Title : SkanIT Software for The Multiskan FC Microplate Photometer  
 Speaker : Dr. Ler Lian Wee, Senior Product Manager, Thermo Fisher Scientific  
 Date : 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023

## My Internship Experience at IMMB: Insights Shared by Darshan Chandra Kumar, A-level Student from Kolej Yayasan UEM

*“My three-week attachment at IMMB under the supervision of AP Dr. Wang Seok Mui and her postgraduate student, Ms. Sharifah Aliah Diyanah, has opened my eyes to the intricate field of medical microbiology. As an aspiring doctor, I was eager to learn about research and scientific skills required to perform complex procedures in the laboratory. I started the first week by learning about primer design and its underlying principles. Then, I got the opportunity to extract DNA from HSV-1 and HSV-2 viruses following the simple ‘Lysis-Bind-Wash-Elute’ mechanism. After that, I conducted a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) to amplify the extracted DNA and performed Gel Electrophoresis, a concept covered in the Cambridge A-Level Biology syllabus. Apart from laboratory sessions, I got the opportunity to learn about Forensic Entomology from AP Dr. Heo Chong Chin. I read a few papers related to the topic was captivated by the interconnected relationships between insects and the ecosystem, which can be used to determine the Postmortem Interval (PMI) in criminal cases. My experience at IMMB is definitely one to remember, from gathering inspiration from postdoctoral researchers over meetings to understanding the intersection between the fields of medicine and technology. I am sure the knowledge and skills I acquired during my attachment will inevitably be useful for my studies and career in the future”.*



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