

Institute of Medical Molecular Biotechnology Newsletter



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CELL CULTURE & FLUORESCENCE IMAGING WORKSHOP 2023. IMMB, led by **Dr. Wan Nor I'zzah Wan Mohamad Zain** as chairperson of the workshop, successfully organized the Cell Culture and Fluorescence Imaging Workshop from 12th September to 15th September 2023. This workshop was divided into two interdependent events to better cater to the participants' specific needs. During the first two days, participants were introduced to concepts, applications, and techniques related to cell culture, including cell treatment, through a series of practical sessions and lectures led by trained facilitators and experienced lecturers. Participants were also provided with guidance on common problems, troubleshooting and experimental setup during both practical and lecture sessions. **Biomed Global Malaysia** was also invited to share their expertise on flow cytometry, discussing the application and advantages of this high-tech equipment in conducting cell culture research.



CELL CULTURE & FLUORESCENCE IMAGING WORKSHOP 2023
JOIN US 12th-15th SEPT 2023
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL MOLECULAR BIOTECHNOLOGY (IMMB)
FACULTY OF BIOTECHNOLOGY
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA
43400 SEREMBAN, NEGERI SEMBILAN

Who should attend:
Researcher, Research Officer, Science Officer, Postgraduate Student who are involved in Cell Culture & Fluorescence Imaging techniques

Registration link:
<https://www.immb.uitm.edu.my/registration>

Fees:
PACKAGE A: CELL CULTURE ONLY (IMMB)
PACKAGE B: FLUORESCENCE IMAGING (IMMB)
FULL PACKAGE A + B (IMMB)

Workshop highlights:
Theory and Applications covered by Experienced Lecturers

Hands-on:
Aseptic Technique
Media Preparation
Basic Cell Culture - receive cells, count cells (trypan/exclusion) & cell confluency
Sub-culture and cryopreserve cells
Cell Viability - MTT microplate reader
Cell Apoptosis - Flowcytometry
Cells staining & Imaging - confocal laser scanning microscopy

Limit to 25 seats only

In the last two days, the workshop's focus shifted from conducting experiments related to cell culturing to imaging. It began with a lecture titled **"Introduction and Applications of Fluorescence-Based Microscopy Methods for Cell Culture."** Participants gained insights into various staining methods, the selection of research kits, and imaging techniques namely Fluorescence Microscopy and Confocal Laser Scanning Microscopy (CLSM). The workshop successfully concluded after the discussion and troubleshooting session. Throughout the four days period, we had a total of 21 participants, both from within and outside of UiTM.

At the end of this workshop, we are proud that two vital objectives have been achieved. These objectives include providing an overview of the application of cell culture and fluorescence imaging in scientific fields and imparting a deeper understanding of cell culture applications and related topics to our participants. With sincere appreciation, IMMB would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all facilitators led by **Mrs. Norita Salim** and lecturers: **Dr. Wan Nor I'zzah Wan Mohamad Zain**, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sharaniza Ab. Rahim**, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Johari Ibrahim**, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mudiana Muhamad**, and **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suhaila Abd Muid**, as their expertise and experience were instrumental in making this workshop a success.



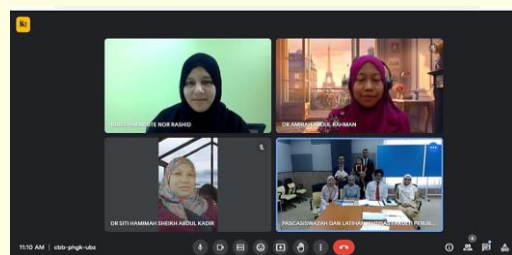
The preparation for the **ENVIRONMENTAL FORENSICS: SCIENCE, INVESTIGATION, AND TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION TO FIGHT GREEN CRIMES**, scheduled from 25th September to 6th October 2023, continued with a meeting at the **Consulate General of Malaysia, Perth, Australia**. The meeting was led by **Dr. Paola A. Magni** and attended by student representatives from **Murdoch University**. Various matters were discussed, including progress, planned activities, and bilateral cooperation. The meeting was also attended online by **AP. Dr. Heo Chong Chin**.

ACTIVITIES, INITIATIVES & INVOLVEMENT



Congratulations to Nur Adilla Zaini, a PhD student, under supervision of **AP. Dr. Heo Chong Chin**, won the **Best Oral Presenter** award at the **5th International Symposium on Insects (ISoI2023)**. She worked on the Antarctica project, where she examined how penguins decompose under extreme climate conditions. The symposium took place at the Pullman Hotel in Kuching, Sarawak, from 11th - 13th September 2023. The Centre for Insect Systematics (CIS) at UKM and UiTM Sarawak co-organized the event along with the Malaysian Entomological Society (ENTOMA). With the theme "**Unveiling the Hidden Prospect of Insects**," the symposium provided a platform for participants to showcase their research findings. Selected participants also had the opportunity to publish their papers in **SERANGGA**, a peer-reviewed journal indexed in SCOPUS, MyCITE, and CABI abstracts.

PhD VIVA VOCE. Congratulations to **Hala F. S. Abulehia**, who is under the supervision of **AP. Dr. Noor Shafina Mohd Nor**, for successfully passing her **PhD VIVA VOCE (MD 990)** on 19th September 2023. Her PhD research title is "**The Effects of Trans Fat Diet (TFD) Intake on Metabolic Parameters and DNA Methylation Profile in Offspring of In-utero BPA Exposed Rats.**" During her PhD journey, she successfully published three papers, attended three conferences, obtained one copyright, and won two innovation competitions.



Congratulations to Iman Nabilah Abd Rahim, a PhD student who was under the supervision of **AP. Dr. Noor Alicezah Mohd Kasim** for winning the **1st Prize** of the **APSAVD 2023 Young Investigator Award: Moderated Poster Presentation** with the project titled "**Saffron Ethanolic Extract Suppresses the Expression of Adhesion Molecules in the Aorta of Early and Established Atherosclerotic Rabbits**" held from 8th and 9th September 2023 at The Vertical, Kuala Lumpur. She also received the **Young Scientist Award** from the **Malaysian Association of Clinical Biochemists (MACB)** at the **33rd MACB Annual Scientific Conference 2023** with her presentation titled "**Comparison of Directly Measured LDL-cholesterol with Calculated LDL-cholesterol Using Friedewald, De Cordova, Ahmadi and Vujovic Formulas**". This conference took place from 4th to 6th September 2023 at the Pullman Hotel, Bangsar. May this recognition inspire everyone to keep going and pursue further achievement in the future.

ORAL PRESENTATION AWARD. Congratulations to the PhD student, **Ms. Rahayu Zulkapli** and **Dr. Sarah Zulkifli** (Post-Doc, I-PPerForM), for their outstanding achievements. Ms. Rahayu received an outstanding **Oral Presentation Award**, and Dr. Sarah achieved **1st Runner-Up** for the oral presentation (basic science) at the **12th International Congress on Lipid & Atherosclerosis with the Asia-Australia Vascular Biology Meeting (ICoLA 2023 in conjunction with AAVBM)**. Ms. Rahayu presented her project titled "**The Role of PCSK9 and Lipoprotein A as Independent Predictors for Premature Coronary Artery Disease in Clinically Diagnosed Familial Hypercholesterolemia Patients**," while Dr. Sarah presented her project titled "**Detection and association between blood levels of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and metabolic syndrome (MetS) in Malaysian adults.**" The event took place from the 14th to the 16th of September 2023 at CONRAD Seoul, Republic of Korea. Furthermore, **Dr. Nazirul Mubin Aziz** (Post-Doc, I-PPerForM), along with PhD students **Iman Nabilah Abd Rahim** and **Siti Suhana Abdullah Soheimi** from the Faculty of Medicine UiTM, also took part and had the opportunity to present their research results at the event. Participating in international events like this provides students and staff with the opportunity to share knowledge, exchange ideas, establish new collaborations, and explore the history, and work culture of other countries.



"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit"
- Will Durant



Happy Retirement and Thank You

DEEP APPRECIATION AND PROFOUND GRATITUDE TO **PROFESSOR DATUK DR. HAJAH ROZIAH MOHD JANOR**, Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), FOR HER UNWAVERING DEDICATION AND EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP DURING HER SERVICE FROM 9TH AUGUST 2021 TO 12TH OCTOBER 2023. SHE HAS BEEN AN INSPIRING AND TRANSFORMATIVE ROLE MODEL FOR ALL OF US



Heartfelt Congratulations

WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO **PROF. DR. ANIS SAFURA RAMLI** FOR HER APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY DEAN (RESEARCH & INNOVATION) OF THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE FROM 1ST OCTOBER 2023. HER EXCEPTIONAL EXPERTISE AND DEDICATION WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PLAY A PIVOTAL ROLE IN ENSURING THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE FACULTY.

PIVOTAL ROLE IN ENSURING THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE FACULTY.

Highest Appreciation

DEEP APPRECIATION TO **ASSOC. PROF. DR. THUHAIRAH HASRAH ABDUL RAHMAN** FOR HER EXCEPTIONAL COMMITMENT AS DEPUTY DEAN (RESEARCH & INNOVATION) OF THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE FROM 1ST OCTOBER 2019 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023. HER TIRELESS EFFORTS IN PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN THE IMMB ARE TRULY COMMENDABLE.



IMMB IN THE SPOTLIGHT: RECENT MEDIA COVERAGE



AP. Dr. Heo Chong Chin, the Director of IMMB, was invited for a radio interview by the Chinese radio station, **Eight FM**. The interview was dedicated to exploring Dr. Heo's research, particularly focusing on the behavior of flies, their significance in ecosystems, and the implications of his findings. It took place on 6th September 2023 at the Eight FM headquarters in Sri Pentas, Bandar Utama, starting at 10 am and lasting approximately 1 hour.



Nur Aliah Natasha Azmi, a PhD student, and Jack Gregorian, an intern student from Loyola University Maryland, USA, were interviewed by the Chinese Mandarin newspaper, **Sin Chew Daily**, on 28th August 2023. The interviews aimed to explore Miss Natasha's discovery of a new species, *Dichaetomyia natashae*, and her research journey. For Mr. Gregorian, the focus was on his motivations, findings, and experiences studying ants in Malaysia. Their story was successfully published in the newspaper on 1st October 2023.



Get information on our upcoming: International Webinar | Journal Club | Research Talk | Basic Lecture | Services | Newsletter | Online Course | Workshop and everything else that you need to know about IMMB on our media social platforms

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