Institute of Medical Molecular Biotechnology Newsletter



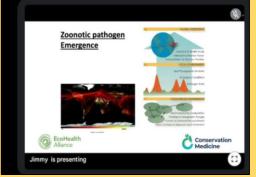
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CONGRATULATIONS! Heartfelt wishes to the Director of IMMB, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin on his promotion as Profesor Madya Gred DM54. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin has been working at Faculty of Medicine UiTM since 2009. He continued his studies at Texas A&M University, USA and returned to serve as Senior Lecturer after his PhD graduation in 2016. He was appointed as director of IMMB in August 2020.

IMMB INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR SERIES 02/2022 was conducted on 27th April 2022. The invited speaker was Dr. Mariam Bakshi, a Senior Post Doctoral Scientist from the Department of Veterinary Medicine, University of Maryland College Park, Maryland, USA. She shared with the audience her research interests and current research entitled "INTEGRATIVE APPROACHES TO UNDERSTAND HOST-PARASITE INTERACTIONS: A ONE HEALTH PERSPECTIVE". This talk was successfully attended by 51 participants and ended with a Q & A session after an hour of presentation.





IMMB RESEARCH TALK 2022 was successfully conducted on 1st April 2022, with Mr. Tom Hughes as our invited speaker. He is the Founder and Director of Conservation Medicine and a Senior Fellow for EcoHealth Alliance. The title of his talk is "Zoonoses in Malaysia: What do we know, and What Do We Need To Do To Be Ready for The Next Disease X." Throughout this talk, he shared his vast experience in various research field activities in Malaysia. These activities included sampling, surveying, testing, disease surveillance and training to strengthen zoonotic research and improve biosecurity and biosafety. This talk was chaired by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin and was attended by 38 participants.

IMMB BASIC LECTURE 2022 was conducted on 13 April 2022. The invited speaker was Dr. Norhafiza Razali from the Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, UiTM. In this lecture, she shared her expertise on the topic entitled "How To Critique A Research Article?". Here, she explained how to critique, starting from abstract to the reference of the research articles. In summary, criticism is a thorough review of an argument to determine what is being said, the extent to which things have been put forward, what assumptions have been made, what issues have been missed, and what conclusions have been drawn from those observations. This talk was chaired by Mrs Norita Salim and was attended by 51 participants.





IMMB JOURNAL CLUB 2022 was held on 20 February 2022. The invited presenter was Nur Elina Mohd Atan (MSc Student) under the supervision of Dr Amirah Abdul Rahman. She shared her critical appraisal entitled "Study the Association of Transmembrane Serine Protease 6 Gene Polymorphisms with Iron Deficiency Status in Saudi Arabia." This paper was published in Gene (2021) and was chosen because it is related to the title of her study and is also one of the main references in her ongoing research project.

ACTIVITIES, INITIATIVES & INVOLVEMENT



TAZKIRAH RAMADHAN 1443H. Our very first Ramadhan talk was held on 5 April 2022 with Ustaz Puaad Osman from UiTM Cawangan Negeri Sembilan as our invited speaker. He delivered the topic on "Ramadan: Ada Apa Dengan Ramadan?". From his sharing, he reminded us to make the most of Ramadan with sunnah matters and do many good deeds to reap the rewards. Then, on 12 April 2022 and 26 April 2022, we had Ustazah Noradibah Rozain, the Winner of Da'i 2013 as an invited speaker. She talked about "Ramadan Berkat Taqwa Meningkat" and "Andai Ini Ramadan Terakhir" for both sessions. To make the most of Ramadan, she reminded us to always remember Allah by reciting dhikr and Quran. She also recommended us to work more on the charity especially in the last 10 days of Ramadhan. Do not waste the opportunity to do plenty of *ibadah*, becoming a better human and an even better follower of Islam during this blessed month. Our third invited speaker was Ustaz Mohd Yusof bin Arbain who was the Finalist of Pencetus Ummah Season 2. He delivered a topic on "Al-Quran Mendidik Hati & Peribadi". In his talk, he shared the importance of reading and understanding the verses of the Quran.

Congratulation to IMMB Niche Scholar, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Noor Shafina Mohd Nor for successfully publishing her research paper entitled "Identification of Cardiovascular Risk Factors among Urban and Rural Malaysian Youths." Her research paper was published in BMC Cardiovascular Disorders (Q2) in Feb 2022 with an impact factor of 2.298. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Noor Shafina Mohd Nor is a Consultant Pediatric Endocrinologist from the Department of Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine UiTM. To date, she has about 30 publications in the field of Pediatric Endocrinology with a special focus in Diabetes Mellitus, Obesity, Endocrine Disruptor Chemicals (BPA) and Familial Hypercholesterolemia.





Congratulation to Nur Amira Md Amin, MSc student under the supervision of IMMB Internal Advisor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Siti Hamimah Sheikh Abdul Kadir for successfully publishing her review paper entitled "Are Vitamin E Supplementation Beneficial for Female Gynecology Health and Diseases?." Her review paper was published in Molecules (Q2), under the biochemistry and molecular biology category of MDPI publisher with an impact factor of 4.142 in March 2022.

MEETING WITH IMMB NICHE SCHOLARS. We were very honoured to have the second meeting with **IMMB Niche Scholars** on 11 April 2022. We shared our recent activities and progress as an update to all members. We also discussed on redefining our main focus areas which is Dengue, Soil Transmitted Helminths, and Antimicrobial Resistance for the improvement and establishment of the niche.





INDUSTRIAL VISIT. IMMB had received a visit from **Silver Stream Sdn Bhd**, represented by the founder of the company, **Dato' Haji Ahmed Sidiique** and **Dr. J Jeevan** on 7 April 2022. The visit to the IMMB laboratory facilities led by the Director of IMMB, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin, was followed by a discussion on the potential provision of NGS and Bioinformatics services to patients based in IMMB. This discussion was also attended by the Deputy Dean of Research & Innovation, Faculty of Medicine, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Thuhairah Hasrah Abdul Rahman.

MSc student, **Nur Aliah Natasha Azmi**, who is under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin had successfully defended her Master of Science (Medicine) (MD 780) on 25 April 2022. Her research title is **"Correlation of Juvenile Hormone Concentration in Maggots With the Time of Death."** Throughout her study, she had successfully produced 4 manuscripts and one of it was published in Tropical Biomedicine (2021). This session was attended by a total of two examiners who are experts in the field of Biomedical Science and Biochemistry.





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GET TO KNOW STAFF



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My name is Ummu Fatin Maghfirah Mohd. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Biology from USM, Penang (2019). I have joined IMMB since June 2019 as an Assistant Science Officer. Just so you know, I am new in this field, therefore still need advice and guidance from my 'sunbae'. Nevertheless, I am honoured to help IMMB users who need my help. I also hope that in the future there will be opportunities for me to engage in research and services that can help me acquire more new knowledge and skills in science. I believe every achievement begins with the decision to try. Every job is a challenge and when you keep working hard, you will see results.

UMMU FATIN MAGHFIRAH MOHD

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