

# Institute of Medical Molecular Biotechnology Newsletter



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## SITE VISIT BY BENDAHARI UiTM AND THE DEAN OF FACULTY OF MEDICINE.

The site visits by the UiTM Treasurer, Tn. Hj. Mazlan Bin Hashim was held on 5 August 2022, whereas The Dean, AP. Dr. Fazah Akhtar Hanapiah visited on 10 August 2022. Both visits were joined by Penolong Rektor UiTM Cawangan Selangor, AP. Dr. Ahmad Taufek Abdul Rahman. These site visits aimed to assess the facilities' situation and devise remedial measures to ensure research services are not affected. Among the things that have been highlighted were the repair of the gutter, new CCTV installation, free flow drinking water supply and the repair of the microplate reader.



Effects of Mass  
Death on  
Community  
Structure and  
Ecosystem  
Function

Dr. Abby Jones

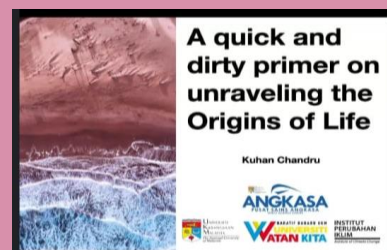
Dr. Brandon Barton, Advisor  
Mississippi State University

IMMB INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR SERIES 05/2022 was conducted on 30 August 2022. The invited speaker was Dr. Abby Jones, a Post-Doctoral Researcher under the supervision of AP. Dr. Heo Chong Chin. She shared with the audience her research interests and current research entitled "Effects of Mass Death on Community Structure and Ecosystem Function." The objectives of her research are to identify the rate of decomposition, types of nutrients (soil nutrients or plant tissue) and soil communities (soil microbes and soil arthropods). This talk was successfully attended by 42 participants and chaired by AP. Dr. Heo Chong Chin.



**HANDS-ON WORKSHOP: LABORATORY DETECTION OF INTESTINAL PARASITES 2022**, organized by the Department of Medical Microbiology and Parasitology (MMP) & IMMB, was successfully conducted on 4-5 August 2022. This workshop consisted of a lecture and a series of laboratory work led by IMMB Niche Scholar, Dr. Azdayanti Muslim and assisted by facilitators and committees from MMP, IMMB and MPG of the Faculty of Medicine UiTM. Dr. Azdayanti herself delivered a talk entitled "Laboratory Methods for the Diagnosis of Intestinal Parasites" to 26 participants. Based on the organizer's observations and feedback from the participants, this workshop successfully achieved its objectives through the sharing, laboratory works and evaluation that had been prepared.

IMMB RESEARCH TALK 2022 was conducted on 3 August 2022. The invited speaker was Dr. Kuhan Chandru A/L Balasanthiran from Institut Perubahan Iklim, University Kebangsaan Malaysia. In this session, he shared his expertise on the topic entitled "A Quick and Dirty Primer on Unrevealing The Origin of Life." From his findings and studies, it was concluded that the direct history of prebiotic chemistry to modern biology and its biomolecules may be the clues to deciphering the origin-of-life. This talk was chaired by AP. Dr. Heo Chong Chin and was attended by 29 participants.



## IMMB BASIC LECTURE 2022: SEMINAR ASAS PENGENDALIAN BAHAN KIMIA

was conducted on 17 August 2022, with ChM. Hajatun Rabani Ahmad Razif, Registered Chemist from Engineering College, UiTM Shah Alam as the invited speaker. She shared her expertise in the proper way to handle chemicals, starting with the purchase, receiving, storing and disposing of the chemicals. This sharing session was chaired by Mr. Mohd Yusri Idorus and was successfully attended by 52 participants. The attendance was recorded as one of the laboratory audit preparations and requirements that will be checked during the laboratory audit by the authorities.

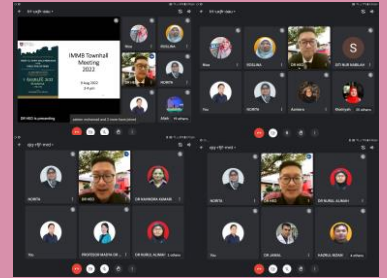
# ACTIVITIES, INITIATIVES & INVOLVEMENT

**IMMB RESEARCH TALK 2022** was conducted on 25 August 2022. We were lucky to have **Prof. Dr. Chee-Onn Leong**, CEO of **AGTC Genomics Sdn. Bhd.**, as a speaker. In this slot, he shared his expertise on the topic entitled "**Designing Genomics for Basic and Translational Research.**" During this talk, he also shared the current trend in genome research and designed genomics studies for basic and translational research and funding. As one of the leading researchers in this field, he is passionate about sharing his knowledge and understanding through research and industry platforms. This talk was chaired by AP. Dr. Heo Chong Chin and was attended by 36 participants.



An **IMMB JOURNAL CLUB** was conducted on 24 August 2022. The invited speaker was **ChM. Naizah Zakaria** from the **Anatomy Department, Faculty of Medicine UiTM**. In her talk, she shared her experience about "**Rat Dissection for Histological Slide Preparation.**" This sharing session was very helpful for students who are currently involved in *in vivo* studies. Each dissection procedure was explained in detail and was understandable through the various pictures and notes. This lecture was successfully attended by around 37 participants and was chaired by Mr. Hazrul Nizam Hisham Hasmi.

**IMMB VIRTUAL TOWN HALL MEETING** with the Director of IMMB was organized with the students and supervisors on 9 August 2022 and 10 August 2022, respectively. These separate meetings were attended by the staff, postgraduate students and then supervisors to discuss matters related to services and operation of IMMB, including booking slots, warning letters and technical workshops needed. In this meeting, the director of IMMB also presented the recent updates of IMMB. These meetings improved service delivery through two-way communication and discussion between students, supervisors, and staff.



**INDUSTRIAL VISIT.** IMMB received a visit from **COYOTE BIOSCIENCE CO. LTD**, represented by the product manager, **Ms. Elise Tiang** and Asia Field Support Lead, **Ms. Corrinne Lee**, on 19 August 2022. The visit to the IMMB laboratory facilities, led by **IMMB Internal Advisor, AP. Dr. Wang Seok Mui** was followed with a discussion on the potential collaboration to develop rapid kits for diagnostic and research use in the field of medical microbiology. This discussion was also attended by **AP. Dr. Fadzilah Mohd Noor**.

**MEETING OF MediPA, IMMB DIRECTOR & STAFF** was held on 23 August 2022. This meeting was held following the appointment of the new MediPA committee members led by **Mr. Amir Muhaimin** as the President starting from September 2022. Among the matters that have been discussed was the type of collaboration that can be held between students and staff. Several activities have also been discussed, including the organization of IMMB sports day and Postgraduate Colloquium.



**SEMINAR TRANSFORMASI & KECEMERLANGAN DIRI.** This seminar was successfully conducted on 22 August 2022, with **Dr. Kamril Juraidi Abdul Karim** from **UiTM Puncak Alam** as an invited speaker. He shared two main topics about **Crafting a Professional Brand** and **Outstanding Appearance** within the 3 hours of the seminar. This seminar was attended by 45 participants, including academic staff, administration staff and postgraduate students.

**SITE VISIT FROM THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE** was held on 24 August 2022. The focus of the visit was on the Antarctica sample storage and lab work under the funded project by **Yayasan Penyelidikan Antartika Sultan Mizan (YPASM) Research Grant** led by **AP. Dr. Fadzilah Mohd Noor**. This visit was to ensure that the lab conditions meet the requirements and follow the correct procedures, especially in terms of safety due to the admission of research samples from abroad.



**CONGRATULATIONS!** IMMB staff, **Mr. Azhar Ahmad** represented the UiTM Selangor team at the Chess Competition in **KARNIVAL SUKAN STAF 2022** on 27-29 August 2022. This chess team consisted of six players and was led by Mr. Azhar as the team's manager and main player. The team was undefeated in the league, earning the gold medal for the event.

*"Your positive action combined with positive thinking results in success." - Shiv Khera*

# WELCOME TO OUR IMMB VISITING SCIENTIST, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DR. JEFFREY D. WELLS



Jeffrey D. Wells is an Associate Professor at Florida International University where he is affiliated with the International Forensic Research Institute. Dr. Wells received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Chicago followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California at Berkeley. His research interests are non-human forensic DNA analysis, forensic entomology, and the development of statistical methods for postmortem interval estimation. He is a past President of the North American Forensic Entomology Association.

## Upcoming Events with Assoc. Prof. Dr Jeffrey D. Wells

### SESSION WITH POSTGRADUATE (RESEARCH PROPOSAL REVIEW)

Date: 19th September (Monday)

Time: 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Venue: Meeting Room 1, Level 1, IMMB

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/ycyy8mxe>

### SESSION WITH IMMB RESEARCHER (POTENTIAL COLLABORATION)

Date: 19th September (Monday)

Time: 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Venue: Meeting Room 1, Level 1, IMMB

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/vbvtvu7k>

### 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.

## POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER : DR. MOHD DANIAL [danialefendy@uitm.edu.my](mailto:danialefendy@uitm.edu.my)



Dr. Mohd Danial Bin Mohd Efendy Goon obtained his Bachelor of Biomedical Science from International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) in 2012. From 2012 until 2013, he was trained at the D10 (JSJ) Division under the Royal Malaysian Police (RMP). He attended Perdana University Graduate School of Medicine (PUGSOM) from 2014 until 2018 before pursuing Master of Science (Medicine) at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Sg Buloh campus. In 2019, he converted his Master to Doctor of Philosophy (Medicine). During his PhD, he won Best Poster Presentation at the 3<sup>rd</sup> ICMBB and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 3MT competition at UiTM's faculty level.

He was also awarded with European Association for the Study of the Liver Young Investigator Bursary Award, published several original articles including Nature's Scientific Reports and ended his PhD with the award Anugerah Penyelidik Cemerlang (APC) and candidate for the Anugerah Kedoktoran Cemerlang Tuanku Canselor (AKCTC).

Currently, he is holding the position of post-doctoral researcher under IMMB Internal Advisor, AP. Dr Siti Hamimah Sheikh Abdul Kadir. During his post-doctoral research, Dr. Danial works with two UiTM's post-graduate students and multi-discipline experts in developing methods for detections of endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) and correlates them with patients' biochemistry profile. He hopes that his team's investigation would able to shine light on the devastating effect of EDCs on human health and policies and regulations will be enforced by regulatory bodies under the government of Malaysia.

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