Institute of Medical Molecular Biotechnology Newsletter







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COVID-19 can cause serious, life-threatening complications, and there is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect you. And if you get sick, you could spread the disease to friends, family, and others around you. The risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 far outweighs any benefits of natural immunity. Apart from strict SOP compliance, getting a COVID-19 vaccine also helps keeping you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19 by creating an immune response. With the surge in cases of covid infection, we have taken the initiative to raise awareness regarding the vaccine, its importance and effectiveness. On 19 May 2021, we conducted **IMMB BASIC LECTURE** with **Dr. Muhammad Fairuz Bin Azmi** from Dept. of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine, UiTM as a speaker. In this session, he shared his knowledge on vaccination with the title of "ABC of Astrazeneca". Based on this sharing it can be concluded that the benefits of Astrazeneca outweighed its risks in adults of all age groups; however, very rare cases of blood clots with low blood platelets have occurred following vaccination. Known benefits of Astrazeneca include reducing hospitalizations, intensive care unit (ICU) admissions and deaths due to COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccination may also protect people around you, particularly people of higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Throughout history, humans have successfully fought life-threatening diseases including meningitis, tetanus, measles, and the deceptive polio virus through vaccine development and vaccination programs. We will succeed this time too if all parties play a role and support the vaccination efforts that are being mobilized by the government.

IMMB INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR SERIES 03/2021 was conducted on 25 May 2021. The invited speaker was Dr. Mohd Firdaus Abdul Wahab from Faculty of Science, UTM. He was a Post-Doc at National University Singapore from 2019 to 2021. He shared his research findings entitled "Microorganisms for the Environmental and Industrial Applications." His research interests are in molecular biochemistry, bio-renewable energy and biodegradation of pollutants. This talk was conducted online via Google Meet with the attendance of 80 participants.





FUN INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR SERIES 07 was successfully conducted on 21 May 2021. This talk was organized by the FUN Ento Lab together with IMMB with Prof. Emeritus Dr. M. Lee Goff from Chaminade University of Honolulu, USA as the invited speaker. As one of the prominent researchers in the field of forensic entomology, he shared his research findings and precious experience through our platform. His talk entitled "Dr. Maggot Mr. Worm: Insects as Evidence in Criminal Investigations". The participants were exposed to the basic concept of insects as evidence in criminal investigations and their importance in the forensic field. The talk was attended online by 173 participants across Asia, Europe and America.

ACTIVITIES, INITIATIVES & INVOLVEMENT

MEETING WITH EXTERNAL ADVISORS. We were very honoured to have our first meeting with IMMB External Advisors on 25 May 2021. Apart from the introduction, we presented information on current direction and activities towards the internationalization of this institution. A lot of matters were discussed for IMMB improvements including commercialization as well as research collaborations and linkages. These external advisors are comprised of respected researchers in their respective fields. They are Prof. Dr. Leong Chee Onn from International Medical University (IMU), AP. Dr. Low Tech Yew from IMBI, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, AP. Dr. Dennis Tappe from Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Hamburg, Germany and Dr. Paola Magni from Murdoch University, Australia.





Meeting with IMMB INTERNAL ADVISORS was held on 23 April 2021. During the meeting, we presented our recent and potential development for the period of 2021 and 2022. The presentation session was followed by a discussion on the operations and new research niche for IMMB (i.e., Tropical Medicine). The objectives of the IMMB Internal Advisors are to set and execute the strategic plans of the organization, to ensure effective management and its activities, monitor the organization activities so that they are in line with the founding principles, objects, and values.

IMMB internal advisors consist of members of the Medical Faculty. They are **Prof. Dr. Harbindar Jeet Singh, Prof. Dr. Musalmah Mazlan, AP. Dr. Thuhairah Hasrah Abdul Rahman, AP. Dr. Siti Hamimah Sheikh Abdul Kadir, AP. Dr. Jamal Hussaini, AP. Dr. Wang Seok Mui, AP. Dr. Fadzilah Mohd Nor and Dr. Noor Fahitah Binti Abu Hanipah.**



IMMB RESEARCH TALK was conducted on 5 May 2021. Dr. Siti Sofo Ismail who is currently working at School of Marine Science & Environment, University Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) was invited to talk and the title of her presentation was 'Anatomy of Cadaver Decomposition Process: Soil Hidden Clues'. She shared various experiences and stories through cooperation with various parties including PDRM in resolving various forensic-related issues. She is also one of the researchers that received funding from the Yayasan Penyelidikan Antartika Sultan Mizan – YPASM.

Ustaz Muhammad Najih Irsyad Bin Ahmad Puhad (Pegawai Hal Ehwal Islam UiTM Kampus Sungai Buloh) was invited as speaker for a TAZKIRAH RAMADHAN which was held on 6 May 2021. He shared his knowledge about 'Raikan Syawal Dengan Kegembiraan Dalam Beribadah'. He reminds us to continue and improve our *ibadah* as in Ramadhan. Eid Fitr celebrations within the movement control order will limit our activities outside and also test our discipline in complying with all the SOPs. We get to spend more time with family, so he advised us to take this opportunity to do plenty of ibadah with them.





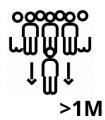
The participants of the **2021 UiTM Virtual 3MT Competition** had the opportunity to be trained by a medical lecturer who is also a PhD student in IMMB, **Dr Muhammad Fairuz Azmi**. The preparations that had been carried out include individual presentation exercises as well as group presentations which also co-trained and supervised by **Dr Norhafiza Razali** as a PhD Coordinator. The team was crowned with **champion** and **first runner-up** for the Science & Technology category by **Amirah Mohd Ariff** and **Afiqq Aiman Abd Ghapor** respectively.

PRACTISE SELF LOCKDOWN



COME TO WORKPLACE ONLY WHEN IT IS YOUR TURN & STRICTLY FOLLOW THE SOP GIVEN SHOPPING ONLINE, GO OUT WHEN NEEDED AND WHEN THERE'S NO OTHER CHOICE





PLAN YOUR EVERY MOVE, PRACTISE PHYSICAL DISTANCING & AVOID THE CROWDS SPEND AND INCREASE YOUR TIME AT HOME. WRITTING, PRAY & EXERCISE AT HOME

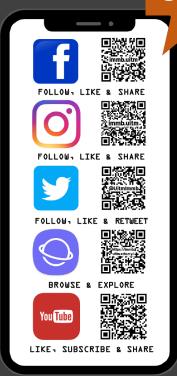




ZERO VISITORS. CONNECT VIRTUALLY TO KEEP IN TOUCH REGISTER FOR YOUR
VACCINATION.
IMPROVE, REMIND AND
REPORT ANY VIOLATIONS
OF THE SOP



Scan Me



UPCOMING EVENT!

IMMB INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR Series NO 4

Professor Dr. Anshoo Agarwal, Northern Borders University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. 24th June 2021 (Thursday) 3PM (Malaysia Time) OUR BULETTIN EDITORIAL TEAM:

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