

BULLETIN

Monthly news and updates from JCSMHS



MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY HEAD OF SCHOOL (GRADUATE RESEARCH)

December is the most important month of the year because the School showcased its performance in teaching and research. These are important performance indicators on all the activities that have been conducted in the School by all staff and level of achievement in each of the categories. The data would also be a benchmark for the coming new year.

In research, the School has probably scored the best ever performance in its 13-year history. The year of 2019 has been a remarkable year in terms of research performance for our School and I am pleased to share that the key significant highlights.

The School secured the highest amount of international research grant income from international funders. It was also a first for the School to receive the LRGS grant from the Ministry of Education, where our own researcher is the program leader. In terms of publication, we have to date documented 172 publications overall with 137 full articles, 3 conference proceedings, 12 book and book chapters with 20 other publications which are inclusive of data papers, conference abstracts, case reports, and editorial articles. We are still collecting the final December publication record and I am confident that we are able to match or surpass last year's publication record of 187 publications.

Another milestone achieved by the School is the highest number of graduate research students completing their studies with a completion on time rate of 88.89%. In addition, 33 graduate research students have enrolled this year; highest enrollment number that we have in history. It is also worth mentioning that we have secured the highest number of merit scholarships in 2019 with 23 merit scholarships awarded from the Campus.

As I share our school research highlights with you, I would like to congratulate all of you for your great research success and effort. Thank you all for your dedication and hard work to achieve this wonderful record year for the School. I look forward to continuing working together with all of you in the year 2020 to forge collaboration with our faculty and move forward in all areas of research.

ACHIEVEMENTS & EVENTS



INTERNATIONAL BRAIN RESEARCH ORIGATION – ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Brain Research Institute Monash Sunway (BRIMS) hosted the 5th International Brain Research Origination-Asia Pacific Regional Committee (IBRO-APRC) Advanced School of Neuroscience with the theme of Advanced Technologies for Neuroscience Research from 7 to 20 October 2019. The advanced school this year included the Neuroethics Course,

technical workshops, BRIMS & IBRO-APRC Mini Symposium and an International Neuroscience Symposium. This year's advanced school began with the introduction of the Neuro Ethics Course. It was an interactive session where the possible neuro-ethical issues faced when it came to responsible research was discussed. The second part of the advanced school were the technical workshops, which were divided into three modules. The modules comprised of lectures and hands on sessions facilitated by experts in the field. It was a good platform for the students to discuss and troubleshoot any problems faced in their projects, directly with the facilitators.

The 1st BRIMS & IBRO-APRC Mini Symposium was conducted in Malacca on 12 and 13 October. The objective of the mini-symposium was to provide a platform for IBRO and BRIMS students to network and gain helpful insights with invited academics, who are highly accomplished in the Neuroscience field.

One of the topic of discussion was on Publishing in High Impact Journal. During this session, the participants were able to bring forth and discuss with the experienced academics, the issues faced when it comes to publishing a journal article.



The annual International Neuroscience Symposium, co-organized with NeuroMalaysia Society, was held in Monash University Malaysia on 17 October. The focus for this year's neuroscience symposium was Neurodegenerative Disease & Brain Ageing. The topics discussed during symposium pertained to molecular mechanisms and possible treatments for dementia. On the last day of IBRO program, the participants were taught basic histology and bio-imaging

techniques such as sectioning and staining. The participants were also given the opportunity to operate high-end equipment, such as the multi-photon microscope, for live imaging. In addition to this, the participants were also taught image processing and analysis using the software.

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▶ **PSYCHOLOGY BEST GRADUATE AWARD**

Department of Psychology awarded Best Graduate Awards on 15 November to its graduates that exemplified excellent academic performance in their respective programmes:

Chong Jia Yin

Bachelor of Psychological Science

June Goh Cui Lynn

Master of Professional Counselling

Not in photo:

Teoh Wei Tian

Bachelor of Psychological Science and Business



▶ **DEEPAVALI & BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

It was a double celebration on 21 November as Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences (JCSMHS) hosted both celebrations this month to celebrate the festive season and all of those who had their birthdays in the month of November.



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MOU SIGNING CEREMONY BETWEEN MONASH MALAYSIA & AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES SALES

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Signing ceremony between Monash Malaysia and Agilent Technologies Sales (Malaysia) was held on 2 December.

It was the third MoU signed to enhance the relationship between Monash and Agilent and also for the placement of Agilent's 129 Infinity II UHPLC 6495C QQQ mass spectrometer for a period of 12 months. This was held after the two MoUs that were previously signed in 2011 and 2016.

The first MoU that was signed in 2011 consisted of two agreements. One was a confidentiality agreement and the other was an agreement to have a micro array service centre and to have the Agilent DNA micro array scanner system (C scanner G2565CA) installed for a period of 12 months. In 2016, a second MoU was signed and at that time it was for the placement of 1290UHPLC 6550 Q-TOF mass spectrometer for a period of 12 months as well.



DEAN'S VISIT TO MONASH MALAYSIA

On 4 December, Christina Mitchell, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences visited Jeffery Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences (JCSMHS) after a couple of years. JCSMHS had a joint video conference with Clinical School Johor Bahru (CSJB) when the Dean gave her presentation.

She presented on how the Monash Medical school was doing in general and it was nothing short of positive outcomes and good news. According to the Australian Medical Council (AMC), Monash University was No.1 in terms of internship-readiness. This was based on a survey conducted among 60 students across different medical schools in Australia.

Among international rankings as well, Monash was within the top 100 for most medical-related disciplines. The Dean also introduced the new medical courses that Monash Australia would be starting soon, followed by a short Q & A session.

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Subsequently, she visited the Brain Research Institute Monash Sunway (BRIMS), the Medical Anatomy and Pathology E-Learning (MAPEL) Lab, and Psychology's Creative Classroom. On the second day, there were research presentations by the heads of the respective research strengths given to the Dean, followed by a Q & A opportunity. The Dean wrapped up her visit with the final day by reviewing the new courses and research.



▶ LONG SERVICE AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY 2019

Congratulations to all the recipients of the Long Service Award 2019:

Professor Khalid Bin Abdul Kadir

Dr Khoo Boo Aik

Professor Pathmanathan A Rajadurai

Ms Thavamaney A/P Vadiveloo

Associate Professor Anil Gandhi

Ms Loke May Qi, Renee

Associate Professor Lee Eng Geap

Ms See Wai Mun

Associate Professor Andrew Tan Khian Khoon

Ms Teh See Lim

Dr Sharad A/L K Ratnarajah

Dr Khor Shed Peng

Dr Ibrahim Bin Ab Aziz

Dr Lukman Bin Hj Mohd Rashid

Dr Vanassa A/P Ratnasingam

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► MOPC POTLUCK

It was a festive atmosphere with celebration, renewal and friendship all around as the Master of Professional Counselling (MOPC) program marked the end-of-year with a potluck party. On 10 December, MOPC faculty, students, alumni and staff came together over food and icebreakers to celebrate the recent milestones. The potluck comprised of sumptuous dishes, many of them home-cooked, representing diverse countries and cultures represented by the MOPC community.



MOPC alumni Raynette Soon of Cohort 4 said: "It was nice for an alumni like me to share my thoughts and experiences with the new blood of students. Good to catch up with lecturers as colleagues in the mental health field now." Arman Rashid of Cohort 6 concurred: "A great evening that will go a long way in building cohesion and belonging in the MOPC community." Dr Rachel Ting, Coordinator of MOPC, thanked students for organizing the potluck and contributing the food. She hoped this will be an annual event for the MOPC community.



► UNHCR HEALTH COORDINATION MEETING

On 18 December, Ref-Up, JCSMHS's own organization in Monash dedicated to volunteering and aiding refugees, presented on the progress and efforts made by Monash in reaching out to the refugee community throughout the years at the UNHCR Health Coordination meeting.

The presentation comprised of an overview of the initiation of the volunteering efforts through the Monash Volunteering project in 2017 and 2018, followed by the establishment of Ref-Up in 2019. The team from Ref-Up also underlined their goals, objectives and their vision of expanding the project in subsequent years. They also discussed their efforts in hosting students from the refugee school and also placed emphasis on the impact their efforts had on both the students and teachers throughout the year. The Ref-Up team were the only students who presented on behalf of the university and managed to do an outstanding job in delivering the information on the Ref-Up programme despite the great gap in terms of experience on presentations among other universities.

From the presentations done by the other universities, it was understood that their programmes focused more on executing health assessments with the purpose of addressing health issues faced by disadvantaged parties. A secondary purpose being that their programme served as training grounds for their students to practise their specific professions. Although we have not yet executed our expansions plans of health screening, we were praised on our programme, involving teaching modules and our close interaction with refugee kids, which enabled closer engagement and interaction with the refugees.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

PROTEOMICS IN MASS SPECTROMETRY AND MULTI-OMICS WORKSHOP

13 & 14 January 2020

RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

15 & 16 January 2020

MALAYSIAN BRAIN BEE CHALLENGE

16 January 2020

RESEARCH DAY 2020

17 January 2020

16S RRNA METAGENOMICS BIOINFORMATICS WORKSHOP - UNCOVERING MICROBIAL DIVERSITY WITH AMPLICON SEQUENCING

12 & 13 February 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS & NEWS

If you would like to share any news (past and/or upcoming events, achievement, student events, grants, etc.) with the School via newsletter, please email to gurmeet.kaur@monash.edu.

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