

ISSUE

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JCSMHS NEWSLETTER



JEFFREY CHEAH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Monash University Malaysia
Jalan Lagoon Selatan,
47500 Bandar Sunway
Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia

Monash University Malaysia is a joint venture

Jeffrey Cheah
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www.monash.edu.my/jcsmhs

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



The School has done very well last year and indications are that we will continue to perform well this year. There has been a significant increase in research output and medical student enrolment numbers have been the highest since the School's inception. Student numbers for the Department of Psychology are similarly good. This gives us a bit of breathing space for this year and possibly next year as well. By December 2019, the smallest cohort of students who joined us in 2015 would have graduated and as such we do not face the pressure of having to enrol large numbers of students to replace them in 2020.

It will be good to review what we would like to achieve over the next two years. While feedback and discussions with staff of the School will have to occur, there are some areas that do require obvious attention.



In terms of Education, the major issue is related to SETU performance which for the first time in many years has seen no improvement and in some units have seen declines. Second, the curriculum implementation for the Bachelor of Medical Science and Doctor of Medicine (MD) program especially in Year 5 will have to be a focus. And third, we need to start preparing for the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) accreditation visit due next year.

In the area of research, we need to also focus on three areas. First, it is to increase the quality of papers and publications which currently stands at 40% for Q1 and Q2 publications. Second, we would be looking at *drafting* and *submitting* more research proposals this year as this is an important area to build capacity. Hopefully over time this will lead to more grant success. And finally, we hope to focus and build on our research strengths. Previous attempts at building strengths have been only marginally successful. We need new ideas for doing this.

Lastly, the increase in student numbers will allow the updating some of our research equipment and some renovations to our learning and research spaces, especially in Clinical School Johor Bahru (CSJB) but also in Sunway.

Professor Dr Shajahan Yasin
Head of Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences



INTEGRATIVE OMICS VIA MASS SPECTROMETRY: A WORKSHOP ON INTEGRATIVE BIOLOGY

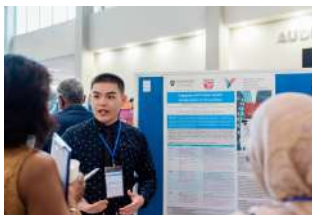
In December 2018, the LCMS Platform, Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences with Agilent Technologies successfully organised a workshop entitled 'Integrative Omics via Mass Spectrometry: A Workshop on Integrative Biology'. The workshop was attended by approximately 70 participants including representatives and engineers from Agilent Technologies along with participants from various institutions such as Monash University Malaysia, University Kebangsaan Malaysia, University of Malaya, and Sunway University. During the entire course of the workshop, participants discussed and shared their opinions with the experts in integrated biology and mass spectrometry.





FOSTERING WORK READINESS AMONG MEDICAL STUDENTS

Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences launched its inaugural Monash Malaysia Medical Education Conference entitled 'Fostering Work Readiness Among Medical Students'. The conference provided hands-on experience in key topics of work readiness such as issues related to professionalism, medical student resilience and well-being, in addition to having a better appreciation of patient safety issues and the use of technology to assess work readiness.



USC GENOME BROWSER

The University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) developed the UCSC Genome Browser to ensure free public online access to the annotated human genome reference that was sequenced by the Human Genome Project consortium (<http://genome.ucsc.edu>). This powerful graphical interface is a major gateway for researchers to explore the human genome to address their scientific curiosities.

This two-day workshop at Clinical School Johor Bahru gave an overview of current sequencing technologies and their relevance for medicine and guided the novice through the latest version of the browser explaining its salient features through practical demonstrations and lectures. Selected human genes were used as examples to illustrate the wealth of available information.



VISIT BY PROFESSOR WEN TAN

Professor Wen Tan, Professor and Dean at Institute of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences (IBPS), Guangdong University of Technology, Guangzhou, China, visited Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences to discuss potential research opportunities.

IBPS is a world-class bio-medical research platform with various advanced technologies and platforms including 'Innovative Drug Design (Small Molecular, Herb & Antibody) and Processing', 'Life-omics and Translational Medicine', 'Pharmacology and Pharmacokinetics', and 'Pharmaceutics and Formulations'.

SELF-CARE: THE FOUNDATION OF HEALTHCARE

Dr David Webber, President of the International Self-Care Foundation (ISF) and Dr Austen El-Osta from Imperial College London School of Public Health spoke at Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences about the world movement in Self-Care enterprises and research collaborations.

Self-Care applies to caring for people suffering from diabetes mellitus, stroke and heart failure by educating them on their disease and how to self-care and maintain optimal control. The International Self-Care Foundation (ISF) describes Self-Care through its Seven Pillars that emphasise aspects of healthy living, wellness and wellbeing, encompassing knowledge, physical and mental wellbeing, hygiene, nutritional and rational use of health products and services.



MOPC TRANSITION PROGRAM 2019

Department of Psychology recently conducted its Master of Professional Counselling (MoPC) transition program at Avillion Hotel Port Dickson. The two-day event covered the introduction to Master of Professional Counselling, academic briefing on internships and research projects, practicum, tele-match, team building and student performance.





BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION IN JANUARY 2019

As of 2019, Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences (JCSMHS) will host monthly birthday gatherings to forge closer cooperation and better understanding amongst colleagues of the school. In the month of January, JCSMHS celebrated the birthdays of Dr Adriana Maria, Dr Rachel Ting, Dr Vanlal Thanzami, Dr Arul Durairajah, Dr Bharti Madanlal, Dr Md Ezharul, and Tay Suat Fui.





DOUBLE CELEBRATIONS IN FEBRUARY 2019

On 18 February 2019, Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences held its annual Chinese New Year celebration in addition to celebrating the birthdays of Dr Alexandre Schaefer, Amanda Chong, Dr Tam Cai Lian, Dr Cheong Yuet Meng, Professor Ishwar Parhar, Nurul Arneida, Ng Kai We, and Vigneswaran a/l Tambirajah in the month of February.





TRIPLE CELEBRATIONS IN MARCH 2019

In March 2019, Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences hosted triple celebrations to celebrate its staff's birthday, to present the Duck Award and to bid farewell to its departing colleagues.

Staff gathered on 25 March 2019 to celebrate the birthdays of Professor Anuar Zaini, Professor Shajahan Yasin, Paul Jambunathan, Dr Priyia A/P Pusparajah, Chong Yee Li, Megeswary A/P Velupillai, Nurullhudda Binti Zainal, Nurziana Sharmilla Binti Nawawi and Safrizal Bin Zafrul.

Everyone also took the opportunity to wish Associate Professor Cheong Yuet Meng, Amanda Chong and Nicola Ng all the best in their endeavours.

On the same day, Professor Dato' Dr Khalid Abdul Kadir presented the Duck Award (Sunway) to Mr Mah Yong Cheng for his contributions towards the School.

At Clinical School Johor Bahru (CSJB), staff too bid their farewell to Sister Asmah binti Siran. Concurrently, everyone cheered for the winner of Duck Award (CSJB), Nur Nasybah binti Ibrahim.





BEST PAPER PRESENTER

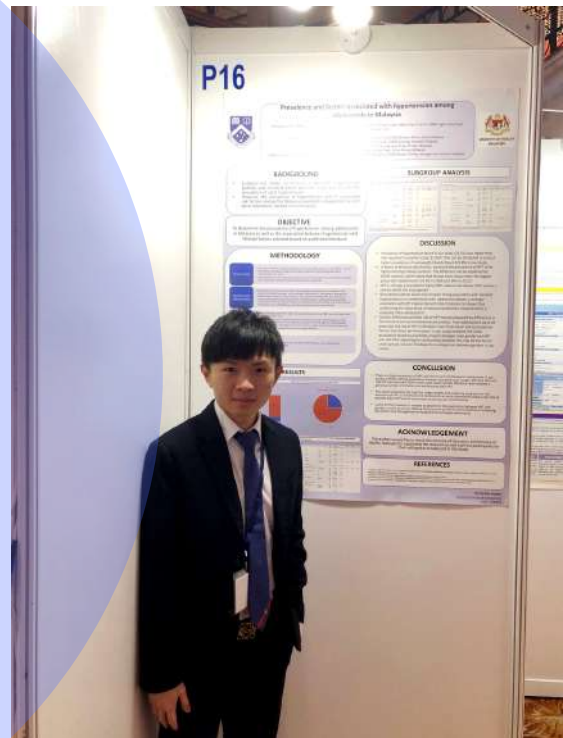
Dr Narendra Pamidi was awarded 'Best Paper Presenter' for his paper entitled 'The Establishment of Type 2 Diabetes Rat Model by Induction of High-fat High Sucrose Diet and Influence of Environmental Enrichment Exposure on the Model' in the 8th International Conference on Research in Life Sciences & Healthcare 2018 held at Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand.

BEST POSTER AWARD

Dr Cheong Xian Pei, MBBS and BMedSc (Hons) graduate, bagged the 'Best Poster Award' at the 16th Annual Congress of Hypertension 2019, organised by the Malaysian Society of Hypertension in Kuala Lumpur from 18 to 20 January 2019.

Dr Cheong represented his teammates - Dr Liew Juan Kwong, Dr Lawrence Law, Dr Teo Wei Hung and Dr Eng Sin Sern - in presenting their project titled 'Prevalence and Factors Associated with Hypertension among Adolescents in Malaysia'. The project was undertaken during their undergraduate years, supervised by Dr Amutha Ramadas and Associate Professor Dr Ngim Chin Fang.

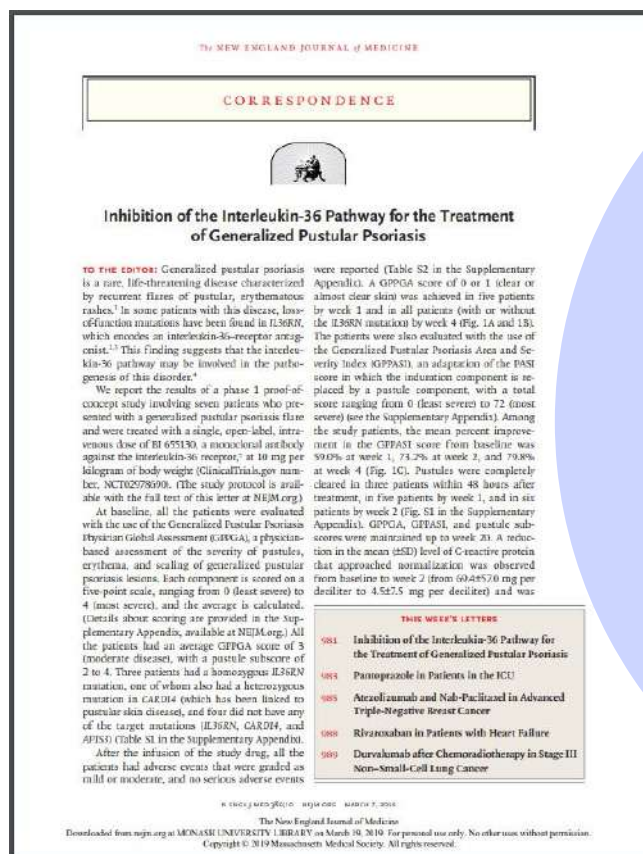
The project was funded by the Tropical Medicine and Biology Platform of Monash University Malaysia. The research article has also been accepted for publication in the International Medical Journal Malaysia.



UBIOME'S MICROBIOME GRANT INITIATIVE

Dr Maude Phipps, Professor of Human Molecular Genetics at the Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences has been awarded Microbiome Grant Initiative by uBiome to study the association of health, diet and cultural practices in Southeast Asian hunter-gatherers and indigenous tribes.

The goal of the study is to characterise the microbiomes of the indigenous people of Peninsular Malaysia known as Orang Asli and the Negrito hunter-gatherers and explore the relationship of the microbiome to diet and lifestyle practices. Being the first study of its kind, Professor Maude and her team hope this investigation into communities who largely depend on the forest for resources will advance elucidation of mechanisms involved in health, disease, and adaptation.



NEJM PUBLICATION

Associate Professor Dr Choon Siew Eng has recently published in The New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM), one of the most prestigious peer-reviewed medical journals with an impact factor (2017) of 79.25.

The publication focuses on a phase 1 proof of concept study on the safety and efficacy of IL36R inhibitor in the treatment of generalised pustular psoriasis. This publication and the studies involved have put Malaysia on international psoriasis stage, and marks the beginning of many more high impact publications for Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences this year.



DR AMMU K RADHAKRISHNAN

Dr Ammu Radhakrishnan joined Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences (JCSMHS) as a full-time Professor in Immunology in February 2019. She obtained her BSc in Biochemistry (First Class Honours) (1987), MSc from University of Malaya (1990) and PhD (Therapeutic Immunology) from University of Cambridge (1994). Following this, she pursued a two-year post-doctoral studies at the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology, University of Oxford. Prior to joining JCSMHS, she was Professor of Pathology (Immunology) and Associate Dean (Students and International Affairs) in the School of Medicine, International Medical University. She is actively involved in research and supervision. Her main areas of research are immune-therapeutics in cancer; immuno-regulation and the use of natural compounds to enhance host immune response to cancer and other conditions. She is a life member of the Malaysian Genetics Society and Malaysian Nutrition Society as well as a Fellow of the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust and the Cambridge Philosophical Society.



DR JEEVITHA MARIAPUN

Dr Jeevitha Mariapun joined Clinical School Johor Bahru as Lecturer in Public Health in January 2019. She has a PhD in Public Health from the University of Malaya and an MSc in Medical Statistics from the University of Leicester, UK.

Her research interests fall broadly within the field of public health and preventive medicine. She is particularly interested in cardiovascular epidemiology, premature mortality, obesity, smoking cessation, health equity, the social determinants of health and biostatistics. Her research has been published in international peer-reviewed journals. She is currently an associate member of the Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence Based Practice in University of Malaya.

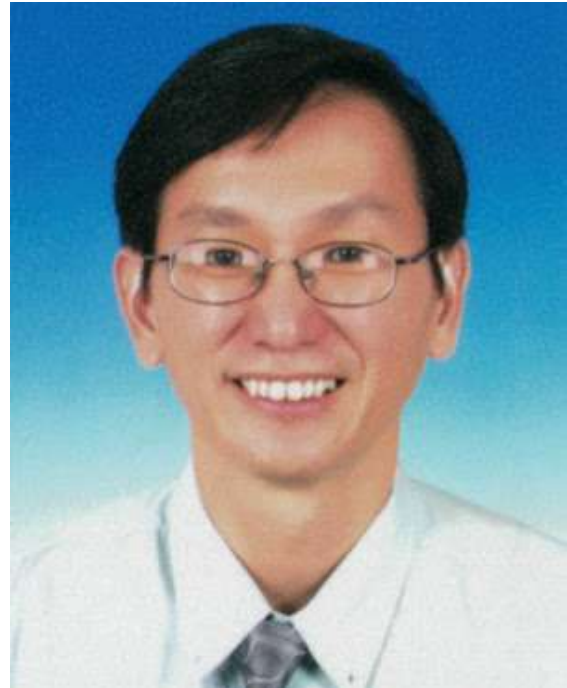




DR LEE TIONG CHAN

Dr Lee Tiong Chan joined Clinical School Johor Bahru as Senior Lecturer (Practice) in 2019. He graduated from the University of Malaya with MBBS in 1991. He obtained membership of the Royal College of Physicians United Kingdom in the year 1998.

Dr Lee had served as a general physician (Internal Medicine) in many hospitals under the Ministry of Health. He had worked in Penang General Hospital, Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah, Hospital Sultan Ismail and Hospital Segamat.



DR MAHMOUD F R ABUMARZOUQ

Dr Mahmoud Abmarzouq joined Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences as Lecturer (Practice) for Orthopaedic Surgery in December 2018. He completed his MBBS in 2007 at First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. Subsequently, he worked as an orthopaedic surgeon for two years in Czech Republic followed by two years in Palestine before he obtained Master of Medicine Orthopaedic in 2016 from University Sains Malaysia. Since 2017, Dr Mahmoud began his academic career as a lecturer in orthopaedic. He was also a part AO Spine Fellowship in Munich, Germany to study advance surgical techniques for spine surgery. His areas of interest are tissue engineering and regenerative medicine.





DR VIDYA KUSHARE

Dr Vidya Kushare joined Jeffery Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences as fractional Lecturer (Practice) in November 2018. She completed her MBBS (1997) and MD in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (2001) from Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka, India. Subsequently, she joined the Indian Army Medical Corps as a gynaecologist, and she was awarded the Army Commander's Commendation Card for her distinguished services. Additionally, she completed her short service commission as a Major. She is also registered with the Malaysian Medical Council and as a lecturer at University of Malaya. She was also trained by Natural Fertility Awareness Services Malaysia (NFASM) and is a certified teacher for NFASM. Her research interest is in fertility issues.



DR TAN PEI JEAN

Dr Tan Pei Jean joined the School Research Office, Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences (JCSMHS) in end of January 2019 as Senior Administrative Executive (Research). She obtained her Doctor of Philosophy in Phytochemistry from Universiti Putra Malaysia in 2009 and Bachelor of Science (Industrial Chemistry) from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia. She has exposure to scientific research and industry prior joining JCSMHS.





CHIA CHIEW THING

Chia Chiew Thing joined Clinical School Johor Bahru as the Clinical School Library Coordinator in January this year. She holds a Bachelor Degree in Chinese Studies and completed her Master's in Library & Information Studies in National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei.

She has six years of experience working in libraries of higher education institutions in Malaysia. During that span of time, she has been involved in a broad range of duties and responsibilities: from acquisitions of library resources and cataloging, to providing library services to users. Combining her experience, skills and interest in the medical field, she will be an asset to the Monash community.



A MEERUL AFIF

Ameerul Afif joined Clinical School Johor Bahru (CSJB) as Senior IT Executive in February 2019. He completed his degree in Business Information Systems from Universiti Teknologi Petronas in 2015. Prior to joining CSJB, Ameerul had four years of working experience in IT field at IBM Malaysia and South East Asia Community Observatory (SEACO) – a research platform under Monash University Malaysia.



MUHAMMAD ASRAF BIN MD YUSUF

Muhammad Asraf Bin Md Yusuf joined Jeffery Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences in March 2019 as Principal Technical Officer. Graduated from Institute Kemahiran Mara Kuala Lumpur with a Professional Certificated Chargeman A4, he has previously worked for Raikon (HLB), Mayland Property and CB Global services (CBRE), gaining an extensive experience in maintenance service and facilities.



HEAMAA GUNASEGARAN

Heamaa Gunasegaran joined Clinical School Johor Bahru (CSJB) as the Clinical Site Coordinator in February 2019. She completed Bachelor Degree in Medical Science at Management & Science University (MSU) in 2015 after undergoing internship at Institute of Respiratory Medicine (IPR). Previously, she worked in data entry and as a patient manager before joining CSJB.

WE WOULD LIKE TO BID FAREWELL TO THE FOLLOWING STAFF:

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR CHEONG YUET MENG

AMANDA CHONG SZE MENN

NICOLA NG WEI LIN

SISTER ASMAH BINTI SIRAN



BRIMS OPEN DAY 2019

DATE: 11 APRIL 2019

VENUE: MONASH UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

This event aims to enhance awareness and showcase Brain Research Institute Monash Sunway's (BRIMS) research capability and infrastructure, including the bioimaging and drug discovery platforms, in the hopes of promoting future research collaboration with BRIMS.

For more information, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/y5g6tz6y>

LCMS MASS SPECTROMETRY WORKSHOP

DATE: 22 & 23 APRIL 2019

VENUE: 4203, MONASH UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

The aim of this workshop is to provide effective understanding towards the fundamentals of mass spectrometry (MS) and their application. In addition, the workshop is aimed to provide basic knowledge on sample preparation and data analysis of MS-based results. The workshop consists of theoretical and application based lectures by experts in the particular field.

For enquiries, please email Syafiq.Asnawi@monash.edu





EXPLORING OUR RIGHT TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

DATE: 27 APRIL 2019

TIME: 9AM - 4PM

VENUE: PLENARY THEATRE, MONASH UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) Right to Health Committee, Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM) and Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences (JCSMHS) are organising a seminar entitled 'Exploring Our Right to Reproductive Health: Breaking Myths, Challenging Stereotypes and Improving Access to Healthcare'. The seminar will cover the following topics:

- Clinical Updates in Contraceptive Technology
- Termination of Pregnancy Guidelines for MOH
- Bridging the Public & Private Sector
- The Right to Comprehensive Sexuality Education
- Regional Experiences in Improving Reproductive Health Access

To register for the event, please visit <http://bit.ly/MMARight2Health>. Closing date for registration is on 22 April 2019. CPD Points will be awarded.

CSJB RESEARCH WEEK 2019

DATE: 22 - 25 JULY 2019

VENUE: MONASH UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

The annual CSJB Research Week aims to provide a platform for students and faculty members to share research output and ideas, as well as to promote research activities and values among the students of Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

For more details, <http://tinyurl.com/y4omtt6v>





IBRO-APRC ADVANCED SCHOOL 2019

DATE: 7 - 20 OCTOBER 2019

VENUE: MONASH UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

The Brain Research Institute Monash Sunway (BRIMS), Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Monash University Malaysia has started organizing the IBRO-Asia Pacific Regional Schools since 2007. The purpose of the IBRO-APRC Advanced School is to provide a platform for postgraduate students and post-doctoral fellows in the Asia Pacific region to meet in an environment where they can acquire knowledge of both theoretical and technological advances in key areas of neuroscience research.

Funding from IBRO will cover travel and accommodation expenses of up to 15 postgraduate students and young scientists specializing in the field of neurosciences. Laboratory neuroscience research experience of applicants is essential.

Official application to the school will be announced on the IBRO website: ibro.org

BRIMS TECHNICAL WORKSHOP SERIES 2019

DATE: 8-11 OCT 2019 & 14-16 OCT 2019

TIME: 9AM-5PM

VENUE: BRIMS, LEVEL 3, BUILDING 3, MONASH UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

Three intensive modules comprising of lectures and practical sessions conducted by a team of dynamic and accomplished scientists. Special technical lectures session will be scheduled on 8 October 2019 for all modules.

Early bird registration will be open by 1 July 2019.

For more information, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/y5xj2o7o>





BOOK LAUNCHING “MINDFULNESS AND EMOTIONS”

Department of Psychology is launching a book entitled "Mindfulness and Emotions" written by Master of Professional Counselling student, Sandy Clarke in collaboration with Dr. Eugene Tee. The event will take place on 12 April 2019 from 2 to 5PM at Plenary Theatre 2101.

CSJB RESEARCH WEEK 2019 - CALLING FOR ABSTRACTS

The upcoming CSJB Research Week is calling for students' abstracts for the oral-poster competition. For enquiries, please email mum.researchweek@monash.edu

2019 SCHOOL RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING

The upcoming School Research Committee Meeting will be held on 30 April 2019 from 10 to 11.30 AM.

GRADUATE RESEARCH CAREER EVENING

The next School Research Committee Meeting will be on 30 April 2019 from 10 to 11.30 AM.

SCHOOL MEETING

The upcoming School Meeting will be on 20 June 2019 at Room 4203 from 2.30 to 3.30 PM.

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.

