

## **Public Health (SEACO) Research: Implementation of community education and navigation programme for breast cancer early detection**

### **PhD Opportunity**

A fully-funded PhD position is available in the School of Medicine & Health Sciences at Monash University Malaysia. Funding includes tuition, a stipend of RM2,600 / up to a maximum of 42 months of candidature. Anticipated start date is late 2020/early 2021 or until the position is filled.

### **Brief Background of Research Project**

Breast cancer (BC) is the commonest cancer in Malaysia. Women in rural areas present with advanced cancer and experience poor survival due to low awareness about symptoms and low participation in BC screening. This project aims to harness the lessons from our previous successful studies and the methods of implementation science to develop and evaluate a community education and navigation programme (CENP) that will improve the early detection and diagnosis of BC among rural women. The immediate beneficiaries will be women and families in local rural communities in Malaysia. Our project will benefit rural communities by increasing public awareness about warning signs and symptoms and, more specifically, by navigating women to breast cancer screening. The CENP will identify and counter emotional barriers, dispel misbeliefs and prompt help-seeking behaviour thereby enhancing cancer prevention and leading, where appropriate, to early diagnosis and treatment.

### **Project Description**

The aim of the study is to develop a theoretically informed, evidence-based and culturally sensitive community education and navigation programme (CENP) for Malaysia that is appropriate and acceptable to women in rural communities and feasible to implement. The study will be conducted in Segamat district, Johor State in consultation with local stakeholders and with the support of the South East Asia Community Observatory (SEACO), an established Health & Demographic Surveillance Site.

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) & Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) jointly fund the project. It is a collaborative research project between Monash University Malaysia and Queen's University of Belfast.

The candidate we are looking for should be passionate about performing a range of research activities and provides support for the day-to-day running for the research project and field data collection.

## **Supervisor / Supervision team**

Prof Tin Tin Su

Dr Tan Min Min

Dr Devi Mohan

## **Eligibility**

Candidates must meet the minimum admission requirements (academic and English language proficiency) for the research degree. In general, this is equivalent to a high distinction average (H1/H1E or 1st Class Honours as per Faculty's and Monash's assessment at admission) from a recognized university. Scholarship will be selected based on comprehensive ranking of academic achievement, research publications, and research experience or research-related awards.

## **Required Skills**

- i. **Technical Skills** – Literature review, statistical analysis, use of Microsoft Office or equivalent, use of citation software, public speaking
- ii. **Soft Skills** – Project management, written and oral communication, self-management
- iii. **Education background (discipline)** – public health, epidemiology, anthropology, applied statistics, medical and health sciences or psychology