

# BULLETIN

Monthly news and updates from JCSMHS



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

This had been the month when we looked at our budget for the new year. The general feeling is that the School is doing well especially with the excellent student intake this year. The MBBS intake for next year is also looking good. The Psychology students intake for October had also been very good.

The major news this month was the letter we received from Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health in the UK on the 31st October where we were informed that the Clinical School Johor Bahru had been appointed as the exam centre for the MRCPCH Clinical Examinations on an annual basis in May/June, commencing from 2020. This was something we had been trying to get for a number of years and hopefully is the beginning of our foray into postgraduate medicine. This would not have been possible without the hard work of the CSJB staff who organised a mock exam earlier which the examiners thought was superbly organised and run. The primary drivers for this effort was Associate Professors Jimmy Lee, Ngim and Sivakumar. Fantastic effort!

The other important initiative also on the 31st October was the Roundtable on Migrant Health which was a one day event organised by the People's Health Forum in collaboration with Jeffrey Cheah School as well as the Bar Council and Migrant, Refugees and Immigration Affairs Committee. This brought together various stakeholders to discuss the problems related to migrant healthcare and migrant healthcare financing and examine policy options. I was unable to attend this important discussion but all indications were that this was a very useful and enlightening workshop. Participants including the PVC were effusive in their comments and feedback. The primary drivers from the School were Dr Sharuna Verghis, Dr Yatinesh Kumari and Dr Siti Noraida.

## ACHIEVEMENTS & EVENTS



### VICE-CHANCELLOR'S DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD

Congratulations to Psychology adjunct lecturer, Amanda Chong Sze Menn, and student, Neshan Anantha Rajah for winning the Vice-Chancellor's Diversity and Inclusion Award. The award recognises students and staff who have made an outstanding contribution to supporting

diversity and fostering inclusion at Monash and beyond.

Neshan has made a significant contribution to fostering an intercultural community at Monash University Malaysia. He pilots a peer support program known as the Fireplace that provides long-term peer support and offers internal practicum opportunities for counselling students.

Amanda's inclusive approach to teaching in the Masters of Counselling program has been compelling and recognised by her students who nominated her for the award.

### SURGICAL ANATOMY REVIEW PRACTICAL (SARP) 2019

The Surgical Anatomy Review Practical (SARP), one of the longest-running postgraduate preparatory course offered by Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences (JCSMHS), was organised successfully by the Chair, Associate Prof Arkendu Sen along with Associate Prof Lakshmi Selvaratnam on 21 and 22 September 2019 at the specially equipped MAPEL Lab.



This hands on course introduced the participants to key concepts in Surgical and Clinical Applications of Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology and Microbiology (relevant to General Surgery), and Orthopaedics Practice.

Dr Arkendu Sen pointed out that one of the notable benefits of this course was the opportunity for senior Monash students, including those from Segamat, to be involved in learning process with House officers and Medical officers from around the country. It was a huge success and a fruitful learning experience for all.

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## ▶ MOPC COURSE REVIEW 2019

Department of Psychology conducted a course review for the Master of Professional Counselling (MOPC) at Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences (JCSMHS) on 3 and 4 October 2019, with a review panel consisting of internal and external members: Professor Alex Kostogris, Dr Tristan Snell, Ms Crystal Chatterton, Associate Professor Dr Wan Marzuki Wan Jaafar, and Associate Professor Dr Fatimah.

After the two-day course review, the panel conveyed a positive outcome and expressed their utmost satisfaction with the delivery of the course. The panel also mentioned that the department, by being part of JCSMHS, will have the opportunity to existing resources and greater exposure for industry engagements. The outcome of the course review will inform Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences' decision on course reaccreditation.



## ▶ HEALTH AWARENESS PROGRAMME FOR THE MALAYSIAN IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT DETENTION CENTRES

The Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences (JCSMHS), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Health Equity Initiatives (HEI), with the support of the Tuberculosis Unit from the Health Department of

Kuala Lumpur, jointly organised a "Health Awareness Programme" for the officers of the Malaysian Immigration Detention Centres from the 10 to 12 September 2019.

The event aimed to increase the awareness of the officers on health problems they frequently encounter in the line of duty, both among detainees and among the officers themselves. The three-day programme covered a range of topics including the signs and symptoms of the diseases addressed, management of symptoms, importance of timely referrals, and practical prevention methods.

In the evaluation, the officers reported that the interactive methods used during the training was particularly useful in their learning and understanding process.



## ▶ ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DR QUEK KIA FATT HAS DONE IT AGAIN!

A hearty congratulations to Associate Professor Dr Quek for completing another full marathon in Chicago.

*“Running all over the world is fun” - K.F. Quek*

This is what Associate Professor Dr Quek said after he completed his latest Marathon Majors in Chicago on 13 October 2019. It was his second time running in Chicago

after he completed his first Chicago marathon last year. The Abbott World Marathon Majors is a series consisting of six of the largest and most renowned marathons in the world. The races take place in Tokyo, Boston, London, Berlin, Chicago and New York City.

To date, Assoc Prof Dr Quek has completed 5 out of the six majors and is waiting to complete his last major in Boston to become a six star finisher. A six star finisher is a runner who has completed all six of the World Marathon Majors.

## ▶ TALK ON 'ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, MACHINE LEARNING AND MEDICAL CARE'

On 14 October 2019, Dr Anil Raj gave a talk on 'Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Medical Care.' He is a research scientist from the Florida Institute for Human & Machine Cognition (IHMC) and is currently working on machine learning systems for modelling brain function when using multi-sensory interfaces, investigating novel approaches to comparative effectiveness research, and developing sensory substitution approaches for augmenting situation awareness for able-bodied and disabled individuals.



The talk covered Artificial Intelligence (AI) and in particular Machine Learning (ML) techniques that have advanced along with computational resources to sufficiently augment and probably supplant human clinical expertise.

During the one-hour talk, it was further explained that ML tools that scanned case databases for similar patient characteristics, treatments and outcomes could provide insight and guidance gleaned from many more patients than they could treat over a lifetime.

## ▶ TRAINING ON TRAUMA AND RECOVERY

From 14 to 16 October 2019, the Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences (JCSMHS), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Health Equity Initiatives (HEI), co-organized an event with the aim to build the capacity of the JCSMHS refugee health research team on using trauma-informed approaches in refugee health research. The event also contributed to knowledge and skills building of this group in regard to trauma-informed care.



The training was facilitated by trauma experts from the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture (Foundation House), Melbourne, Australia.

Over a span of three days, the trainers demonstrated the use of the framework to understand trauma survivors' experiences, reactions, and coping measures. Scenarios and resource materials were shared and worked on during the sessions. The training was interactive, with many discussion points and sharing of experiences among participants and trainers



## ▶ ROUNDTABLE ON MIGRANT HEALTHCARE IN MALAYSIA

Monash University Malaysia hosted the "Roundtable on Migrant Healthcare in Malaysia" on 31 October 2019. The Roundtable was jointly organized by the People's Health Forum, the Bar Council's Migrants, Refugees and Immigration Affairs Committee and the Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences (JCSMHS).

Topics and data discussed in the seminar ranged from access to healthcare, healthcare financing of migrants, and occupational health in the context of social protection for migrant workers, and even non-citizen spouses and children. There was a vibrant exchange of information, ideas and discourse among the invited speakers and the attending participants.

The Pro Vice Chancellor of Monash University Malaysia, Prof. Andrew Walker in his welcoming address stated that Monash was very proud to host this important event. He lauded it as a great initiative in the quest for social justice and equity.

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# WELCOME

## PSYCHOLOGY

Justin Yap joined the Department of Psychology as a Lecturer (Practice) in September 2019. He is heavily involved with the Masters of Professional Counseling Program. He presently coordinates the internship module where MOPC students obtain real world counseling experience in the community. He brings a wealth of experience in private counseling practice.



**JUSTIN YAP YEE AUN**

Justin Yap obtained his Bachelor of Psychology from the University of South Australia and his Masters of Counseling from HELP University.



**DR ADRIAN WILLOUGHBY**

Dr Adrian Willoughby joined the Department of Psychology as a Senior Lecturer in October 2019. He was awarded his BA (Hons) in Experimental Psychology from the University of Oxford and subsequently earned his PhD in Cognitive Psychology from the University of Michigan. Prior to joining Monash, he worked in the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences at the University of Reading Malaysia and a number of institutions in the UK and USA. In his research, Dr Willoughby uses EEG and peripheral psychophysiological measures to study attention, memory and executive control.

## WELCOME

Dr Masoumeh joined the Department of Psychology as a Lecturer in October 2019. She received her PhD in Guidance and Counselling from University of Technology, Malaysia (UTM) in 2015. She has been lecturing in subjects spanning across counselling psychology at both public and private universities in Malaysia. She also completed her post-doctorate in the area of counselling psychology at UTM. Her research interests involve relationship satisfaction, Dark Triad of personality, cyberbullying and cybertrolling among young adults.



**DR MASOUMEH ALAVI**

## MEDICINE SUNWAY



**DR VENGADESH  
LETCHUMANAN**

Dr Vengadesh Letchumanan joined Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences as an Assistant Lecturer in October 2019. He received his BSc (Biomedicine) from Management and Science University in 2007, MSc (Molecular Biology) from University Putra Malaysia in 2013 and then obtained his PhD (Microbiology) from University Malaya in 2019. His research interest is on different aspects of microbiology including food safety, foodborne pathogen, multidrug resistance and its management.

# WELCOME

## CLINICAL SCHOOL JOHOR BAHRU (CSJB)

Dr Mohd Azlee joined Clinical School Johor Bahru (CSJB) as a Lecturer (Practice) in September 2019. He received his Master of Public Health from University Science Malaysia (USM) in 2012, certificate of occupational health doctor (NIOSH) in 2012 and MD from University Kebangsaan Malaysia (USM) in 2003. He is actively



**DR MOHD AZLEE BIN AHMAD**

involved in occupational health practice through consultation and training in various in various industries such as oil and gas, manufacturing and construction industry. His special interest is in ergonomic and musculoskeletal disease among workers.

## BRAIN RESEARCH INSTITUTE MONASH SUNWAY (BRIMS)



**DR FAIZUL BIN JAAFAR**

Dr Faizul bin Jaafar joined Brain Research Institute Monash Sunway (BRIMS) as an Assistant Lecturer in October 2019. He received his PhD in Biochemistry from University Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) in 2018 and Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry (Honors) from the same university in 2011.

Dr Faizul Jaafar possesses advanced research skills in the field of genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics and metabolomics. During his nine years as a researcher, he published several papers in high-indexed journals related to medical science, genes, nutrition, biochemistry and medicine.



# WELCOME

Dr. Teo Chuin Hau joined Brain Research Institute Monash Sunway (BRIMS) as an Assistant Lecturer in October 2019. He completed his PhD in Neuroscience at Monash University. Prior to his PhD, he graduated with a BSc in Biotechnology and Medical Bioscience from Monash University Malaysia in 2008. He is trained in behavioural neuroscience, molecular



**DR TEO CHUIN HAU**

biology and cellular imaging. His current research interest is in the application of machine learning to neuroscience, with dementia being a particular point of interest, as well as the broader field of neuroinformatics.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SEMINAR - ADDRESSING THE GAP AND MEETING THE NEEDS**

30 November 2019 - 1 December 2019 at CSJB

### **SUREWORKS FAIR**

7th - 8th December 2019

### **MONASH APPLICATION DAY**

14 December 2019

### **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](mailto:gurmeet.kaur@monash.edu).

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