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MAHSA Newsletter Medical Faculty

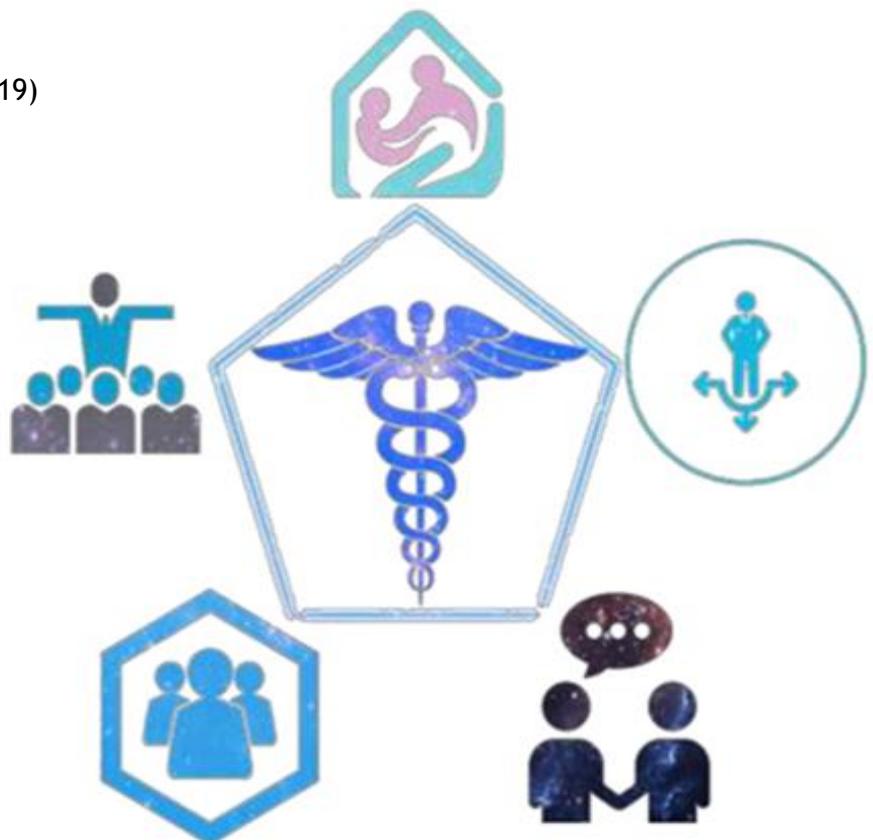


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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. MOU for Collaborations
2. Staff achievements
3. Student activity
4. Conduct of Professional Exams (2018-19)
5. Elective research (2018-19)



MOU between MAHSA University and Annamalai University

By Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vetriselvan Subramaniyan

On July 2019 MAHSA University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Annamalai University, India, agreeing to collaborate in student and faculty exchange programs. Annamalai University, accredited with 'A' Grade by NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION COUNCIL (NAAC) in 2014, is one of India's largest public residential universities with 10 Faculties and 49 Departments.

Associate Professor Dr. Vetriselvan Subramaniyan of MAHSA University joined the Vice Chancellor, Deans and Faculty members of Annamalai University in signing a MoU to pursue research collaborations and exchange programs



The cooperation between MAHSA and Annamalai University will provide a broader vision of advanced research and academic commitments for staff and students. The QS World University Ranking, 2019 has ranked Annamalai University in the band of 291-300 in Asia Ranking, 174 in the BRICS Ranking and 43 in India Ranking. As higher education Institutions, MAHSA and Annamalai University will provide opportunities to develop student potential, talents and leadership to make a difference in the world.

Staff Achievements

Recipient of FRGS Research Grant 2019 - Dr Wu Yuan Seng

After approximately 4 months of waiting, Research Management Centre (RMC) of MAHSA University announced the results of Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS) on 8th August 2019. It is a great pleasure that our staff, Dr. Wu Yuan Seng, a new staff from the Unit of Biochemistry, is one of the six awardees of FRGS research grant (RM 166,000) from MAHSA University. He is the one and only applicant from the School of Medicine who secured the grant in 2019. His research proposal was evaluated with high recommendation by the Ministry of Education, Malaysia due to the high novelty of the project and was well-written.



His FRGS grant project is going to explore the roles of new transmembrane protein family on the phenotypes and chemoresistance of a devastating cancer, namely esophageal squamous cell carcinoma (ESCC), an aggressive subtype of esophageal carcinoma. The main reason of earning high novelty comment is that the investigation of the transmembrane protein family on ESCC with the interplay of the microRNAs and tumor microenvironment is still elusive and limited. Furthermore, he is going to integrate a novel drug delivery system after confirming the roles of the protein family on ESCC phenotypes and chemoresistance, thus creating a new drug target(s) and drug treatment model. Intriguingly, this project is an inter-university collaboration, in which he tends to create the ideas, facilities and talent exchange among the universities.

According to Dr. Wu, this FRGS research grant will produce several research and review articles that will be published in high impact factor ISI-indexed journals, as well as graduate two Ph.D. candidates and to secure one research patent in near future.

Research Internship in the Cleveland Clinic, USA - Dr Pallav Sengupta

Dr Pallav Sengupta was invited as a Research Intern in the American Centre for Reproductive Medicine (ACRM), Cleveland Clinic, USA from July 5 to August 2, 2019. The ACRM of Cleveland Clinic is ranked first among all the Andrology Laboratories in the USA in 2018-19. The Director of the Internship, Professor Dr. Ashok Agarwal, also secured first rank in the USA among experts in the field of Andrology and Embryology.

Dr Sengupta was waived the course-fee of USD6000 for this highly esteemed Research Internship and was awarded with the 'Certificate of Excellence' on the Graduation Day of the Course. Professionals from different countries including Italy, South Korea, Romania, Poland, India and Malaysia participated in the internship, along with participants from the United States. The Research Internship helped to enhance Dr Sengupta's expertise in management of research projects of short duration, with most advanced laboratory skills, critical thinking, most updated Biostatistics Software (MedCalc) and finally with sharp communication and presentation skills.

Dr Sengupta's achievement in the topmost Andrology lab in the USA has heightened the reputation of the Faculty and MAHSA University at global level, and this also contributes to the University MyRA points. Moreover, this Research venture has opened a vast collaboration scope for Dr Sengupta. His research collaboration with the Cleveland Clinic will continue alongside his endeavours in MAHSA University.



Best Young Scientist award - Dr Nagaraja Suryadevara

Dr Nagaraja Suryadevara received “Best Young Scientist award” from Novel Research Academy, Puducherry, India on 28th August 2019, for his academic and research excellence in the field of Biotechnology. The award was presented by Professor Dr Kim Jae Yean, Division of life Science, Gyeongsang National University, South Korea.



Dr Nagaraja was also honored with another Young Scientist Award from the International Society for Green, Sustainable Engineering and Management, Kolkata, West Bengal, India on 1st September 2019, for his research excellence in Biomedical Sciences in the last couple of years.



Student activity

Students Mobility Programme

Conducted by: Department of Biomedical Sciences

27 students from Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai, India visited MAHSA University for 14 days for the “Students mobility programme” conducted by the Department of Bio-medical sciences. The major objective of the program was to familiarize the students with skills in biomedical sciences and to understand the culture of Malaysia. The students of Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology have arrived the campus on 7th September 2019. Students were welcomed by Prof. Dato’ Dr. Ravindran Jegasothy, Dean, Faculty of Medicine , Bioscience and Nursing and Dr. Paulraj, Head, Department of Biomedical Sciences. The 14-day schedule of the mobility program on Bio-medical sciences include activities such as interactive lecture sessions on various topics of Biomedical sciences subjects , practical hands on sessions on Clinical Biochemistry, Medical microbiology, Diagnostic hematology, Immuno hematology, pathology and cytology sessions to fortify the knowledge of allied health sciences to the visiting students. The students were highly enthusiastic and they were keen and took part in the interactive lecture sessions and laboratory activities, and learned new skills which they had not experienced earlier.



Apart from the academic sessions, they also visited many places which include the regal Putrajaya where the Parliament of Malaysia is located and as part of entrainment activities visited the famous Kuala Lumpur twin tower, KL tower, KL Bird Park etc. They also saw the historical places such as Merdeka Square and the Museum Negara as well as the cultural exhibiting places such as Batu caves temple, Blue Mosque and Chinese temples. They also had a session on understanding Malaysian cultural diversity to expose themselves to it by means of activities organized by the MUBISS society of biomedical sciences. On the Valediction day (20th September 2019), the certificates were delivered to the students by Ms.Stella Lau Kah Wai, Deputy Vice Chancellor, MAHSA University. Overall, the Student visitors had versatile experience about academia, culture and Malaysia.

Conduct of Professional Exams (2018-2019)

By Dr. Saad Musabh Alasil

The Faculty of Medicine, Bioscience and Nursing at MAHSA University has successfully conducted three Professional Examinations for the academic session 2018-2019. The First Professional Examination Part A (PRO-1 PART A) targeted for 165 MBBS students of first year took place at the Saujana Putra Campus from 19th to 23rd August 2019. The appointed chief external examiner was Professor Dr. Ngeow Yun Fong from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia. Moreover, the First Professional Examination Part B (PRO-1 PART B) targeted for 192 MBBS students second year also took place at our Saujana Putra Campus from 27th June to 2nd August 2019. The appointed external examiners were **Associate Professor Dr. Nuraliza Abdul Satar** from the Faculty of Medicine at Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia as the chief examiner, **Associate Professor Dr. Lakshmi Selvaratnam** from Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine & Health Sciences, Monash University, Malaysia, and **Professor Dato Dr. Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud** from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya. Questions used in these exams varied ranged from modified essay questions (MEQs) and multiple choice questions (MCQs) to objective structured practical examination (OSPE), and objective structured clinical examination (OSCE).



The Final Professional Examination (FINAL PRO) targeted for 181 fifth year MBBS students took place at our Saujana Putra Campus as well as Hospital Sungai Buloh from 5th to 19th August 2019. The appointed external examiners were **Professor Hans Van Rostenberghe** from Universiti Sains Malaysia in Kelantan as the chief examiner, **Professor Dr. Chak-sing Lau** from Mary Hospital in Hong Kong, **Associate Professor Dr. Yushak Abdul Wahab** from IMU Clinical School, **Professor Dr. Manohar Arumugam** from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universiti Putra Malaysia, **Professor Dr. Prayong Vachvanichsanong** from the Faculty of Medicine, Prince of Songkla University in Thailand, and **Prof. Dr. Jamiyah Binti Hassan** from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya. A plethora of different types of questions were used during the final professional exam to assess the student's understanding, these included modified essay questions (MEQs), short essay questions (SEQs), digital-objective structured clinical examination (d-OSCE), interactive-objective structured clinical examination (i-OSCE), as well as a clinical examination at the hospital conducted over 2 days.

From invigilation and examination duties to marking papers and endorsing results, the Deanery, academic, and administrative staffs of the Faculty of Medicine, Bioscience and Nursing played significant roles in the smooth conduct of these exams. Overall, three professional exams were conducted successfully with positive feedback from all external examiners with their suggestions being taken into considerations for improvement of future exams.



YEAR-2 2018-19 ELECTIVE RESEARCH

POSTER PRESENTATION & PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY

By Dr. Kavitha Mohandas

The Year-2 Elective Research Programme evolved to broaden student experiential learning in niche fields of medicinal and health research. The 2018-19 session of this programme spanned approximately 8 ½ months ranging from 27-11-18 to 12-08-19. Twenty student groups were required to select their project supervisors, brainstorm and synthesize research problems and rich hypotheses and defend their research proposals at faculty and university level research and ethics committee meetings.

Student research was assessed via posters (presented in the morning and afternoon of Tuesday 9th July, 2019) and a final report submitted in the form of a research article. The poster competition prize-giving ceremony was hosted by myself and held on Tuesday 9th July, 2019 at 3.55 pm, Level-9, Pharmacy Auditorium, Empathy Building. The event was graced by the respected Deputy Dean of Research & Innovation, Prof. Wang Chee Woon, other senior and junior members of the Faculty and Year-2 students. The sponsors for the prizes were Essen-Haus Pvt. Ltd. and Bita-Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd. We were fortunate to have kindly gracing the event, Madam Vui Kee, a representative from Bita Life Sciences. The panel of judges comprised senior members of the Faculty of Medicine, including the respected Dean, Prof. Ravindran Jegasothy.



The first prize of RM 300/- and chocolates worth RM 35/-, was awarded to Elective Group-5 (*Evaluation of the Effect of Temperature on the Antioxidant Activity in Chia Seeds*), supervised by Prof. Chin Jin Han and co-supervised by Prof. Sekaran Muniandy. Their work was adjudged as an excellent study. The second prize of RM 200/- and chocolates worth RM 35/-, was awarded to Elective Group-1 (*Effect of Story Based Audio - Visual Mnemonics in Comparison with the Conventional Text Reading Method on Memory Retention among Medical Students of MAHSA University*) supervised by Dr. Mona Mohammad Abdalla and co-supervised by Dr. Meram Azzani. The third prize of RM 100/- and chocolates worth RM 35/-, was awarded to Elective Group-6 (*The Prevalence of Abnormal Eating Behaviours and their Association with Body Mass Index among the Students of MAHSA University, Malaysia*) supervised by Dr. Mona Mohammad Abdalla and co-supervised by Dr. Nahlah Abdul Jaleel Al-Saidi. All the remaining 17 elective groups were awarded one box of chocolates each worth RM 35/-, as consolation prizes for their valiant and sincere endeavours for the generation of valuable research data.

As our students have submitted their final reports in journal article format targeting specific journals, we hope their studies are duly published in reputable journals. In fact, the study by Elective Group-19 (*A Cross Sectional Study on Awareness of Dyslexia Disorder Among University Students*) supervised by Assoc. Prof. Vetrivel Subramaniyan has already been accepted for publication by the Asian Journal of Pharmaceutical and Clinical Research. As almost all the projects were well-designed and thought-provoking studies generated by a monumental effort by our students and their supervisors, doubtless these awaited publications will manifest in the ensuing months. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my sponsors, Essen-Haus and Bita Life Sciences, my able organising committee comprising Dr. Nahlah Al-Saidi, Dr. Meram Azzani, Dr. Khin Dar Lie, Dr. Wu Yuan Seng, Assoc. Prof. Madhu Katyayani and Dr. Sudha Arumugam for their kind assistance, Mdm. Kamila, En. Anbar and En. Mahendran who assisted with logistics and infrastructure, the Faculty of Engineering for renting out their poster boards and En. Fitri of IT who assisted with laptop, projector and audio. A special vote of thanks also to the respected adjudicators, Prof. Ravindran, Prof. Jenny, Prof. Manjit, Prof. Lee, Prof. Bala, Prof. Maung, Assoc. Prof. Sathivel and Assoc. Prof. Jaiprakash and my advisors, Prof. Wang Chee Woon, Prof. Ganesh Ramachandran and Dr. Vijaya Letchumi Raj.



Arshvin Kumar
Thivakaran
Of Elective
Group-6
accepting his
prize from Prof.
Balabaskaran
Shanmugam.

Upcoming events

1. Episiotomy suturing workshop
2. Master class 2020
3. MedSoc inauguration
4. TEDx talks
5. Medical camp at Bandar Saujana Putra
6. Faculty updates (New appointments)

Editorial Team

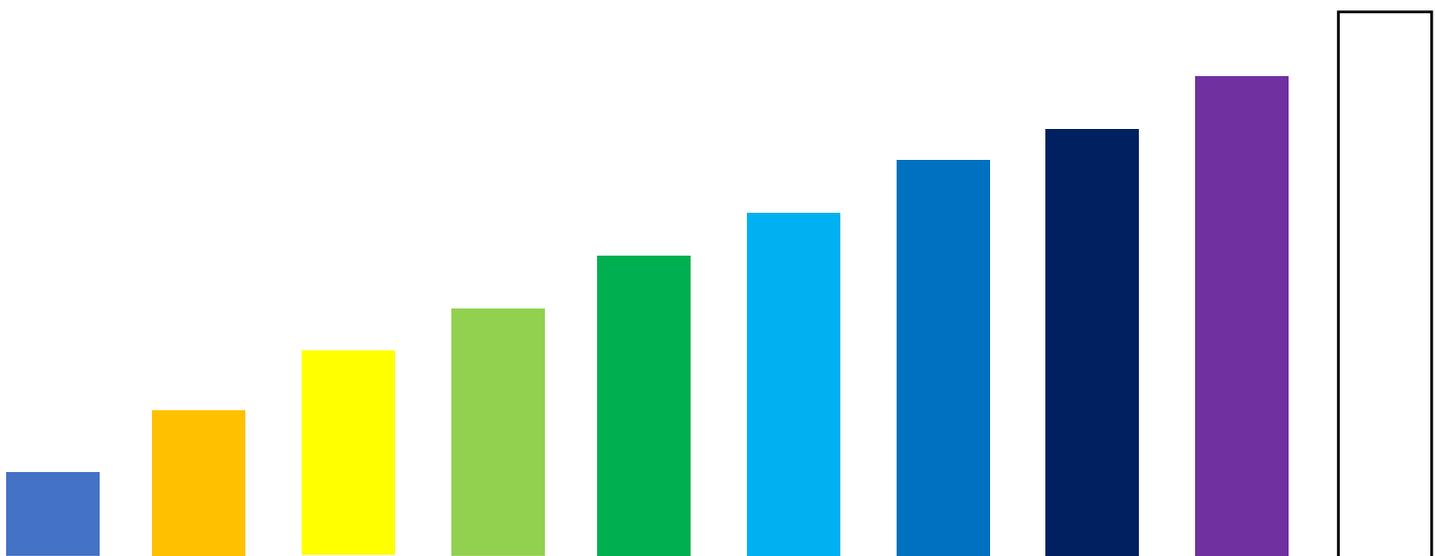
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