

Faculty of Medicine, Bioscience and Nursing
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Opening Message

Here goes....

I am glad to pen a message for the 2020-21 faculty newsletter.

We have managed to issue at least one newsletter a year, and the 2020 edition has been slightly delayed due to the challenges of the COVID 19 outbreak.

This is perhaps a good time to look back and then chart for the future, which I think you all will agree will never be the same.

When the impact of the outbreak struck with full force a year ago in March, we had to rapidly transform our teaching-learning and assessment processes within an incredibly short time from face-to-face to online delivery. I thank all members of faculty who rose to the task so spontaneously to convert these almost overnight so that classes were largely uninterrupted. Over the year the adjunct lecturers in several departments also readily gave of their time to assist with teaching online.

The other major challenge was the closure of teaching hospitals due to the outbreak, again all staff rose to the task of providing simulation-based training to supplement the loss of clinical time. Hospitals were reopened to students in July 2020, with strict SOPs and our staff rose to the task of providing back-to-back sessions with adjunct support. To ensure completion of the clinical sessions the academic year was extended to October 2020.

On the preclinical front apart from teaching our academic staff provided invaluable support in organizing the high stakes assessment for Year 2 and 5, we ran a fully proctored online examination for the Year 2 cohort and an examination on 2 platforms, online and face to face for the Finals. This could not have come to fruition without the cooperation of all staff, academics, and administrative.

The final examination format was presented to the Malaysian Medical Council for approval, I believe we were the first to do this.

Both examinations were monitored and examined by external examiners and for both examinations, there was a clear endorsement that the examinations were valid, reliable, and fit for purpose.

To ensure student satisfaction with teaching feedback has been obtained which is generally favourable.

The examination results were analyzed and the results in 2019-2020 generally were consistent with the previous years.

We have done well, looking forward we will have to be prepared to continue online teaching and also incorporate this mode of instruction as an everyday feature in teaching and learning. We will have to incorporate simulation into the clinical experience of our students to augment clinical teaching. The university has been supportive of this and all other regards and an initial tranche of almost RM 500,000 has been approved for simulation upgrades with more to come in instalments over the next two years.

The other major challenge is the virtual accreditation of our MBBS programme due this year, which will be another unknown we need to negotiate.

I thank you all from the bottom of my heart, full time and adjunct faculty, administrative staff, as well as the university management for your assistance and support over this difficult time. I am sure with your continued support the faculty will continue to meet and overcome challenges this year and into the future.

Thank you and God Bless.

Associate Professor Dr. Ganesh Ramachandran
Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Bioscience and Nursing

Dr Pallav Sengupta of Faculty of Medicine, among World's Top 2% Research Scientists in the year 2020 by Stanford University

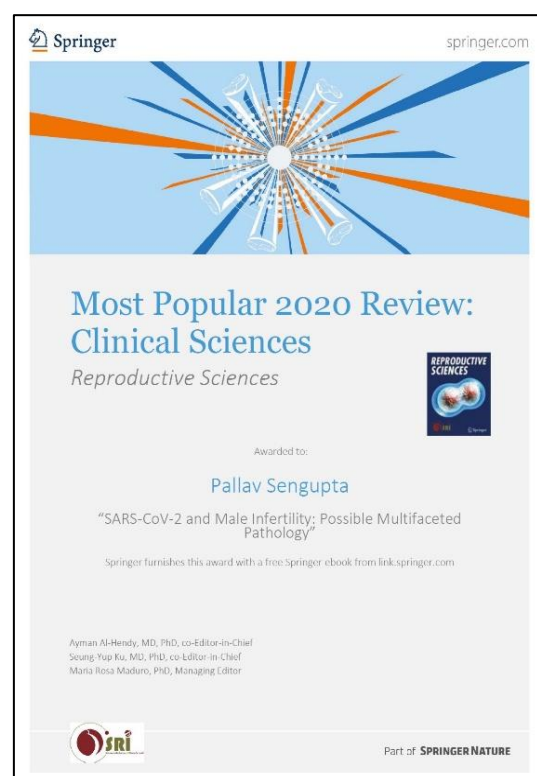


Research is one of the most distinguished and competitive strengths of a University. With this note, MAHSA University congratulates **Dr Pallav Sengupta** of Faculty of Medicine, Bioscience and Nursing for being listed in the **Top 2% Scientists in the world** by the Stanford University ranking 2020, and for being ranked **2nd as Infertility Research Expert** in Malaysia by the ExpertScape in 2020. We congratulate Dr Sengupta for the Best Research output in the year 2020. He has achieved a grand number of

THIRTY-FIVE (35) publications in just one year with 25 research articles and 10 book chapters, along with his wife and colleague, Dr Sulagna Dutta, Faculty of Dentistry, MAHSA University. His total research publications reached more than 120 with Scopus *h-index* of 23 and Google Scholar *h-Index* of 28.



The University also proudly announces that one of his article entitled 'SARS-Cov-2 and male infertility: Possible Multifaceted Pathology' published by Dr. Sulagna Dutta and Dr. Pallav Sengupta in the reputed journal, Reproductive Sciences, has been awarded the 'Most Popular Review 2020: Clinical Sciences' by the journal and also by the Springer Nature.



Dr Pallav Sengupta also contributes to the scientific community as an Editorial Board member and Reviewer in several ISI and Scopus indexed journals. Furthermore, he has been supervising researchers who are reviewing articles for Web of Science (WoS) journals for several years for which in the year 2020, Dr Sengupta has got certified as a 'Publons Academy Supervisor'.

Success is often determined by the acceptability and recognition at the global strata. It is a great foot for Dr Sengupta and Dr Dutta for being selected as the International Faculties and Research Mentors at the American Center for Reproductive Medicine, Cleveland Clinic, USA.



With the splendid research achievements, Dr. Pallav Sengupta has undoubtedly helped in hoisting the reputation of MAHSA University at the global level. The University wishes the very best for Dr Pallav Sengupta and Dr Sulagna Dutta in all their future endeavors.

Conduct of Online Proctored Synchronus Phase I and Phase II Final Examination: First of Its Kind

It all began with a crestfallen journey on how to conduct 100% Proctored ONLINE Exams in an unknown terrain where everything seems to be lost and chaotic with strike of the pandemic in the year 2020 .But we as a small TEAM in MAHSA school of medicine stood up for this challenge, milled it into an achievable reality.



Our historic FIRST ever ONLINE PROCTORED (PRO -PART -B EXAM) for year 2 MBBS final professional examination, was held on 29th and 30th August 2020 which involved live video streaming of the students taking the exams with real time screen sharing with the allotted invigilators, making sure they are proctored mirroring traditional face to face invigilation, which was also appreciated by our external examiners. The exams included online proctoring of theory, OSPE and Digital OSCE. We also take pride in the fact that we are one among the very few medical schools who have obtained the MMC approval for the conduct this mode of exam under these challenging conditions.



Our effort included in developing tools to support online exams which was ably supported by IT and LMS team of MAHSA University. Developing an SOP on conducting this exam was a challenge as it was first of its kind, however with the collaborative effort of the examination team and deanery an effective and reliable system was developed. The

participation and support of all the faculty members involved was overwhelming. This was evident from the fact that Phase 1 and Phase2 staff were involved in both the exams as this was a resource rich endeavor.

A journey achieving our objectives fairly and effectively as ONE TEAM with limited resources with a good positive feedback in the execution of the trial mock exams 1 & 2 and the final exams from the students and staff is a reflective testimony for the same.

Finally, the exam committee take this opportunity to thank deanery and MAHSA management for the advice and timely support in achieving this task with flying colors and for the commitment and enthusiasms shown by all the invigilators, examiners, and the support staff.



MAHSA MedSoc x MRA Perak Medical Outreach 1.0

February 21 – 23, 2020 at Kg. Kotai, Kg. Beswok, Perak

MAHSA MEDSOC collaborated with the Malaysia Relief Agency (MRA) Perak for this prestigious and enriching outreach event. From the history of MedSoc, this is actually our first ever rural Medical Outreach program. The event was done with the aims to provide free and high-quality medical services for the aboriginal population (*orang asli*), to raise health awareness amongst members of the community whilst teaching them to deal with both communicable and non-communicable diseases within the community, and to inculcate and develop the humanitarian spirit within the attending MAHSA medical students. Through this event, the medical students were taught to adapt and perform medical training to the presented environment and thus develop a sense of perseverance amongst them. For this humanitarian event, MAHSA MEDSOC sent around 20 volunteers (including 2 faculty-doctors who volunteered) within the society and 1 MRA-representing House officer to aid in conducting the mobile health clinic with additional educational programs for the local Orang Asli population.

We were accompanied by our very own **Dr. Aida Rezaei** and **Dr. Haymond Prasad Narayanan** during this program as our dear advisor and consultant respectively. In addition to that, the MOH-registered house-officer from MRA Perak also helped in providing consultation sessions to the locals. On the 22nd of February 2020, MedSoc conducted medical camps in Kg Beswok and Kg Kotai, in the morning and afternoon respectively. Educational/recreational programs were conducted simultaneously in both villages to keep the children entertained and the adults well-informed of the current health education, whilst some went for their checkups. Volunteers were then given the time off after medical camps to rest and relax with the locals and ended the night with barbeque. Throughout this whole event, we have successfully managed to consult almost 100 villagers. Many of those who volunteered generally enjoyed the entire experience and would hope to join more similar events in the future.

Till this day, MAHSA MEDSOC maintains a good relationship with MRA Perak and looks forward to forming more collaborations with multiple NGOs in the near future if conditions are favorable.



MAHSA Medical Society (MedSoc) Charity drive 1.0 **July 8, 2020 at Kampung Setia Banting**

It's the true nature of human to show kindness to one another regardless of our differences. We take concerns for the struggling families whose breadwinners of the household had suffered a loss of job, pay cut, which puts them in a unstable-financial hardship. This event also aims to teach whilst providing a learning space for MAHSA medical students to adopt the mindset of "be human first and foremost, and everything else comes second". During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the government has imposed a Movement Control Order (MCO) with the aims of controlling the infectious rate of this ever-growing communicable disease. The MCO has required everyone to work and isolate mostly from home. Meaning that some are fortunate to still have their jobs with a stable income for their family, while others unfortunately do not. By knowing this fact, we have decided to plan out a donation drive to provide aid to a village of Rohingyas in Klang, Selangor during the Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO) period.

The charity drive was planned a few weeks prior to collect donations from the medical students and was executed on July 8, 2020. The charity drive event was done in Kampung Setia Banting that had a population of approximately 70 families in total. Our previous Vice Secretary, Kesh Sidhu was the organizing chairperson for this event. A total of 8 student volunteers from MedSoc participated for this drive who are accompanied by our advisor lecturer Dr Aida Rezaei, who came to take part in the process and make sure her students are safe while proceeding with the proposed event. We as a team have successfully distributed 70 sets of items to 70 families while strictly adhering to the standard of procedures mandated during the CMCO. We all wore gloves and had instructed that only one member of each family was allowed to come to reduce the risk of overcrowding in that area. Not only that, we really made sure to instruct them to wear mask on and to sanitize each of their hands to really minimize the risk of spread of COVID-19. Overall, this event really opened our eyes in a way, as we got to experience and realize that some people suffer more than us and could use any help they could get. This event has really impacted us in such a good way that we have decided to plan more charity events in the future, and we hope to see other students to get involved as this is a good opportunity to gain experience in volunteer work. We hope to live up to our motto "Healing hands, Caring Hearts" ; to help whenever we can to those who need it the most.



Welcome our New FOMBN Staffs!



Dr Chia Vi Vien

Dr Chia holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Hons) Industrial Biotechnology, MSc in Science (Biotechnology) and is currently in her final year of PhD in Bioprocess Engineering from Universiti Malaysia Pahang. She has over four years of professional experience in conducting research to investigate the bioactivity, characteristic and efficacy of *Andrographis paniculata* (Hempedu Bumi), an herbal health supplement listed in the Malaysian National Key Economic Area. Specifically, her investigation involves the production of high-quality *A. paniculata* compounds and the maintenance of their efficacy and stability, including important pharmaceutical properties such as easy handling, storage and transportation. This prestigious work was awarded a Gold Medal in CREATION, INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGY & RESEARCH EXPOSITION (CITREx 2018), International Festival Innovation of Green Technology (i-FINOG) 2018 and 5th International Young Inventors Award (IYIA). She has published a Q1 journal with IF 4.244, three Scopus-indexed journal publications and a peer reviewed paper. She was involved in tutoring and laboratory demonstrator during her Master and PhD journey, as part of her duty being a recipient of Graduate Research Scheme, Doctoral Student Scheme as well as holding the MyBrain15 scholarship. Dr Chia has strong practical expertise in mass spectrometric techniques including separation methods and identification of compounds. She is also currently researching on the effect of auxiliary energy towards the efficacy of bioactive compounds.



**Prof Dr Mohamed Razif
Mohamed Ali**

Prof. Dr. Razif was a practising Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon and Consultant Sports Medicine Specialist in University Malaya (UM). He was also a lecturer for the Clinical Postgraduate and Undergraduate Program at Orthopedic Surgery and Sports Medicine Departments in UM. He subspecialised in Sports Arthroscopic Surgery, and subsequently lectured at the Faculty of Sport Science, UM and taught Sports Injuries to the nurses of Ministry of Health.

Prof. Dr. Razif retired from University Malaya last October 2020. He joined the Faculty of Medicine, Biosciences and Nursing of MAHSA University in January 2021, upon being invited to lecture in the MBBS Programme and hopefully at the Faculty of Sports Science later too. His hobbies are reading and music.



**Associate Professor Dr
Marjan Sadat Seghayat**

Dr Marjan obtained her Doctor of Medicine (MD) in 1996 and completed her four years of speciality in Internal Medicine in 2001 in Iran. She has been working as a medical practitioner and academician for more than 20 years. She is a Board-Certified Internal Medicine specialist and an Endocrinologist by training from UKM, Malaysia. She also obtained a Post-Graduate Diploma in Tertiary Teaching in 2017 from UCSI University. She is the former Head of School of Healthy Aging, Medical Aesthetics & Regenerative Medicine of UCSI University and a member of Malaysian Endocrine and Metabolism Society (MEMS) and was engaged in clinical and academic activities, teaching undergraduate medical students, master programme for medical doctors and also supervising research projects of postgraduate students. She is currently involved actively in various healthy aging projects and leading an FRGS grant in “Male infertility and heavy metal non- occupational exposure” and also is a co-investigator in few other researches. She is a member of the editorial board and reviewer of a few international peer review journals in field of medicine and medical sciences.



**Dr Ardita Dewi Roslani bt
Mohd Roslani**

Dr Ardita Dewi is a senior lecturer under the Unit of Microbiology and Parasitology. She obtained her basic medical degree from the University of Leicester, U.K. (MBChB) in 2002, and subsequently obtained her Master of Pathology (Medical Microbiology) from University of Malaya (UM) in 2011. She worked as a Clinical Microbiologist and Medical Lecturer for 3 years in UMMC/UM and has a special interest in the subspecialties of bacteriology and mycology. Outside of medicine, she is also a certified babywearing educator/consultant, a part of her contribution to her community to educate parents on the benefits of keeping their babies close and how to do so.



Dr Rafeah Pakri Mohamed

Dr. Rafeah is a lecturer of the Physiology Unit, FOMBN MAHSA. She holds a Diploma in Medical Lab Technology (MSU), Bachelor's in Biomedical Sciences (MSU), MSc Forensic Science (UTM) and a PhD in Physiology (UKM). Dr Rafeah has conducted research on the role of smoking on sperm DNA packaging material focusing on DNA methylation and histone protamine compaction. Her research interest area involves DNA methylation and chemical enhancement on materials.



Dr Gothai Sivapragasam

Dr Gothai Sivapragasam secured her Diploma in Medical Laboratory at a private university, Management & Science University (MSU), at 2007. Her Bachelor degree was in Biotechnology from Universiti Malaysia Sabah in 2010 funded by JPA scholarship. She holds a Master degree in Molecular Medicine University Sains Malaysia (USM) 2015 where she had worked on plant extraction and in vitro antibacterial analysis. Dr Gothai Sivapragasam obtained her PhD in Medical Biotechnology focusing in anti-cancer research.



**Muhammad Yusuf Shah
bin Abdul Latif**

Mr. Yusuf has joined MAHSA as a staff of Faculty of Medicine, Bioscience, and Nursing at MAHSA University after obtaining his Master of Medical Science (Anatomy). Although having been an academican at the faculty for only 4 months, Mr. Yusuf admits to having learnt many skills and knowledge, thus fulfilling his aspiration to gain experience for several years in order to enhance his knowledge in Anatomy before embarking on his PhD studies. Mr. Yusuf is also an avid martial arts enthusiast, having trained of about 3 years to acquire higher speed and reflexes. Mr. Yusuf hopes to contribute and build good working ties with all the MAHSA staff specifically in this Faculty of Medicine, Bioscience, and Nursing.

Upcoming Events

1. MQA Audit, March 2021
2. ISO Audit, April 2021
3. "To Lecture or Not to Lecture" Online Workshop by Prof. Dr. Mohamed Moussa Al Hassan, April 2021
4. Supplementary Final Professional Exam, April 2021
5. FOMBN Thematic Month Activity (March-April 2021)
6. FOMBN Student Registration (March-April 2021)

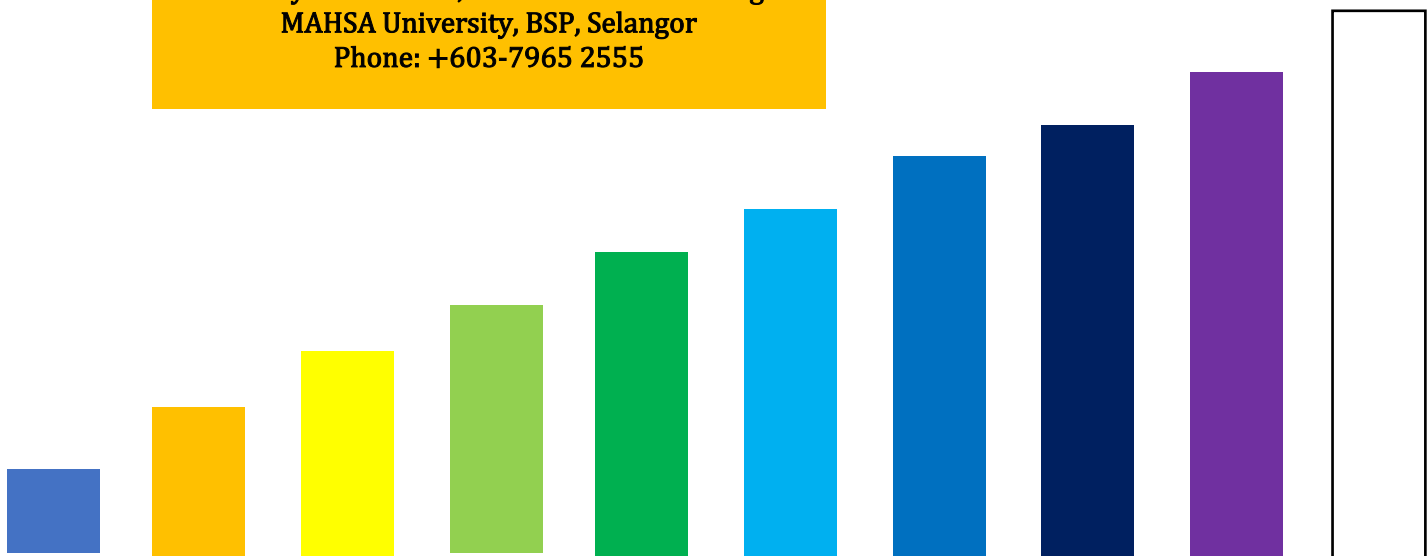
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P R O G R E S S