

## ENVIRONMENTAL FORENSICS WORKSHOP : SCIENCE, INVESTIGATION, AND TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION TO COMBAT GREEN CRIMES WITH MURDOCH UNIVERSITY, AUSTRALIA (MU) 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 - 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023



IMMB was proud to welcome undergraduate students from Murdoch University, Australia, who participated in the Environmental Forensic Workshop: Science Investigation and Transnational Education to Combat Green Crimes. This workshop, which ran from 26<sup>th</sup> September to 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023, consisted of a series of lectures, discussions, and fieldwork and was attended by a total of 20 students. The program was led by **Dr. Paola A. Magni**, a Senior Lecturer and Associate Dean of Engagement at Murdoch University. Over the two-week workshop, participants had a rich and diverse experience. In the first week, they engaged in meetings with deaneries and visited various research facilities at the Faculty of Medicine, UiTM. Subsequently, participants had the opportunity to explore **Bukit Tagar Sanitary Landfill** to learn about waste management. Participants also delved into insect taxonomic and entomology studies at the **Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)**. These visits not only provided valuable insights but also facilitated information sharing. The second week kicked off with a flagship visit to **KLIA Cargo Village** under the management of **Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM)**. During this visit, participants learned about security controls, operational procedures, and the detection of prohibited items through lectures and demonstrations by professionals from the **Ministry of Health** and **JKDM**. Other flagship visits included to the **National Wildlife Forensic Lab (PERHILITAN)** at Cheras, shedding light on the critical role of forensics in wildlife conservation. Participants also visited the **Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (APMM)** in Port Klang to observe maritime inspection and investigation activities, and for the forensic pathology exposure, they explored the **Department of Forensic Medicine at Hospital Al-Sultan Abdullah**. In addition to these visits, participants benefited from a lecture series on various subjects, including crime of haze, concerns on illegal logging, waste mismanagement, forensic pathology, and forensic research. These sessions were presented by experts, namely **AP. Dr. Helena Muhamad Varkkey**, **Dr. Yao-Hua Law**, **Mr. Afiq Zikri Jamil**, **Mr. Peter Wong**, **AP. Dr. Razuin Rahimi**, **Prof. Dr. Mohd Yusmialdil Putera Mohd Yusof**, and **AP. Dr. Mansharan Kaur**. The pinnacle event during the week was a sharing on bilateral security cooperation, study opportunities, and cultural integration between Malaysia and Australia at the **Australian High Commission** in Kuala Lumpur which was also attended by **AP. Dr. Leny Suzana Suddin**, the Deputy Dean Industry, Community & Alumni Network of Faculty of Medicine UiTM. Beyond the structured activities, participants had the chance to explore landmarks like the National Museum, Masjid Putra, Pasar Seni, KLCC, Genting Highlands, historical sites in Melaka, and Batu Caves. Participants also got to experience Malaysia's natural beauty through nature treks and fruit tasting activities featuring local fruits such as durian and mangosteen. As the comprehensive two-week workshop concluded, it's clear that it provided a seamless blend of education, exploration, and cultural immersion for all participants.

# ACTIVITIES, INITIATIVES & INVOLVEMENT



**IMMB JOURNAL CLUB 2023.** On 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023, **Siti Sarah M. Sofullah**, an MSc student under the supervision of **Dr. Choy Ker Woon**, discussed the vascular protective effects of **Thymoquinone**, the major active ingredient in **Habbatus Sauda**. This event attracted 20 participants and was moderated by Mr. Mohd Ameer Azeey Abdul Wahab. On 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023, **Nur Fatimah Binti Ronny Sham**, under the supervision of **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Johari Ibrahim**, delivered a presentation on **Radioresistant EMT6 Mouse Mammary Carcinoma**, providing an update and awareness on breast cancer. The session, moderated by Mrs. Dayana Syahirah Adam drew 27 participants. Both sessions contributed valuable research insights, sparking meaningful discussions within the field.

**IMMB RESEARCH TALK 2023** on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 featured **Prof. Dr. Wan Kiew Lian** from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. He discussed "**Rafflesia Genomics: Insights into the Biology of a Unique Parasitic Plant.**" The lecture chaired by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin**, attracted 30 participants, including 20 students from Murdoch University of Australia and 7 Erasmus students from Netherlands. Prof. Dr. Wan's research primarily focuses on tropical parasites like *Eimeria* and the enigmatic plant, *Rafflesia*.



**IMMB RESEARCH TALK 2023** took place on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023, with **Tn. Hj. Tajuddin Ismail, FASc** (Director of Agro Hive Consultancy PLT, Malaysia, and Managing Director of PT. Deras Karet Prima, Indonesia) as the invited speaker. He shared his expertise on "**Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in Food Production: from University Campus to Agroindustrial Economies.**" With extensive experience in organic farming and agriculture, he enlightened the audience on the necessary steps to achieve the SDGs in food production. The talk was chaired by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin** and attended by 22 participants, including **Prof. Dr. Anis Safura Ramli**, the Deputy Dean of Research & Innovation. Furthermore, Mr. Tajuddin visited IMMB's mini nursery and composting site, where he provided guidance and shared his experiences to contribute to the success of IMMB's SDG initiative.

**BEST ORAL PRESENTER AT AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.** Congratulations to **Dr. Farhanah Mohd Hamim**, the MSc student under the guidance of **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Damayanthi**, for her exceptional oral presentation at the International Conference on Reproductive Science & Medicine and Embryology (ICRSME) held on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023, at University of Malaya. Her presentation focused on "**Physical Exercise Improves Sperm Parameters in Leptin-Treated and Normal Sprague-Dawley Rats.**" Participating in an international event like this proved to be highly beneficial for the students, as the conference served as a platform for prominent academic scientists and researchers to share their experiences and knowledge.



The Director of IMMB, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin**, was invited as a guest speaker at the ASEAN Food Waste Treatment Congress 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. The conference took place on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023. He shared his expertise on the topic titled "**The Role of Black Soldier Flies in Food Waste Management.**" During his presentation, he provided insights into the history of Black Soldier Flies and their significance in waste disposal.

**MSc VIVA VOCE.** Congratulations to **Khairiyah binti Murad**, who was under the supervision of **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hassanain Al-Talib**, for successfully passing her MSc VIVA VOCE (MD 780) on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023. The title of her MSc research is "**Characterization of the Antimicrobial and Adherence Inhibition of Tetraspanin CD9 Peptides Against Pseudomonas aeruginosa in a Human Keratinocytes Model.**" During her MSc study, she achieved the following milestones: published three papers, attended four conferences, obtained two copyrights, and received a travel grant award from the Microbiology Society, UK.



*"Research is creating new knowledge" – Neil Armstrong*

# WELCOME TO IMMB

## ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DR. KIYOTAKA USUI



Dr. Kiyotaka Usui is an Associate Professor at the **Division of Forensic Medicine, Tohoku University**. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kiyotaka Usui received his PhD from Tohoku University, Japan. He is very actively involved in community activities, including the International Society of Forensic Toxicology, the Japan Legal Medical Association, the Japan Society of Forensic Toxicology, and the Japan Society of Clinical Toxicology. He will be in IMMB from 7<sup>th</sup> November to 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023, actively participating in a variety of essential, scheduled research-based activities.

### *Upcoming Events* with *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kiyotaka Usui*

#### **IMMB International Webinar Series (IIWS)**

Title : FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY

Date : 15<sup>TH</sup> November 2023 (Wednesday)

Time : 12 pm - 1 pm

Venue : Meeting Room 1, Level 1, IMMB

#### **IMMB International Webinar Series (IIWS)**

Title : REAL FORENSIC CASES AND RESEARCH IN FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY

Date : 21<sup>ST</sup> November 2023 (Wednesday)

Time : 12 pm - 1 pm

Venue : Meeting Room 1, Level 1, IMMB

## IMMB IN THE SPOTLIGHT : RECENT MEDIA COVERAGE

### MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU) EXCHANGE CEREMONY BETWEEN UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA (UiTM) AND MURDOCH UNIVERSITY, AUSTRALIA (MU)

took place on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at the Khalid Yusoff Auditorium, Faculty of Medicine, UiTM Sg Buloh Campus. This MoU aims to enhance UiTM's competitiveness on the international level through knowledge sharing initiatives, cooperatively hosted international conferences, staff and student exchanges, research, and publication activities. The exchange of agreement documents was initiated by the Assistant Vice – Chancellor (Strategy) of Universiti Teknologi MARA, **Prof. Ts. Dr. Nor Hayati Saad** on behalf of the Vice – Chancellor, **Prof. Datuk Ts. Dr. Roziah Mohd Janor** to Pro Vice – Chancellor, College of Environment and Life Sciences, Murdoch University, **Prof. Dr. Jennifer Verduin** and witnessed by the Education Counsellor of Australian High Commission in Malaysia, **Ms Fiona Morris** and the Deputy Dean of Postgraduate & Professional Training of the Faculty of Medicine, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Noor Shafina Mohd Nor** on behalf of the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fazah Akhtar Hanapiah**.



In conjunction with this event, a workshop on **Environmental Forensics: Science, Investigation, and Transnational Education to Fight Green Crimes** was organized by the Institute of Molecular Medical Biotechnology (IMMB), Faculty of Medicine starting from 25<sup>th</sup> September until 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

This workshop was attended by 20 Murdoch University students, led by **Dr. Paola A. Magni**, a senior lecturer and forensic science researcher from the university. The workshop also involved sharing expertise from UiTM lecturers, including **AP. Dr. Razuin Rahimi**, **Prof. Dr. Mohd Yusmiadil Putera Mohd Yusof**, **AP. Dr. Mansharan Kaur**, and **AP. Dr. Heo Chong Chin**, who is also the pioneer of this MoU. The ceremony received media coverage and was featured in the news of "**Sumber Kini**" and "**Life News Agency**."



Get information on our upcoming: International Webinar | Journal Club | Research Talk | Basic Lecture | Services | Newsletter | Online Course | Workshop and everything else that you need to know about IMMB on our media social platforms

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