

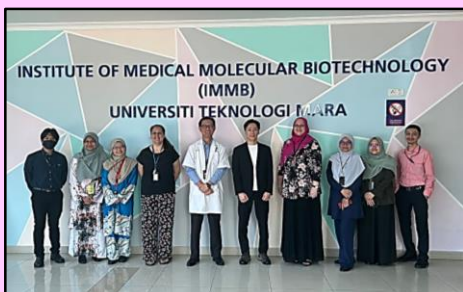
Institute of Medical Molecular Biotechnology Newsletter



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IMMB is very proud to host **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kiyotaka Usui**, an IMMB visiting scientist from **Tohoku University** in Japan, whose visit commenced on 6th November 2023. Among his initial activities included visiting research facilities and participating in research-related engagements, alongside the IMMB director, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin** and former IMMB Director, **Prof. Dr. Gabriele Ruth Anisah Frömming**. On November 9, he held a meeting with **Prof. Dr. Mohd Yusmialdil Putera Mohd Yusof**, the Director of the Institute of Pathology, Laboratory, and Forensic Medicine (I-PPerForM), to explore potential collaborations in knowledge sharing and research.

On November 16, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kiyotaka Usui**, along with **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin** and Senior Science Officer, **Mr. Azhar Ahmad**, visited the **Toxicology Division of the Department of Chemistry of Malaysia**. The visit included Dr. Usui's presentation on "**Analytical Toxicology in Forensic Medicine**" and a laboratory tour, enhancing understanding of the latest instruments and toxicology analysis procedures. Subsequently, on 20th November 2023, Dr. Usui engaged in two significant sessions. Firstly, he participated in a discussion with postgraduate students of the Faculty of Medicine, reviewing research proposals, and offering insights for enhanced quality and outcomes. Later, the most important meeting, he met with the Dean, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fazah Akhtar Hanapiah**, and **Prof. Dr. Anis Safura Ramli**, the Deputy Dean of Research and Innovation, Faculty of Medicine, to explore future collaborations, emphasizing research improvement and internationalization between UiTM and Tohoku University, Japan.



On 15th and 21st November 2023, the **IMMB INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR SERIES 2023** featured **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kiyotaka Usui** as the speaker. On 15th November 2023, Dr. Usui shared his expertise in **toxicology and forensic medicine**, emphasizing investigative methods and the crucial link between toxicology and other disciplines such as analytical chemistry, pharmacology, and clinical chemistry in resolving forensic cases involving poison and drug use. Moderated by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin**, this hybrid session attracted 50 participants and sparked lively discussions. On 21st October 2023, Dr. Usui, drawing on his extensive experience in the Division of Forensic Medicine at Tohoku University, presented **real case studies and research findings in forensic toxicology**. Moderated by **Mr. Azhar Ahmad**, this hybrid session attracted 42 participants. Both sessions contributed valuable research insights, sparking meaningful discussions and fueling the exchange of knowledge.

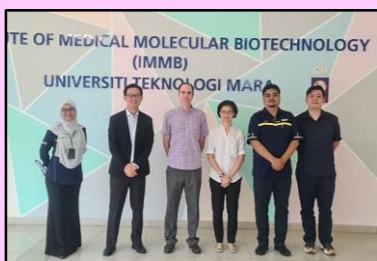
The Partnership between Malaysia and Spain in Science, Technology and Innovation.

On 27th November 2023, the Malaysia-Spain Innovating Programme (MYSIP), a joint initiative between the Malaysia Industry-Group for High Technology (MIGHT), the Department of Higher Education, and the Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI) in Spain, organized an event to aim at promoting new business opportunities and commercializing high-impact research. Postdoctoral researcher, **Dr. Abby Kimpton Jones**, under the supervision of **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin** and **Dr. Tania Ivorra**, participated in the event. She shared her research on the waste management of various organic waste generated in landfills using black soldier flies. This project is a collaboration between **UiTM**, **Berjaya Enviroparks Sdn Bhd**, and **Entomo AgroIndustrial** of Spain, aimed to identify and implement a sustainable and cost-efficient waste management solution.



ACTIVITIES, INITIATIVES & INVOLVEMENT

The **IMMB INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR SERIES 09/2023**, held on 1st November 2023, featured **Dr. Ching Jianhong**, an Assistant Professor at the Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disorders Program of **Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore**, as the invited speaker. Specializing in metabolomics studies, Dr. Jianhong discussed the application of mass spectrometers in metabolism research with a presentation titled **"Macro-and Micro-Environment Considerations of Designing Future Foods."** The webinar, moderated by Muhammad Daniel Hakim Zulkepli and was attended by 20 participants, including UiTM students and lecturers.



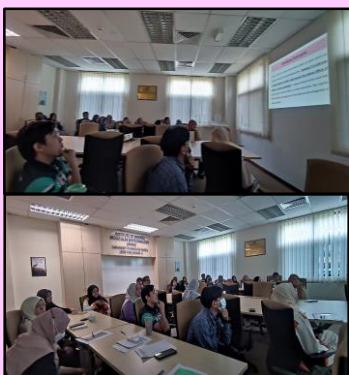
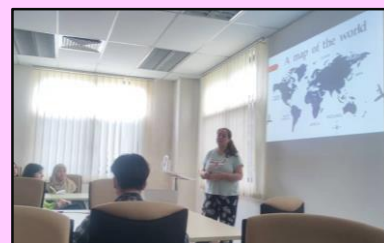
On 8th November 2023, IMMB welcomed **Mr. Tom Hughes**, Founder and Director of **Conservation Medicine**, alongside Laboratory Coordinator, **Ms. Mei-Ho Lee** and Field Coordinator, **Mr. Jimmy Lee**. The visit included discussions on development plans and potential collaborations. Led by IMMB's Director, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin**, the discussion was also attended by IMMB officers, Mrs. Norita Salim and Mr. Azhar Ahmad. Various matters were carefully discussed, as the cooperation to be established aims to offer advantages and benefits to both parties, as well as the research community.

On 28th November 2023, IMMB had the pleasure of hosting **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Farah Ayuni Shafie** and **Dr. Muhammad Afiq Zaki** from the **Faculty of Health Sciences** at UiTM Puncak Alam. The purpose of the visit was to explore the research facilities at IMMB, which is a research center at the UiTM Sungai Buloh Campus. **Mr. Tom Harrysson**, a Bachelor of Health Science student from the **Australian National University** who is scheduled to pursue studies in Medicine and Surgery starting in 2024, joined them on the visit. Mr. Tom is currently completing an internship at the Faculty of Health Sciences UiTM. Throughout the visit, which was led by Mrs. Norita and Mr. Yusri, a detailed explanation of the available research facilities, ongoing research projects, and future plans was provided.



IMMB TECHNICAL TALK 2023 was conducted on 2nd November 2023. The invited speaker was **Mr. David Chung**, Field Application Specialist from **Genomax Technologies Sdn. Bhd.** The title of his presentation was **"Accelerating Cancer Research with NanoString GeoMx Digital Spatial Profiler (DSP)"**. In this talk, he explained how GeoMx DSP Technology revolutionizes cancer research by enabling the study of tumor heterogeneity at high spatial resolution, thereby providing insights into molecular pathways and potential therapeutic targets.

Dr. Tania Ivorra, a research fellow in the Faculty of Medicine, presented **"Sharing My Work Experience Around the World 2023"** during the IMMB Research Talk on 22nd November 2023. She discussed her global work experiences, including attending conferences where she enjoyed trying local cuisines, exploring different countries, and collaborating with international colleagues. This sharing session aimed to encourage young researchers to engage in multidisciplinary research abroad. It attracted 20 participants and concluded with a Q&A session after an hour-long presentation.



IMMB JOURNAL CLUB, featuring MSc student, **Farhanah Binti Mohd Hamim** supervised by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Damayanthi Durairajanayagam**, convened on 23rd November 2023. Ms. Farhanah presented her research titled **"Physical Exercise Improves Sperm Parameters in Leptin-Treated and Normal Male Sprague-Dawley Rats."** Given that male factor infertility contributes to approximately 50% of infertility cases, her study revealed that six weeks of concurrent exercise could improve sperm count and morphology in both leptin-treated and normal SD rats. This suggests that regular physical activity is beneficial for male reproductive health. Two evaluators from the Faculty of Medicine provided constructive criticism and valuable feedback to enhance the presentation. Chaired by Ms. Siti Aisyah Mokhtar, the session was successfully attended by approximately 27 participants.

"It's not the load that breaks you down. It's the way you carry it" - C.S. Lewis

Welcome, JSD-CSI participants!



Explore . Fun . Learn

19th or 20th December 2023
(Tuesday or Wednesday)
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Venue:

Institute of Medical Molecular Biotechnology (IMMB)
Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM),
Sungai Buloh Campus, Jalan Hospital, 47000 Sungai Buloh,
Selangor, MALAYSIA



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2024

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