

# Institute of Medical Molecular Biotechnology Newsletter



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## FORENSIC ENTOMOLOGY GLOBAL CLASSROOM WITH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE (NUS) 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024 - 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024



IMMB proudly welcomed lecturers and students from the Forensic Science Program at the **National University of Singapore** who participated in the **Forensic Entomology Global Classroom 2024**. Held from 25<sup>th</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024, the workshop featured lectures, fieldwork, and visits, with a total attendance of 37 NUS students. The delegation was led by **Assoc. Prof. Stella Tan**, Associate Provost for Student Conduct and Director of the Forensic Science Program at NUS, accompanied by **Dr. Shawn Lee** and **Ms. Danielle Sng**, who served as accompanying lecturers. Over the initial two days, participants were introduced to IMMB laboratory facilities and the principles of forensic entomology through lectures by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin**, **Dr. Abby Kimpton Jones**, and **Dr. Tania Ivorra**. They were tasked with solving a provided CSI case throughout the workshop. Further, they were trained in techniques for collecting, identifying, classifying, and preserving samples for investigation and research, including fieldwork involving insect observation and collection from chicken carcasses that had rotted for several days to mimic the real situation of corpse decay in a crime. On the third day, participants were engaged in **Meeting with Deaneries** and visited various research facilities at the Faculty of Medicine, UiTM. Additionally, they visited the **National Wildlife Forensic Lab (PERHILITAN)** in Cheras, gaining insights into forensics' crucial role in wildlife conservation. The fourth day included a visit to **Forensic Laboratory of the Royal Malaysia Police College** and presentations from police experts to understand forensic applications in combating crime in Malaysia, followed by an exploration of insect collection centre and nature treks at the **Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)**. The final day began with lectures by the UiTM forensic pathologist, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Razuin Rahimi**, and a visit to the Department of Forensic Medicine at **Hospital Al-Sultan Abdullah UiTM** for exposure in forensic pathology service in hospital setup. Participants were then presented their task results in groups and were assessed by the panel experts. The closing ceremony featured concluding remarks and certificate presentations by **Assoc. Prof. Stella Tan** and **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo** to all participants and facilitators, followed by a closing dinner to celebrate everyone involved. The 5-day experience of organizing this international workshop was expected to enhance staff expertise, elevate UiTM's reputation, and create lasting memories for both UiTM and NUS participants.



# ACTIVITIES, INITIATIVES & INVOLVEMENT

**COURTESY VISIT TO THE VICE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE** on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024. A meeting was held with the UiTM Vice Chancellor, **Professor Datuk Dr. Shahrin bin Sahib @ Sahibuddin**, in conjunction with the Forensic Entomology Global Classroom 2024 with the National University of Singapore (NUS). The delegation, led by the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fazah Akhtar Hanapiah**, was accompanied by deaneries, IMMB representatives, as well as representatives from the NUS, **Prof. Stella Tan Wei Ling** and **Dr. Shawn Ming Yang Lee** from the **NUS Department of Biological Sciences**. The purpose of this visit was to solicit perspectives, advice, and exchange ideas aimed at advancing the research culture agenda and exploring educational collaborations

toward achieving world-class university status. Also present during this visit was a delegation from Kolej Alam Bina UiTM together with Professor Dr. Low Sui Pheng, who is also from NUS, for their Visiting Professor Week 2024 program. During this visit, Professor Datuk VC also shared a glimpse of his expertise in forensic security and cybersecurity, as well as recounting his experiences from a previous work visit to the National Forensic Sciences University of India.



The **IMMB International Research Talk Series** took place on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024, featuring **Dr. Manfred Kriechbaum**, a Senior Research Scientist from Institute of Inorganic Chemistry, **Graz University of Technology** in Austria, as the speaker. With 139 publications under his name, he shared his expertise with the presentation entitled "**Small Angle Scattering: An Analytical Method to Study (bio)molecular Nanostructures by X-Rays**," which delved into Dr. Kriechbaum's expertise in utilizing X-Ray diffraction for sample analysis and structural determination. This method enables precise determination of both the shape and size of structures through wavelength, shape, and frequency analysis. X-ray diffraction offers the advantage of non-destructive testing, requiring minimal sample preparation. The session was moderated by **Mr. Melonney Patrick**, a PhD student of the Faculty of Medicine, and attracted 18 attendees, comprising students, staff, and lecturers from UiTM.

The **IMMB Journal Club** continued on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024, with a presentation by **Ms. Nurul Azmiera Zamri**, a PhD student under the supervision of **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin**. In this talk, she shared her research work titled: "**The Antimicrobial Activity and Cytotoxicity Effects of a Novel Antimicrobial Peptide from the Haemolymph of a Blow fly, *Chrysomya megacephala* (Diptera: Calliphoridae)**". It was held in Meeting Room 1 at IMMB and chaired by Mr. Muhammad Daniel Hakim, Medical Lab Technologist of IMMB. Her presentation mainly discussed how she isolated the Antimicrobial Peptide (AMP) and the results of testing the AMP against five gram-positive bacteria including *MRSA*, *S. aureus*, *S. epidermidis*, *M. luteus*, and *B. subtilis*. She also shared the future applications of the peptide. The talk was attended by 17 participants, including students, staff, and lecturers from UiTM.



**IMMB TOWNHALL:** A productive Town Hall session with the IMMB director was held over two days, on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024. The first session, on February 21<sup>st</sup>, took place at IMMB and was attended by postgraduate students, research assistants, and industrial training students, with 25 individuals in attendance. Following this, the top management of IMMB had the opportunity to meet with the newly elected **MediPA** representative. This brief meeting served to introduce the new MediPA structure and discuss their initial plans for the year 2024. Later, a virtual session was held with lecturers and supervisors on the subsequent day, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The purpose of both Town Hall sessions was to discuss various matters related to IMMB from the student and supervisor perspective. The sessions began with welcoming remarks, followed by updates on recent activities and developments at IMMB. Prior to the sessions, supervisors and users were provided with the opportunity to submit their opinions and concerns through a Google form. The director and team then addressed each question, taking into account user's suggestions.

*"Every one of you is a shepherd and is responsible for his flock" - Sahih al-Bukhari*



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# Ramadan Kareem

**Ramadan 2024/1445H**

May this Ramadhan bring peace, happiness  
and prosperity to everyone



Sincerely from: IMMB, Faculty of Medicine, UiTM Sg. Buloh Campus

IMMB Journal Club

“Operating Permanent Middle Cerebral Artery Occlusion (pMCAO) in The Rat by  
Intraluminal Suture”

20 March 2024 (Wednesday), 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Anis Syahirah Mohd Shafie, PhD Student



Tazkirah Ramadan

“Ramadan : Apa yang kita cari?”

**21 March 2024 (Thursday), 11:00 am - 12:00 pm**

**Ustaz Mohd Razlan Ahmad**



Tazkirah Ramadan

“Mencari Semangat Ramadan”

26 March 2024 (Tuesday), 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Ustaz Muhammad Najih Irsyad Ahmad Puhad



Program Bubur Lambok

27 March 2024 (Wednesday)

Subject to change

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

MediPA & IMMB



Tazkirah Ramadan

“Ramadan Ladang Kebaikan”

2 April 2024 (Tuesday),

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Ustaz Puaad Osman



## Upcoming Programs

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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