

Institute of Medical Molecular Biotechnology Newsletter



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IMMB GO GLOBAL 4TH MARCH 2024 - 7TH MARCH 2024



March 4th - 7th, 2024, the **IMMB Go Global** program at **Mahidol University, Thailand**, provided a meaningful experience for IMMB in expanding understanding, collaboration networks, and global visibility. Three IMMB staff, **Mr. Azhar Ahmad**, **Mr. Daniel Hakim**, and **Ms. Siti Aisyah**, participated in this delegation for the IMMB Go Global program, which aimed to enrich their experience and exposure in laboratory management and service offerings provided by research laboratories. The program officially began with a visit to the Department of Clinical Tropical Medicine at the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, on March 5th, 2024. The participants received an in-depth explanation from the Dean of the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Weerapong Phumratanaprapin**, and presentations from several departments within the faculty, such as Microbiology and Immunology, Helminthology, Medical Entomology, and the Insectary. The participants then had the opportunity to share their experience and knowledge through presentations entitled “**IMMB Lab Management**”, “**IMMB Molecular Biology Short Course**”, and “**Junior Scientist Day Program**”. Additionally, Mahidol University took the participants to visit the hospital and central laboratory, providing a practical overview of research implementation in a clinical and laboratory context. On March 6th, 2024, the participants had the opportunity to visit the **Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU)**. MORU, established in 1979, conducts patient-centered research collaborations between **Mahidol University**, **Oxford University**, and the **Wellcome Trust** with 5 research units and 50 sites across Asia and Africa. The participants were welcomed by **Prof. Dr. Phaik Yeong Cheah**, the head of Bioethics and Engagement at MORU, and then they were exposed to the research, facilities, and community work carried out by MORU. The conclusion of this program on March 7th, 2024, saw the participants returning to Kuala Lumpur from Bangkok, filled with inspiration and new knowledge gained from this visit. Overall, the program gave them the opportunity to interact with experienced experts, gain a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities in tropical medicine, and encourage inter-institutional collaboration in research and development of this field.

IMMB is honoured to have been given the opportunity to meet with the **Rector of UiTM Selangor, Prof. Dr. Ahmad Taufek Abdul Rahman** at the Rector's office at UiTM Puncak Alam on 18th March 2024. During this meeting, **IMMB director, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Ching Chin** had the chance to present the background, current status, and future plans of IMMB to the Rector and **Assistant Rector of UiTM Selangor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Haidzir Abd Manaf**. The subsequent discussion focused on IMMB's plans to collaborate with industry in the field of research. Prof. Taufek also provided valuable insights and guidance to facilitate this collaboration and further its realization. This discussion was an extension of the visit by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Haidzir and his facility and development team on March 12th, 2024, which aimed to assess IMMB's readiness to prepare and house laboratories for industry collaboration. Several matters were discussed, including the need for renovations to provide laboratories that meet international standards.



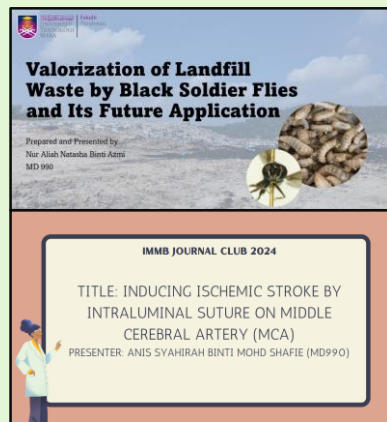
ACTIVITIES, INITIATIVES & INVOLVEMENT

IMMB TECHNICAL TALK WITH APICAL SCIENTIFIC SDN BHD was on 7th March 2024, and featured **Ts. Loh Keat Lay** (Field Application Specialist, Apical Scientific Sdn. Bhd.). She unveiled how to grasp the fundamental principles of PCR primer and sequencing primer design. She also explained how to use readily available and free online scientific tools to master the art of primer design. The talk was chaired by **Ms. Azrina Ali** from Apical Scientific Sdn Bhd and attracted 27 participants, including students and staff.



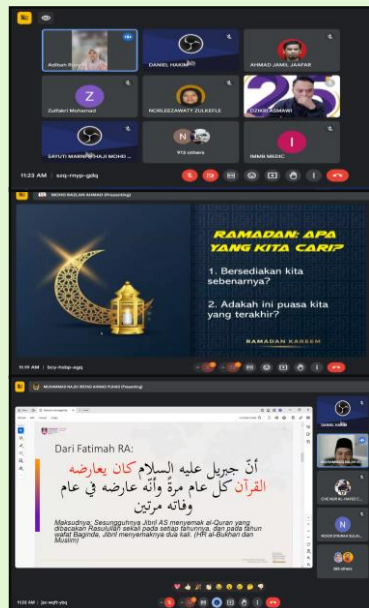
SPOTLIGHT: RECENT MEDIA COVERAGE. On 8th March 2024, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin** was featured on the **ASTRO AEC "Prime Talk News,"** a daily Chinese news program. The interview focused on Dr. Heo's research on the **Black Soldier Fly**. During the interview, Dr. Heo gave the interviewer a tour of the Institute of Medical Molecular Biotechnology (IMMB) and explained the facilities available. Dr. Heo also shared his insights on the uses of the Black Soldier Fly and its relevance to sustainable agriculture and recycling of organic waste. Dr. Heo's students (**Nurul Azmiera Zamri, Nur Aliah Natasha Azmi**) and **Dr. Tania Ivorra** were also interviewed during the session.

An interesting interview was aired on **Radio UiTM (UFM 93.6 MHz)** as part of the **Research & Innovation segment**. The guest speaker was **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin**, the director of IMMB. This live broadcast occurred on March 21st, 2024, starting at 10:00 AM. The title of the interview was **"LALAT: ANTARA MUSUH DAN KAWAN,"** a topic that prompted an exploration of the multifaceted roles flies play in our daily lives. Throughout the interview, Dr. Heo shared his expertise and knowledge, offering valuable perspectives on the topic. Delving into the intricacies of this often-overlooked subject, this interview aimed to shed light on what exactly we need to understand about flies. As the conversation unfolded, listeners had the chance to engage with the speaker, enriching their understanding of the intricate relationship between humans and flies.



The **IMMB Journal Club** continued on 13th March 2024, featuring a presentation by **Nur Aliah Natasha Azmi**, under the supervision of **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin**. In this talk, she shared her research work titled **"Valorization of Landfill Waste by Black Soldier Flies and Its Future Application."** Her presentation outlined the methodologies, outcomes, and potential applications of this approach in waste management. **Siti Aisyah Mokhtar** chaired the talk, which attracted 15 participants. On 20th March 2024, **Anis Syahirah Mohd Shafie** discussed **"Inducing Ischemic Stroke by Intraluminal Suture on MCA."** She is under the supervision of **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rosfaizah Siran**. Her presentation discussed the experimental procedures and highlighted the implications of the research findings in stroke research and therapeutic interventions. The talk saw active participation from 20 attendees and was chaired by **Muhammad Daniel Hakim Zulkepli**.

TAZKIRAH RAMADHAN. Our very first tazkirah for Ramadhan 1445 hijri was conducted on the 13th March 2024 with **Ustazah Nor Adibah Rozain**. She delivered an online talk titled **"Hikmah Al-Quran"**, where she shared profound insights into the Quran's timeless wisdom and guidance. She encouraged us to reflect on Islamic teachings and the Quran, offering invaluable instructions for leading a purposeful and meaningful life. This online tazkirah was attended by **1,158 participants**. On March 21st, 2024, **Ustaz Mohd Razlan Ahmad** engaged us with his talk titled **"Ramadan: Apa yang kita cari?"** urging us to contemplate the essence of Ramadan. As a lecturer specialising in contemporary Islamic studies, he reminded us of the significance of Ramadan as a time for self-reflection and spiritual renewal. This online tazkirah was attended by **831 participants**. On March 26th, 2024, **Ustaz Muhammad Najih Irsyad Bin Ahmad Puhad, Assistant Registrar of Islamic Affairs**, shared his talk titled **"Mencari Semangat Ramadan,"** drawing parallels between Ramadan and a seed sown. He emphasised how its fruits nourish and its benefits extend throughout the remaining months of the year, inspiring us to stay lively and eager throughout the year. This online tazkirah was attended by **783 participants**. As we journey through Ramadan, let's treasure the valuable perspectives gained from these tazkirah sessions.



"Give, even when you know you can get nothing back" - Yasmin Mogahed

IHYA' RAMADHAN | 27th March 2024 MediPA & IMMB's Bubur Lambuk Program



**SERVING WARMTH | MORE THAN 800 PACKS WERE DISTRIBUTED
TO STAFF, STUDENTS, AND VISITORS AT SG BULOH CAMPUS**



**THANK YOU TO ALL THE DONORS AND EVERYONE WHO MADE
THE PROGRAM A SUCCESS**

SELAMAT HARI RAYA MAAF ZAHIR BATIN



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