

Institute of Medical Molecular Biotechnology Newsletter



UNIVERSITI
TEKNOLOGI
MARA

Institut
Bioteknologi
Perubatan
Molekul

Issue 43 | MAY 2024 | <https://immb.uitm.edu.my/>



JOIN THE IMMB FORENSIC ENTOMOLOGY WORKSHOP, an opportunity to learn and share experiences with an experienced invited speaker from Arizona State University, United States, **Dr. Lauren Weidner**, who will be brought through the **FULBRIGHT EXPERT PROGRAM**. Dr. Weidner's work in forensic entomology has been published in various journals, including The Journal of Forensic Science, Journal of Medical Entomology, and Forensic Science International. She has presented her work at local, regional, national, and international conferences, spanning both entomology and forensic backgrounds. In this workshop, participants will gain insight into the vital role of insects in resolving forensic cases. They will learn how insects can provide key clues about the time of death, location of the incident, and other factors related to forensic cases.

Additionally, this workshop emphasizes skills in collecting, preserving, and submitting entomological evidence to forensic experts. Participants will engage in practical exercises to identify insect species related to forensic cases, as well as learn the best techniques for collecting insect samples from the scene. Another important aspect of this workshop is its preparation for optional American Board of Forensic Entomology (ABFE) certification exams to be held immediately after the workshop ends. Through the knowledge and skills gained from this workshop, participants will be well-prepared to face these exams. With ABFE certification, participants will gain broad recognition and enhance their professional qualifications in the field of forensics. So, let's join this workshop and be a part of the positive change in the world of forensic science.



It was with great honor that **Professor Dr. Murtaza Najabat Ali**, the **CEO of Revive Medical Technologies, USA**, visited the Faculty of Medicine and IMMB on April 18th, 2024. During the visit, a tour of the IMMB facility was conducted. The IMMB Director, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin**, provided an in-depth briefing to the Prof. Murtaza, covering the history, current activities, and future plans of the IMMB. The visit was accompanied by the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, **Prof. Dr. Fazah Akhtar Hanapiah**, as well as **Prof. Dr. Anis Safura Ramli**, **Dr. Faizah Ali** and **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jamal Houssaini** then successfully delivered a presentation on innovation to all delegations. In summary, various important matters were discussed, particularly the challenges of innovating and commercializing products derived from research. With this valuable input, IMMB will strive to be more involved in translating research into commercial products. IMMB is also encouraged to establish research collaborations and partnerships with industries to support this effort.

On April 19th, 2024, the Faculty of Medicine organized a lively and colorful **Hari Raya Celebration Ceremony**. This event provided a platform for faculty members to gather and celebrate Hari Raya with a spirit of unity, fostering interactions across various departments within the faculty. As part of the ceremony, all departments sent representatives for the performance competition. This year, IMMB collaborated with the Centre of Translational and Epidemiology Research (CentRE) and Neuroscience Research (NeuRon) Lab. We were pleased to have **Mr. Mohd Ameer Azezy**, **Mr. Muhammad Daniel Hakim**, **Mrs. Dayana Syahirah**, and **Ms. Siti Aisyah** represent us. Their dance routines not only exhibited great talent but also earned them third place in this year's competition. We hope that this celebration strengthens the bonds among faculty members and inspires them to continue their excellent work with enthusiasm.

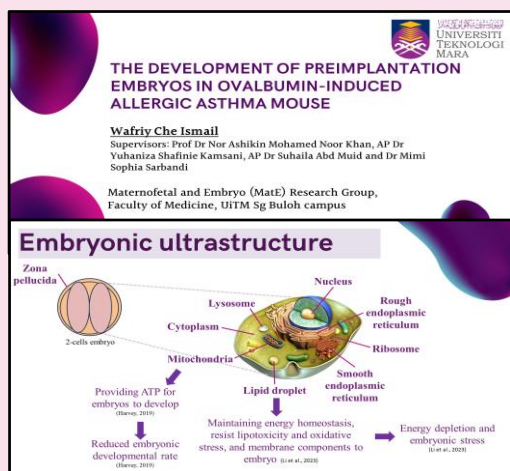
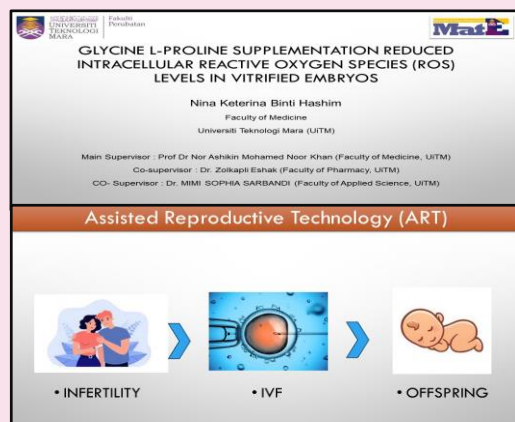


ACTIVITIES, INITIATIVES & INVOLVEMENT



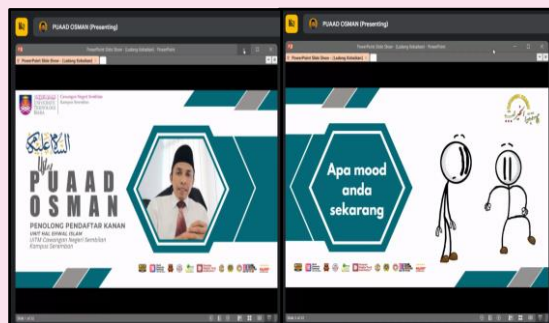
Congratulations to our postgraduate student, **Iman Nabilah Abd Rahim**, and her supervisor, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Noor Alicezah Mohd Kasim**, for being selected as one of the finalists for the **YSN-ASM Chrysalis Award 2024**. Iman, a PhD candidate, showcased her research on **"Atheroprotective Effects and Safety Evaluation of Saffron Extract in Experimentally Induced Early and Established Atherosclerotic Rabbits."** Her study found that saffron extract effectively reduces bad cholesterol levels and fatty deposits in blood vessels. Based on these findings, she has developed a prototype of the saffron extract, which she believes could benefit society not only in Malaysia but globally. The Chrysalis Award aims to find and support exceptional PhD candidates who will become the backbone of our Science, Technology, Innovation, and Economy (STIE) ecosystem in the future. Each year, only fifteen students are selected as finalists. IMMB hopes more applicants will follow in their footsteps and achieve similar recognition.

The **IMMB Journal Club** continued on April 3rd, 2024, featuring a presentation by **Nina Keterina Hashim**. She is a PhD student, under the supervision of **Prof. Dr. Nor Ashikin Mohamed Nor Khan**. In this talk, she shared her research work titled **"Glycine L-proline Supplementation Reduced Intracellular Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) Levels in Vitrified Embryos."** Her presentation outlined the methodologies used to supplement Glycine L-proline, the outcomes and the potential applications of this approach in reducing reactive oxygen species (ROS) levels in vitrified embryos. In summary, this reduction in ROS levels can significantly enhance the survivability of the embryos. The talk was chaired by **Hazrul Nizam Hisham Hasmi**, Assistant Science Officer of IMMB, and was attended by 23 attendees.



On April 17th, 2024, **Mohamad Wafriy Che Ismail**, a PhD student under the supervision of **Prof. Dr. Nor Ashikin Mohamed Nor Khan**, discussed his research titled "The Development of Preimplantation Embryos in Ovalbumin-Induced Allergic Asthma Mouse" at the IMMB Journal Club. His presentation focused on the detrimental effects of allergic asthma, particularly on the impairment of preimplantation embryonic development, specifically on the embryonic ultrastructure. He also presented his findings from the study at the International Conference on Reproductive Science & Medicine and Embryology (ICRSME) on October 18th-19th, 2023, at the University of Malaya, which attracted the interest of numerous other researchers. This journal club talk drew participation from 20 attendees and was chaired by **Mr. Mohd Ameer Azezy**, Assistant Science Officer of IMMB.

Tazkirah Ramadan Siri 4/1445H was conducted on 2nd April 2024 with **Ustad Puaad Osman**, Assistant Registrar, Islamic Affairs Division from UiTM Negeri Sembilan as a speaker. In this tazkirah, he shared the topic entitled **"Ramadan Ladang Kebaikan"**. Towards the conclusion, he emphasized the importance of seizing the opportunity to sow the seeds of goodness so that they may flourish into fields of virtue, benefiting both oneself and others. This tazkirah was attended by **608** participants and chaired by **Ms. Siti Aisyah Mokhtar**, Assistant Science Officer of IMMB.



The **IMMB SPRING CLEANING DAY - FREEZER (-4°C)** was held at the Ground Level Sample Storage Room of IMMB on 22nd April 2024. To make space for new users, **all outdated and expired samples, reagents, and media have been disposed**. Every year, IMMB organizes an activity that students participate in to make sure that everyone has enough space in the freezer to keep their belongings. This action also helps to **maintain track of the current capacity of IMMB freezers** and to **identify any unlabeled sample or reagent** to its rightful owner.

"Setting goals is the first step in turning the invisible into the visible." —Tony Robbins



FORENSIC ENTOMOLOGY WORKSHOP



This event includes:

- Introduction to Forensic Entomology and Field Work
- Interactive Lectures and Labworks
- Applications of Forensic Entomology
- Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Case Studies



Registration Fees:

UiTM Student: **RM 650**

Local (Malaysia): **RM 750**

International: **RM 850**

*An additional fee (50 USD) is required for the American Board of Forensic Entomology (ABFE) certification test that will be held on 4th July 2024 (Optional). Payable to American Board of Forensic Entomology (ABFE).

Date :

2nd & 3rd July 2024 - Workshop

4th July 2024 - Certification Test (Optional)

Time :

0800 - 1600

Venue :

**Faculty of Medicine UiTM
Sg. Buloh Campus,
Selangor, Malaysia.**



Main Speaker

Dr. Lauren Weidner

- Assistant Professor, School of Interdisciplinary Forensics (SIF)
- Lab Director of the Forensic Entomology & Wildlife Laboratory (FEWL)
- President of the North American Forensic Entomology Association (NAFEA)
- Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Entomology (ABFE)
- UiTM Fulbright Specialist 2024

ASU Arizona State University



Scan for registration

For more inquiries, please contact us:

☎ : +60 11 3307 7308

☎ : +60 3 6126 5079

✉ : immb@uitm.edu.my

Fakulti
Perubatan

Institut
Bioteknologi
Perubatan
Molekul



FULBRIGHT
Malaysia