

FULBRIGHT SPECIALIST PROGRAM AND INTERNATIONAL FORENSIC ENTOMOLOGY WORKSHOP 22 JUNE 2024 – 5 JULY 2024



FULBRIGHT SPECIALIST 2024: The program began with a visit to the **Malaysian-American Commission on Educational Exchange (MACEE)** on July 25, 2024. **Fulbright Specialist, Dr. Lauren Weidner** from **Arizona State University** and **Forensic Entomologist, Dr. Krystal Hans** from **Purdue University, USA**, were accompanied by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin**, **Mr. Azhar Ahmad**, and **Mrs. Norita Salim**. The visit aimed to deepen understanding of the educational framework and promote exchanges between Malaysia and the US. On July 27, 2024, Dr. Weidner and Dr. Hans met with the top management of UiTM's Faculty of Medicine to explore potential collaborations. The faculty management was represented by **Prof. Dr. Anis Safura Ramli**, Deputy Dean of Research & Innovation; **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Leny Suzana Suddin**, Deputy Dean of Industry, Community, and Alumni Network; **Dr. Hasidah Abdul Hamid**, UiTM Global Representative of the Faculty of Medicine; and **Miss Sazlyra Mohd Arshad**, the Deputy Registrar of the faculty. On July 1, 2024, Dr. Lauren Weidner shared her expertise through an IMMB International Research session about the challenges and needs in forensic entomology, followed by an **International Forensic Entomology Workshop 2024** on July 2–3, 2024, and organizing an **American Board of Forensic Entomology (ABFE) Certification Test** on July 4, 2024. A meeting with **I-PPerForM** was held on July 4, 2024, to identify mutual research interests. The program concluded with a visit to **PERHILITAN** on July 5, 2024, fostering appreciation for Malaysia's biodiversity, culture, and veterinary forensic development. In summary, the Fulbright Specialist Program represents a comprehensive effort to enhance educational and research cooperation between Malaysia and the United States. Through this initiative, significant progress in the fields of research, education, and agile learning culture can be achieved.



The **opening ceremony of the Fulbright Specialist Program and International Forensic Entomology Workshop** took place on July 2, 2024. This event marks an important step in promoting international cooperation and specialized scientific training at UiTM as part of the efforts toward GRU 2025. The program was officially inaugurated by **Assoc. Prof. Datin Dr. Norazida Mohamed**, Assistant Vice Chancellor (Internationalization) of UiTM Global. In her speech, she emphasized the importance of international cooperation and highlighted the contributions of such programs to improving the academic and professional skills and visibility of the university. The opening ceremony was attended by several distinguished guests, including **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Haidzir Abd. Manaf**, Assistant Rector of UiTM Selangor, and the top management of the Faculty of Medicine, UiTM. **Mr. Muhammad Daniel Hakim Zulkepli**, a Medical Lab Technologist from IMMB was the emcee of the ceremony. In summary, the opening ceremony achieved its objectives with the support and presence of all participants, organizers, and special guests.

ACTIVITIES, INITIATIVES & INVOLVEMENT

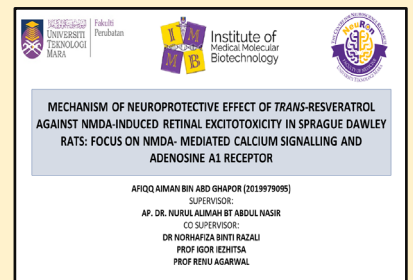
IMMB International Research Talk 2024: On July 1, 2024, IMMB was truly honoured to host a research talk by **Dr. Lauren Weidner** from **Arizona State University, USA**. Dr. Weidner is also a diplomat of the American Board of Forensic Entomology (ABFE), and she delivered the talk at IMMB as part of the UiTM Fulbright Specialist Program 2024. The talk, titled **“Decomposition in the Sonoran Desert: Discovering the Challenges and Needs in Forensic Entomology”**, provided insights into how decomposition occurs in the desert, the differences in the rate of decomposition, and what to consider when collecting forensic entomology samples in such environments. This hybrid event successfully gathered 68 participants, both on-site and online. The talk was chaired by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin.



International Forensic Entomology Workshop 2024: The workshop took place on July 2 and 3, 2024, with a focus on various aspects of forensic entomology. The event featured **Dr. Lauren Weidner** and **Dr. Krystal Hans** as speakers and trainers, while FUN Entolab members, led by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin**, facilitated the sessions. Twenty participants from the **National University of Singapore, UCSI University, the UKM Department of Forensic Medicine, the Ministry of Health, UPM, and the Faculty of Dentistry and Faculty of Medicine at UiTM** attended the workshop. The workshop began with an introduction to insects, focusing on basic anatomy, biology, and biodiversity. Participants then explored forensic entomology, learning how insects are used in legal investigations. This included studying the biology of flies and beetles with forensic significance, as well as understanding insect succession and decomposition. Participants were also trained in identifying insects as evidence, proper sample collection, and preservation techniques.

They learned about data collection, photographic methods, and the correct procedures for delivering sample evidence. The workshop also included case studies related to forensic entomology, discussing real-world applications and findings. Additionally, local practices and challenges related to forensic entomology in Malaysia were also discussed by trainees, facilitators, and participants. On July 4, participants had the opportunity to take the **ABFE Certification Test** to assess their understanding and skills acquired during the workshop. The test results will be announced after the evaluation is carried out by the American Board of Forensic Entomology (ABFE) in the United States.

IMMB Journal Club 2024, with **Mr. Afiqq Aiman Abd Ghapor** as the presenter, was held on June 5, 2024. Mr. Afiqq Aiman, a PhD candidate under the supervision of **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nurul Alimah Abdul Nasir**, presented his research on **“The Mechanism of the Neuroprotective Effect of Trans-Resveratrol Against NMDA-Induced Retinal Excitotoxicity in Sprague-Dawley Rats: Focus on NMDA-Mediated Calcium Signaling and Adenosine A1 Receptor”**. His research focuses on observing the neuroprotective effects of trans-resveratrol against NMDA-induced excitotoxicity through the stimulation of the A1 receptor in a visually impaired rat model. The talk was successfully attended by 18 participants and was chaired by Mrs. Salina Othman.



IMMB Research Talk 2024. **Dr. Choy Ker Woon**, senior lecturer from the **Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine, UiTM**, was invited as a speaker for IMMB Research Talk 2024, which was held on June 12, 2024. She presented a talk titled **“The ABC of Transforming Medical Research into Award-Winning Innovation Projects”**. The talk primarily focused on sharing her experiences and insights into the tricks and strategies that helped her win numerous innovation competitions, as well as her experience as a judge in these competitions. She explained the criteria needed to develop an innovation project that stands out from the rest. The session was attended by 30 participants and was chaired by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin.

The **IMMB Research Talk 2024** held on June 20, 2024, featured **Dr. Fazleen Haslinda Mohd Hatta**, a senior lecturer from the **Faculty of Pharmacy at UiTM**. She presented her research titled **“The Future of Genomic Editing: Exploring CRISPR/Cas”**, where she explained what genome editing is and the role of CRISPR/Cas in the process. Dr. Fazleen also discussed her early involvement with CRISPR/Cas research at UiTM and the potential of genomic editing to aid in the development of specialised treatments for previously incurable diseases. Seventeen participants attended the talk, which was chaired by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin.



“It always seems impossible until it’s done”. — Nelson Mandela

HANDS-ON MICROBIOLOGY BASIC TECHNIQUES WORKSHOP



UNIVERSITI
TEKNOLOGI
MARA

Institut
Bioteknologi
Perubatan
Molekul

IN
COLLABORATION
WITH:

ba
Biotek Abadi



**13 AUGUST 2024
(TUESDAY)**

8.30 AM – 4.30 PM

**INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL
MOLECULAR BIOTECHNOLOGY
FACULTY OF MEDICINE,
UITM SG BULOH**

SPEAKER

**ASSOC. PROF.
DR. NAVINDRA
KUMARI A/P
PALASINAMY**



TOPICS COVERED:

- **GOOD LABORATORY PRACTICES AND BIOSAFETY**
- **TECHNIQUES FOR CULTURING (ASEPTIC TECHNIQUES, INOCULATION, STREAKING, ISOLATION, STAB & SLANT INOCULATION & SPREADING PLATE)**
- **GRAM STAINING TECHNIQUE**