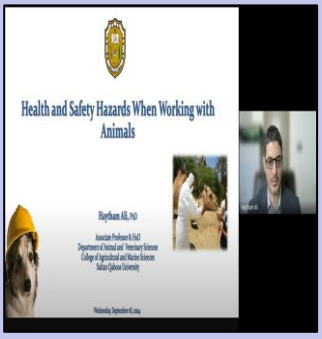
# Institute of Medical Molecular Biotechnology Newsletter

Issue 48 |October 2024| https://immb.uitm.edu.my/

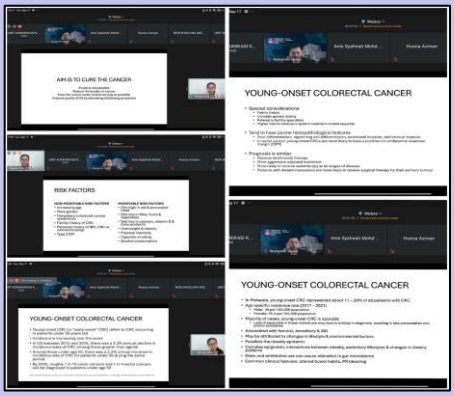
**VISIT OF THE ACADEMIC ADVISOR**. From 9th to 13th September 2024, the IMMB co-hosted **Prof. Dr. Umberto D'Alessandro,** Director of the **Medical Research Council Unit in The Gambia (MRCG)** and **Professor of Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene** and **Tropical Medicine.** He has been appointed Academic Advisor for the proposed Postgraduate Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (PG DTM&H) at the Faculty of Medicine, UiTM. During his visit, Prof. Dr. D'Alessandro had productive discussions with the Deaneries, PG DTM&H Committee Members, and Heads of Departments, including Medical Microbiology and Parasitology, Pathology, and Public Health. He also paid courtesy call on the **Vice-Chancellor of UiTM, Prof. Datuk Dr. Shahrin bin Shahib,** accompanied by our deaneries, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wang Seok Mui, Director of IMMB, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Navindra Kumari A/L Palanisamy** of the Department of Medical Microbiology and Parasitology, and **Ms. Norita, IMMB Officer**. The meeting involved fruitful discussions and information sharing, aimed at enhancing collaboration between UiTM and LHTM. Prof. Dr. D'Alessandro also delivered two insightful lectures as part of the IMMB International Research Talk Series, the first titled **"Malaria: Past and Current Challenges"** and the second **"The Contribution of The Gambia to Malaria Research".** These talks enriched the academic community and paved the way for future research collaborations. He also met with postgraduate students, providing valuable guidance and suggestions for their future research projects. Further details and the video of the talk can be viewed on the IMMB YouTube Channel or by scanning the YouTube QR code.

**DELEGATION VISIT FROM UNIVERSITAS PEMBANGUNAN NASIONAL VETERAN JAKARTA (UPNVJ).** On 28th August 2024, the Institute of Medical Molecular Biotechnology (IMMB) received a delegation led by **Dr. Taufiq Fredrik Pasiak, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine**, Universitas Pembangunan Nasional Veteran Jakarta (UPNVJ). The visit aimed to foster collaboration in medical education and research between UPNVJ and Faculty of Medicine UiTM. The event began with a welcome speech by Professor Dr. Ahmad Nazrun Shuid, Deputy Dean of Student Affairs, followed by a presentation on IMMB by its Director, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wang Seok Mui. The delegation toured IMMB's research facilities and visited the Laboratory Animal Care Unit (LACU), before heading to the academic building to visit other facilities and meet with the Deaneries, Faculty of Medicine UiTM.




**IMMB RESEARCH TALK 2024** on 18th September 2024 with **Dr. Haytham Ali (Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, College of Agricultural and Marine Sciences, Sultan Qaboos University, Sultanate of Oman)** as the invited speaker. Dr. Haytham shared his experience on **Health and Safety Hazards When Working with Animals**. Dr. Haytham spoke about the health and safety risks of working with animals. Dr. Haytham began the talk by giving tips on how to implement the **One Health Concept** to reduce the risk of zoonotic diseases. Wearing appropriate **personal protective equipment (PPE)** when working with animals and recognizing the signs of diseases affecting animals are essential to preventing the spread of zoonotic diseases. When working with animals, the use of restraints can also reduce the risk of physical harm. Finally, good hygiene before and after working with animals is important to reduce the risk of injury.

**IMMB WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FOR A RESEARCH VISIT**. On 24th September 2024, the IMMB received a visit from four postgraduate students from **Toyama Prefectural University, Japan,** accompanied by **Ts. Dr. Nur Aliana Hidayah Mohamed, Faculty of Dentistry UiTM**, as well as seven medical students from **Erasmus University, Netherlands**. The tour of IMMB was led by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo Chong Chin**, who introduced IMMB's state-of-the-art research facilities in the field of molecular medical sciences. The visit provided the students with valuable insights into ongoing research and innovative approaches within the field. The visit ended with a discussion session, also attended by **Dr. Noor Fahitah Abu Hanipah,** Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine UiTM, where ideas and insights were exchanged to explore possible future collaborations.




On 17th September 2024, the **Medical Postgraduate Association (MediPA)** successfully hosted an online **health talk on Colorectal Cancer**, reaching a diverse audience of 316 participants from both medical and public backgrounds. The talk was delivered by **Dr. Siti Mayuha Rusli**, a renowned general and colorectal surgeon from **Hospital Al-Sultan Abdullah UiTM**. The speaker gave a comprehensive overview of colorectal cancer, its prevalence, risk factors, and treatment options. The interesting presentation encouraged active participation from the audience and led to a lively Q&A session, which fostered meaningful discussions and knowledge sharing. MediPA is committed to continue this initiative, to educate the community on various health topics and raise awareness on critical health issues. This event marked a significant milestone in the association's efforts to bridge the gap between medical professionals and the public, ultimately contribute to better healthcare and a better life for people affected by colorectal cancer.

On 4th September 2024, IMMB received an **Academic Visit** from **Sekolah Menengah Sains Hulu Selangor (SEMASHUR).** A total of 40 form three students, accompanied by 2 teachers and 2 guardians, participated in the visit. Various exciting activities were organized, including cell imaging **using a confocal laser scanning microscope, an entomology station, a sharing session with postgraduate students, and simple science experiments**. These activities not only provided an early exposure to research and sparked the students' interest in science but also enhanced their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. By engaging with advanced scientific instruments and interacting with postgraduate students, the students gained valuable insights into possible academic and career pathways in the sciences. The visit also fostered curiosity, encouraged hands-on learning and stimulated a deeper understanding of how scientific principles are applied in the real-world settings.

**IMMB PhD Graduate Wins Prestigious Young Investigator Award**. Nur Fatihah, a PhD graduate from the UiTM Faculty of Medicine under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Johari Ibrahim, was awarded with the **Young Investigator Award at the Korean Medical Oncology Conference** held in COEX, Korea on 26-27th September 2024. Her research, entitled **"Different Effects of Nivolumab/Gamma-Ray Irradiation on PD-1/PD-L1 Expression in Mouse Mammary Carcinoma Tumor Models,"** explores how combining Nivolumab, an immune checkpoint inhibitor, with gamma-ray irradiation impacts immune regulation in breast cancer tumors. The significance of her findings lies in their potential to shape future therapeutic strategies for breast cancer, particularly in patients with radioresistant tumors. **Nur Fatihah** was also awarded the **Excellence Research Award 2023/2024** for her outstanding achievements in her Doctor of Philosophy (MD990) program.

**IMMB Shines at UiTM's Bulan Kemerdekaan and Hari Malaysia 2024 Celebration**. On 19th September 2024, in conjunction with the **Majlis Penutupan Sambutan Bulan Kemerdekaan Dan Hari Malaysia 2024** at UiTM Cawangan Selangor, Kampus Sungai Buloh, Selayang & Teluk Intan, IMMB proudly secured third place in the explorace competition and received a certificate of participation at the Pertandingan Sudut Patriotik Pejabat. IMMB was represented by **Mr. Mohd Ameer Azeezy, Mr. Muhammad Daniel Hakim, Ms. Siti Nur Nabila, and Ms. Siti Aisyah in the explorace competition.** For the **Pertandingan Sudut Patriotik Pejabat**, all IMMB staff contributed to decorate the office corner with this year's theme: **Malaysia Madani, Jiwa Merdeka**, in line with the National Day and Malaysia Day 2024. This marks IMMB's first participation in the event, and it is seen as the beginning of more successes to come. IMMB looks forward to achieving even greater accomplishments in the future.

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**"Never say never, because limits, like fears, are often just an illusion." Michael Jordan**

**Congratulations to Khairiyah Murad and Siti Sarah M. Sofiullah on Receiving the Excellent Research Award**. Heartiest congratulations to **Khairiyah Murad** and **Siti Sarah M. Sofiullah**, Master of Science (Medicine) students of Session 2023/2024, who have been honored with the **Excellent Research Award (Anugerah Penyelidikan Cemerlang - APC).** Their remarkable achievements are a testament to their dedication and perseverance in their academic and research endeavours. We hope that their success will serve as an inspiration to other students and encourage them to strive for excellence in their own academic and research journeys.

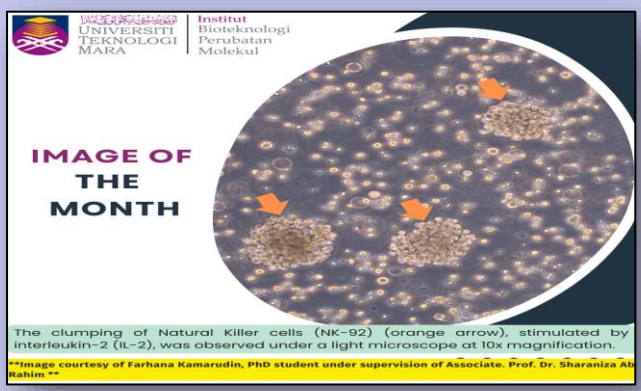


**Image of the Month: NK92 Cell Clumping Induced by IL-2.** This month's featured image captures the clumping of natural killer cells (NK92), stimulated by interleukin-2 (IL-2), as seen under a light microscope at 10x magnification. The image, courtesy **of Farhana Kamaruddin**, PhD student under the supervision of **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Shareniza Ab Rahim**. The IMMB encourages students to share their research images so that their scientific contributions are more visible and recognized. Let your work shine in our next "Image of the Month"!

**IMMB WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR WITH A PHOTOGRAPHY SESSION**. On 27th September 2024, the Institute of Medical Molecular Biotechnology (IMMB) organized a photo session to welcome its new Director, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wang Seok Mui**, at the Department of Medical Education (DoME). Themed in **black, white, and lilac**, the event symbolized a fresh start and a new chapter for IMMB. With Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wang Seok Mui at the helm, IMMB is set to embark on a path of continued growth and innovation, aspiring to achieve new milestones and further its contributions to the field of medical research in the coming years.

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