

BEYOND

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PAPRSB Institute of Health Sciences, Universiti Brunei Darussalam
Quarterly Newsletter



UBD Vaccination Centre at PAPRSB Institute of Health Sciences celebrated its milestone of administering the 50,000th dose in less than three months since its establishment on 21st August 2021. Photo credit: UBD Vaccination Centre Team.

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PAPRSB INSTITUTE OF HEALTH SCIENCES COLLABORATED ON INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH ON COVID-19 VACCINES

Dr. Anne Cunningham, Associate Professor

After the first FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine was rolled out globally in December 2020, Brunei quickly organised its national vaccination program as part of its public health effort in curbing the COVID-19 pandemic. In March 2021, the Ministry of Health Brunei began its immunisation of the general public in phases — beginning with healthcare workers, the elderly, adults and most recently adolescents. Brunei has distributed Sinopharm, AstraZeneca, Moderna and Pfizer vaccines to the public. These vaccines represent different technologies including whole inactivated virus (Sinopharm (BBIBP-CorV)), viral vector which includes the DNA sequence of the viral spike protein (AstraZeneca (AZD1222)) or a modified mRNA sequence of the viral spike protein (Moderna (mRNA-1273), Pfizer (BNT162b2)). All these vaccines have undergone trials elsewhere and have been shown to be of varying degree of efficacies and immunogenicities, depending on the demographic population and the stage of the pandemic in which the trials were done. These research data have been useful for public health strategies in determining the best suitable vaccines to obtain and distribute in other parts of the world. However, Brunei is yet to learn how the efficacies and immunogenicities of these vaccines fare in its own population.

A collaboration between immunologists from PAPRSB Institute of Health Sciences (IHS) (Dr. Anne Cunningham, Dr. Hazim Ghani, Dr. Liyana Ahmad & Dr. Hanisah Sharif) plus Professor Dr. Md Ayub Sadiq @ Lin Naing and Dr. Fazean Idris and others based in the Ministry of Health Brunei, EVYD Technology Ltd., and Duke-NUS Medical School Singapore was quickly established. The key question was to assess how effective these different vaccines (Sinopharm, AstraZeneca, and Moderna) are in stimulating the production of antibodies that can neutralise the virus SARS-CoV-2 (called neutralising antibodies (nAbs)) in the Bruneian population. The study was funded by CREATES and approved by MHREC. Over 24,000 adults who had completed their COVID-19 vaccination programme and met the study criteria were randomly recruited for the study by SMS text invitation and encouraged to attend an appointment at PAPRSB IHS to give blood samples. More than 2,700 participants agreed to join the study. The study is currently still ongoing and the research team are currently processing these blood samples. A neutralising antibody test called cPass will be used to determine the antibody levels in these samples. Individual test results will be disseminated to the study participants via SMS text to their personal phone numbers in due course.

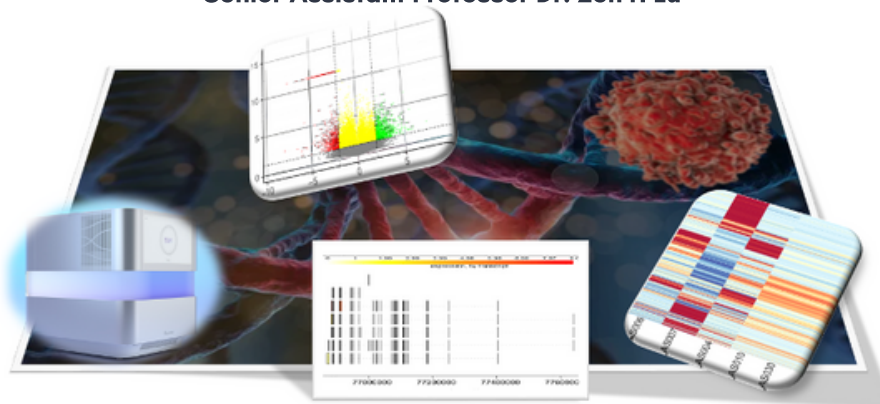
The study is currently only looking at the baseline neutralising antibody levels 2-6 weeks post vaccination. However the research team are planning to extend their studies in this population to answer the questions of how long lasting are nAbs following booster doses across the different vaccine platform, if any cross protection is observed with SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern, and what impact does breakthrough infection have. This will help inform whether future booster shots are needed to maintain protection against the disease in the population.



PAPRSB Institute of Health Sciences was involved in a collaborative COVID-19 vaccine research with the Ministry of Health Brunei, EVYD Technology and Duke-NUS Medical School Singapore. Top: the research project collected hundreds of blood samples per day at PAPRSB IHS. **Middle:** the research was facilitated by a group of volunteers comprised of BSc Biomedical Science students of UBD, Bachelor of Medical Biosciences students from Monash University, Malaysia and students from Politeknik Brunei. **Bottom:** research participants waiting for their blood samples to be collected by the research team.

RNA-SEQ: A NEW GENOMIC ARSENAL IN CANCER RESEARCH AT IHS BIOMEDICAL GENOMICS CORE LABORATORY

Associate Professor Dr. Lie Chen, Associate Professor Dr. Mas Rina Wati Haji Abdul Hamid & Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Zen H Lu



The Biomedical Genomic Core Laboratory at PAPRSB Institute of Health Science has successfully explored the genomic, exomic and transcriptomic landscape of Bruneians (both healthy individuals and cancer patients) since its establishment in 2020.

Precision genomic medicine at the university has grown from strength to strength since the inception of the well-equipped IHS Biomedical Genomics Core Laboratory*(BGC Lab) (https://twitter.com/BGC_lab) in 2020. A number of firsts in Brunei were achieved. A total of 60 human exomes have been sequenced since then to allow studies in areas ranging from pharmaco- to cancer genomics. More than 5 million short genetic variants have now been identified within the Bruneian population and these are expected to form the baseline for future genetic disease studies in the country.

BGC Lab has recently also added RNA-seq to its growing list of genomic and bioinformatics toolkits. The methodology allows high throughput transcriptomic (i.e. the entire expressed gene set in the human genome) studies of both healthy and diseased tissues. Again, another first in Brunei, we have applied the method to successfully investigate the transcriptomes of Bruneian breast cancer patients.

The lack of targetable progressive and therapeutic biomarkers is one of the many factors contributing towards high mortality in poor prognostic breast cancer patients. *KCNMA1*, a ubiquitously expressed and highly alternatively spliced calcium-activated potassium channel gene, is known to be upregulated in aggressive cancer cell lines, including that of the breast cancer. We investigated the potential of using the gene as a breast cancer biomarker by studying its differential expression, alternative splicing profiles and the expression of its interacting partner genes in 12 Bruneian breast cancer tissues of different histogrades and molecular subtypes. Illumina next generation sequencing (NGS) was performed on the extracted mRNAs from FFPE cancer tissues and the data interrogated using various bioinformatics tools. Preliminary results include the identification of 1029, 1172 and, 1048 differential expressed genes (DEGs) in Grade II, Grade II+ and High-Grade tissues, respectively; and *KCNMA1* alternatively spliced mRNA transcripts that were either up- or down-regulated in breast cancer tissues of different molecular grades. Additionally, two regulatory *KCNMA1* microproteins resulting from alternatively splicing of the gene showed considerable fold changes despite their differential expression being uncertain. Interestingly, a number of different *KCNMA1*-interacting genes among the DEGs were found in tissues of different histogrades; suggesting potential involvement of a group of channel genes in the invasiveness of breast cancer. Findings from this RNA-seq work were presented at the (online) International Symposium on Bioinformatics 2021.

A Nextseq2000 sequencer, the latest powerful NGS machine from Illumina, was acquired in January 2022. BGC Lab is expected to expand by the addition of more genomic and bioinformatics tools to further support research in precision genomic medicine, especially those related to cancer genomics, in the country.

**BGC Lab is the core facility of the Precision Genomic Medicine (PGM) research group at PAPRSB Institute of Health Sciences. For any research queries or potential collaboration, please contact the following academics of the PGM group:*

Dr. Mas Rina Wati Haji Abdul Hamid (PGM Research Group Lead) (rina.hamid@ubd.edu.bn)

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Dr. Kenneth Y Y Kok (kenneth.kok@ubd.edu.bn)

Dr. Anne Cunningham (anne.cunningham@ubd.edu.bn)

WORLD'S TOP 2% SCIENTISTS RANKING – DR. LONG MING'S SUCCESS STORY

Dr. Goh Poh Hui (Lecturer)

The list of the top 2% of scientists with citation impact for a single calendar year 2021 included 11 UBD academics. The presence of 11 UBD academics in this list is a testimony that research talent is nurtured, supported, and recognised in our university, and Associate Professor Dr. Long Ming is one of them. Dr. Long Ming from the PAPRSB Institute of Health Sciences has been an active researcher and academician over the past 14 years, holding various academic positions in Malaysia, Australia and UK. He has a deep interest in the field of clinical pharmacy and health service research, and in this regard, he has completed projects such as assessment of antimicrobial use, drug utilisation review and integrative medicine. These publications demonstrate his scholarship and research prolificacy, including publications in tier-one international journals such as *Lancet*, *Biomedicine and Therapeutics* and *BMJ Open*. Testament to that, he has been listed in the 2021 World Top 2% Scientists under categories Pharmacy and Pharmacology, Clinical Medicine and Neuroscience based on a study conducted by Stanford University in August 2021 (1).

He has demonstrated clear evidence of high performance through innovation. He has successfully completed more than 4 industry-sponsored research projects that focused on innovation and has developed prototypes for which he has won several international innovation competitions. His latest achievement was during the International Invention and Innovation in Dentistry Exhibition 2021 where his team won a gold medal for a project on dental education tool.

Additionally, he is active in herbal research as part of the UBD Herbal Research Group efforts to uncover the evidence of therapeutic uses of herbal plants, especially found in Brunei. Currently, together with Dk Dr. Nurolaini Kifli, the Leader of Herbal Research Group, they have worked together in a number of research projects, including investigating the anticancer effects of *Cosmos caudatus* extracts in human colorectal cancer cell lines. Dr. Long Ming has also been rated as a top researcher in the category of Medicines Safety, Drug Pricing, Social and Administrative Pharmacy, Medicines optimization in Google Scholar. Currently, he serves as an Associate Editor for *BMC Health Services Research* and *Frontiers in Pharmacology* as well as a Managing Editor for *Malaysian Journal of Pharmacy* (the official journal of Malaysian Pharmacists Society).

Dr. Long Ming commented: "I would like to relay congratulations to Universiti Brunei Darussalam and PAPRSB Institute of Health Sciences, Faculty of Science, and Faculty of Integrated Technology colleagues! The yearly increase of UBD researchers in the top 2% ranking list reflects the support and a collective commitment to research excellence. My working experience in Malaysia, Brunei, Australia, and the United Kingdom has definitely widened my outlook on academia and research, not just from a scientific viewpoint, but also through cultural and individual strengths. I am excited to see what our future brings when we continue to strive for the best!"

Description	Single Year 2021 citation impact
Author name	Dr Long Chiau Ming
Institution name	Universiti Brunei Darussalam
No. of papers (1960-2019)	141
Year of first publication	2010
Year of most recent publication	2021
Top ranked field for author	Pharmacy and Pharmacology
Rank of composite citation index including self-citations (all citations)	#2820
Rank of composite citation index excluding self-citations	#2569
Total number of authors within top ranked subfield	131,063



Left: Dr. Long Ming is ranked in positions that place him in top 2% globally in his research field. Dr Long is ranked #2820 and #2569 (including and excluding self-citations, respectively). This ranking has placed him within a total of 131,063 scientists who share his field and positioned Dr Long in global top 2% scientists of his field (1). **Right:** Associate Professor Dr Long Chiau Ming from PAPRSB Institute of Health Sciences has made the top 2% scientists in the world up to and within 2021. Congratulations!

Reference:

(1) Ioannidis JPA, Boyack KW, Baas J (2020) Updated science-wide author databases of standardized citation indicators. *PLOS Biology* 18(10): e3000918. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.1000918>

DR. HAJAH ASMAH SPOKE FOR PALLIATIVE CARE AND CARE FOR ELDERLY DURING THE PANDEMIC

Dr. Hajah Asmah Haji Husaini (Assistant Professor)

In conjunction with World Palliative Care day which is celebrated annually on the 8th of October, one of PAPRSB Institute of Health Sciences lecturers, Dr. Hajah Asmah binti Haji Husaini carried out several community based initiatives to raise the awareness of the importance of palliative care to the community. She co-authored a publication in the UBD Buzz Newsletter and spoke about the need of palliative care for dementia sufferers through a virtual seminar organized by Dementia Brunei which all are accessible in the public domain. On the 8th December 2021, members from the community learned more about palliative care, The Brunei Darussalam Central Bank (BDCB) invited Dr. Hajah Asmah to give a talk on palliative care, as part of their continuous professional development programme. The aim of this event was to raise the



Dr. Hajah Asmah advocates for the welfare and healthcare of the Bruneian elderly population. Dr. Hajah Asmah delivering her talk online on Palliative Care in December 2021.

awareness of the importance of palliative care in the care of chronically ill patients and frail individuals among the non-healthcare professionals community. The event was held virtually and attended by all the staff of BDCB. The one-and-a-half-hour talk sparked some important discussions about the need of support in the care of chronically ill patients in the community, particularly from the perspective working professionals who bear the responsibility of taking care of very ill family members at home, and the preparation of end-of-life care. Dr. Hajah Asmah hopes to be able to carry out more community-based activities that would raise the awareness of the importance of palliative care support in the future.

In addition, Dr. Hajah Asmah also had the opportunity to raise awareness on the importance of care particularly for the elderly population during this pandemic. Older people in the community face significant risk of developing severe illness if they contract COVID-19 due to the physiological changes that come with ageing. The Beta Nu Delta Nursing Society hosted the 4th Mindanao International Nursing Seminar (MINS) on 10-11th December 2021, via Zoom Platform. Dr. Hajah Asmah was invited as one of the plenary speakers to talk about "Nursing Care of Older Adults During Pandemic: An Experience from Brunei". The two-days online event aimed to highlight the significant role of nurses in ensuring the quality of care to the elderly population across different settings, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. This activity was open to all nursing professionals and students across the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Hong Kong. In her presentation, Dr. Hajah Asmah discussed the challenges of deciding on the acute admission for older people suspected to contract COVID-19 due to the atypical symptoms suffered by them when infected. She discussed the impact of nursing staff deployment as frontliners that resulted in a shortage of staff in the hospital and led to staff burnout, which ultimately affected the quality of care of elderly in the acute ward. She shared that the implementation of the Brunei National Vaccination programme was one of the main approaches to control the pandemic spread and manage the impact of COVID-19 infection in the Bruneian elderly population. Dr. Hajah Asmah also shared the initiative taken by Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) in establishing its own vaccination centre run by UBD staff members, students and alumni. The panel of speakers exchanged ideas and

information about best practices carried out to care for older people and patients during the pandemic and the factors associated with it. As this could be an evolving area of practice, future collaborations in this research were also established.

Dr. Hajah Asmah highlighted the importance of care for the elderly during this COVID-19 pandemic at an international seminar. Dr. Hajah Asmah spoke about the significance of quality of care for the elderly who are affected by the pandemic such as that demonstrated by UBD Vaccination Centre that was set up at PAPRSB Institute of Health Sciences.



IHS LECTURER PARTICIPATED IN AIRLANGGA PHARMACY SHARING SESSION

Dk Dr. Nurolaini Pg Hj Md Kifli (Senior Assistant Professor & Programme Leader of BHSc Pharmacy)

Pharmacy Airlangga Global AcadEmy (PAGE) is an open online learning program organized by the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Airlangga, Surabaya, Indonesia from September 2021 until January 2022. It is a free programme and is easily accessible to global participants, inclusive of students and professionals such as practitioners, academics, researchers and policymakers. The faculty members of PAGE consist of members from partner universities such as University of Sydney (Australia), Temple University (USA), Mahasarakham University Thailand, Universiti Teknologi MARA and Management and Science University (Malaysia).

PAGE 2021 offered a series of online courses under the umbrella theme "Revisiting Advanced Issues in Pharmacy Practice". The program covered a mix of unique topics related to advanced pharmacy practice issues such as pharmacy education, pharmacoepidemiology, pharmacoecology, social behavioral and administrative pharmacy, pharmacovigilance, and others. Each session was structured independently (non-sequential) to offer a broad understanding about pharmacy practice. The audience for PAGE were students, practitioners, academics, executives, and key policy makers at national, regional, and global levels who wish to refresh and unravel various advanced issues in pharmacy practice. Representing Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Dk Dr. Nurolaini Kifli (Programme Leader for BHSc Pharmacy) has participated as one of the presenters of the sessions with the title; "Learning Pedagogies adapted during the Pandemic" on 15th December 2021. A total of 85 participants joined the seminar during Dk Dr. Nurolaini Kifli's presentation. During her session, she shared the redesign of clinical and communication pharmacy modules using MyDispense® to teach clinical and dispensing skill in the undergraduate pharmacy programme. COVID-19 pandemic has led to substantial changes in pharmacy curricula, including less of face-to-face sessions such as the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE). The revised curriculum using virtual technology was implemented, and the feedback and outcomes were assessed. Faculty members comprising of pharmacy lecturers built the infrastructure, received training on the latest version of MyDispense® programme, developed learning units, and pilot tested the learning units.

Participants were asked to fill in an attendance sheet and feedback form before receiving Certificate of Completion of the Programme. They had mixed opinions regarding their experience of using MyDispense® for web based OSCE, though most of them agreed that they learned from this method of OSCE more than they could have from the actual face-to-face OSCE. Overall, there is a great need to evaluate whether modified methods of OSCE compromise the pharmacy education standards. Dk Dr. Nurolaini would like to acknowledge the close linkages between Pharmacy team with the Faculty of Pharmacy from University of Airlangga for the opportunity and collaboration in teaching and research in the past as well as in the future. PAGE website can be found here: <https://ff.unair.ac.id/wrt/915/page-ff-unair.html>



Dk Dr. Nurolaini Kifli presenting online at Pharmacy Airlangga Global AcadEmy (PAGE)

GLOBAL CLASSROOM PROMOTES INTERNATIONAL LEARNING AND SHARING IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

Professor David Koh

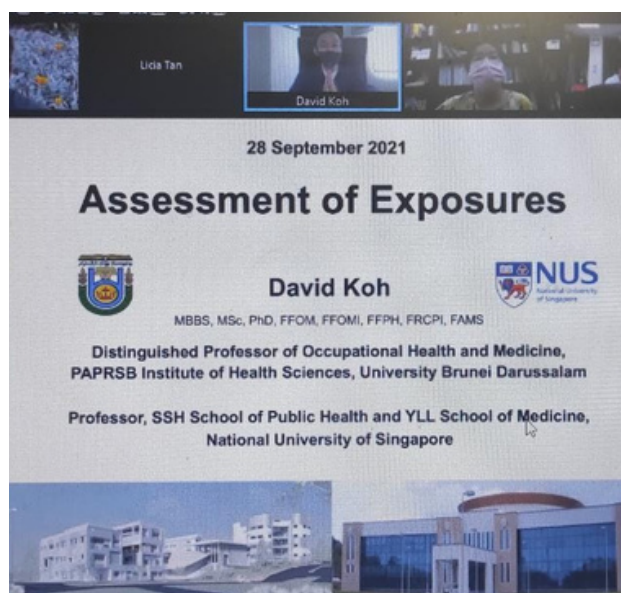
Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health,
National University of Singapore,
email: ephkohd@nus.edu.sg

PAPRSB Institute of Health Sciences (IHS) first joined the Global Classroom in 2012 which is a network of online sharing sessions with seven other universities in Asia including National University of Singapore, Seoul National University, National Taiwan University, University of Occupational and Environmental Health in Japan, United Nations University in Malaysia, Mahidol University in Thailand, and Kagawa University in Japan. PAPRSB IHS involvement in the Global Classroom was initiated by Professor David Koh and Dr. Nik Tuah as part of their efforts to expose the students of the Master of Public Health programme in PAPRSB IHS to current trending topics and recent advances in the field of occupational and environmental health.

Prof. David, in his interview with the newsletter team on the 9th of February over the Zoom platform, highlighted several benefits and purpose of this global classroom for the students. It provides an opportunity for the students to meet and connect with internationally renowned academics in the field and from top universities in the region. The students benefit from their experience, practices, and updates in the field of occupational and environmental health that are current in their respective countries. Another unique feature of this global classroom is it serves as a platform that fosters collaborative projects among students from various universities where they work on ideas together and exchange information. This creates an opportunity for the students to build lifelong network and relations. One of the first remarkable research projects produced by the global classroom was during the 2003 SARS outbreak that swept across the Asian region. Prof. David worked together with several other universities to assess the hazard of the coronavirus pandemic to healthcare workers. This has set a useful foundation for Prof. David and research team to similarly assess the impact and risk perception of current COVID-19 pandemic on healthcare workers, which publication of is currently underway.

The global classroom which runs annually from September - December offers lectures and sessions from various experts in partner universities for its international participants. One of the lectures was delivered by Prof. David on the topic of "Assessment of Exposures" which is a basic skill and protocol that one must do for a public health evaluation in environmental or occupational settings. He highlighted the importance of recognising exposure through the a multi-step process of identifying health hazards by reading and observing, examining and measuring the effects of the hazards to public health or the environment, and investigating the evidence for any association of exposure with health effects. In terms of awareness of occupational or environmental exposures in Brunei, Prof. David commented that there is still a lot to be done to help promote the significance and knowledge of hazardous exposures. Lessons from other countries suggest the benefit of educating students by offering a small course in public health to undergraduates (akin to a breadth module in UBD), and of promoting research or collaborative activities with a government body (such as the Department of Environmental Health, Ministry of Health Brunei).

Prof. David has recently left UBD in February 2022, having served a decade long as a Distinguished Professor in Occupational Health and Medicine since 2002. PAPRSB Institute of Health Sciences would like to express our sincerest gratitude for all the contributions and hard work he has done with our faculty and UBD.



Left: Prof. David's departure from UBD was celebrated by staff members of PAPRSB Institute of Health Sciences. **Right:** Prof. David delivering his talk on Assessment of Exposures at the Global Classroom in September 2021.

TWO IHS ACADEMICS ENCOURAGE FACULTY ENTREPRENEURSHIP THROUGH FREDIES

Dr. Hajah Asmah Haji Husaini (Assistant Professor) & Dr. Siti Rohaiza Ahmad (Assistant Professor)

Entrepreneurship Village (EV) was introduced in 2014 as a start-up incubation house in UBD and has since been producing skilled graduates and creating innovative projects of various fields. In June 2021, the Office of Assistant Vice Chancellor Innovation and Enterprise (OAVCIE) established the Faculty Representative Entrepreneurship Development (FRED) which is a group of UBD academics who can help foster skills of multi-disciplinary backgrounds, explore innovative ideas, mentor students who are pursuing entrepreneurial projects in UBD under EV, and collectively develop an Entrepreneurship Ecosystem for UBD. Each UBD faculty is represented at FRED by its selected academic members (FREDies) who report to Mr Kok Shien Lim who is the Deputy Director of Innovation & Enterprise and Head of Entrepreneurial Village.



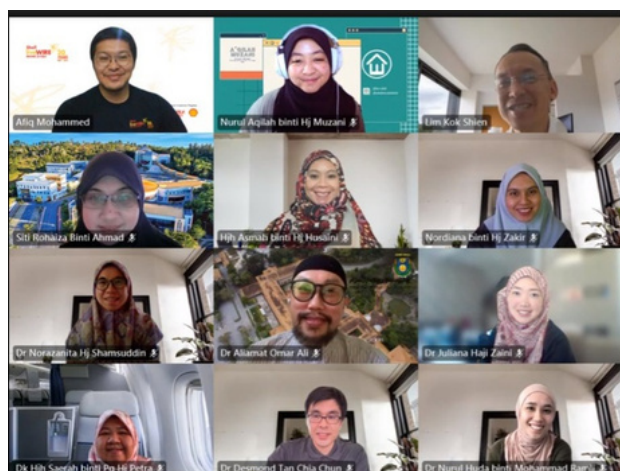
Dr. Hajah Asmah Hj Husaini (left) and Dr. Siti Rohaiza Ahmad (right) are mentors for FREDies under Entrepreneurship Village (EV).

Representing PAPRSB Institute of Health Sciences (IHS) as

FREDies until June 2023 are Dr. Hajah Asmah binti Haji Husaini and Dr. Siti Rohaiza binti Ahmad. Dr. Hajah Asmah specialises in the field of palliative and ageing care, whereas Dr. Siti Rohaiza focuses on the field of nutrition. All faculty representatives across UBD including Dr. Hajah Asmah and Dr. Siti Rohaiza have undergone an Entrepreneurship Training. They have been actively supervising students who are pursuing the incubation programme at the EV as part of their Discovery Year programme. One of their current projects involve designing a "jot", which is a cheaper version of an iPad. They also mentor students on projects related to the fields of healthcare and sciences. FREDies meet weekly to discuss updates on various entrepreneurial projects and events. This provides an inter-faculty opportunity for Dr. Hajah Asmah and Dr. Siti Rohaiza to build collaboration with the other FREDies on any potential multi-disciplinary research ideas and student activities.

Dr. Hajah Asmah and Dr. Siti Rohaiza would like to encourage current undergraduate students to pursue the incubation programme hosted by the EV for their Discovery Year. They would also like to add that final year undergraduate and postgraduate students, academic staff members, and alumni are all welcome to join the incubation program. These two IHS FREDies are planning to socialize the idea of entrepreneurship in the field of healthcare and sciences, and to share the activities carried out under EV to PAPRSB IHS faculty staff members and students. UBD hopes that with its entrepreneurship initiative through EV, it can achieve its goal of promoting the University Start-Up Center (USC), making UBD an entrepreneurial university that creates employment opportunities.

For any interests and queries, Dr. Hajah Asmah and Dr. Siti Rohaiza can be reached at their email addresses: asmah.husaini@ubd.edu.bn or rohaiza.ahmad@ubd.edu.bn.



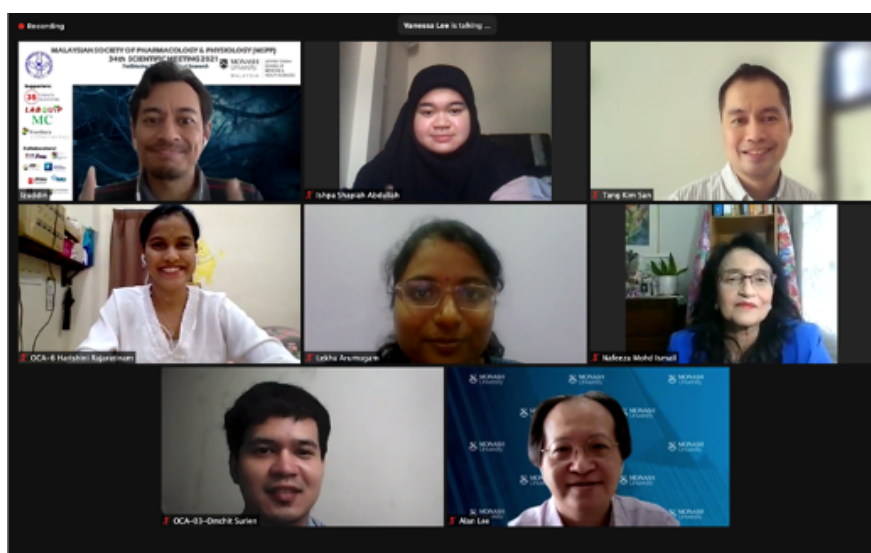
Left: FREDies gathered to discuss entrepreneurial ideas in a weekly meeting. **Right:** FREDies undertook a training on entrepreneurship by Steven K Gold who teaches entrepreneurial strategy and practices to global organisations.

PHARMACY STUDENT PRESENTED AT AN INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Ishpa Shapiah Hj Abdullah (BHSc Pharmacy, Cohort 2)

Ishpa Shapiah Hj Abdullah, a graduate student from BHSc Pharmacy (cohort 2) attended the 34th Scientific Meeting 2021 which was held from 15th to 17th July 2021 and organised by Monash University Malaysia and the Malaysian Society of Pharmacology & Physiology (MSPP). The virtual meeting drew more than 200 delegates and featured renowned international and local speakers. The focus of the scientific programme was on translational research under the theme of 'Trailblazing the Translational Research'. This was a three-day event that aimed at bringing together representatives from the Ministry of Health of Malaysia and academicians from various countries, as well as healthcare providers from public hospitals, private clinics and industries. It also gathered professionals of various backgrounds, including pharmacologists, general practitioners and scientists who came together to exchange and share ideas and research findings.

Ishpa who submitted her project manuscript with the title "Over-the-counter medicine attitudes and knowledge among university and college students in Brunei Darussalam first findings from the first national survey" was selected to deliver a 7-minute oral presentation in this project. She came home victorious, winning a spot in the top 10 for the oral presentation category among other thirty four presenters.



Top: Ishpa Shapiah Hj Abdullah (BHSc Pharmacy, Cohort 2) presenting her manuscript to judges and event participants.
Bottom: Ishpa Shapiah was placed among top 10 best oral presentations among other presenters, which award was presented virtually on Zoom platform.

DENTISTRY STUDENTS ATTENDED INTERNATIONAL COURSE: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF ORAL HEALTH IN ASEAN COUNTRIES

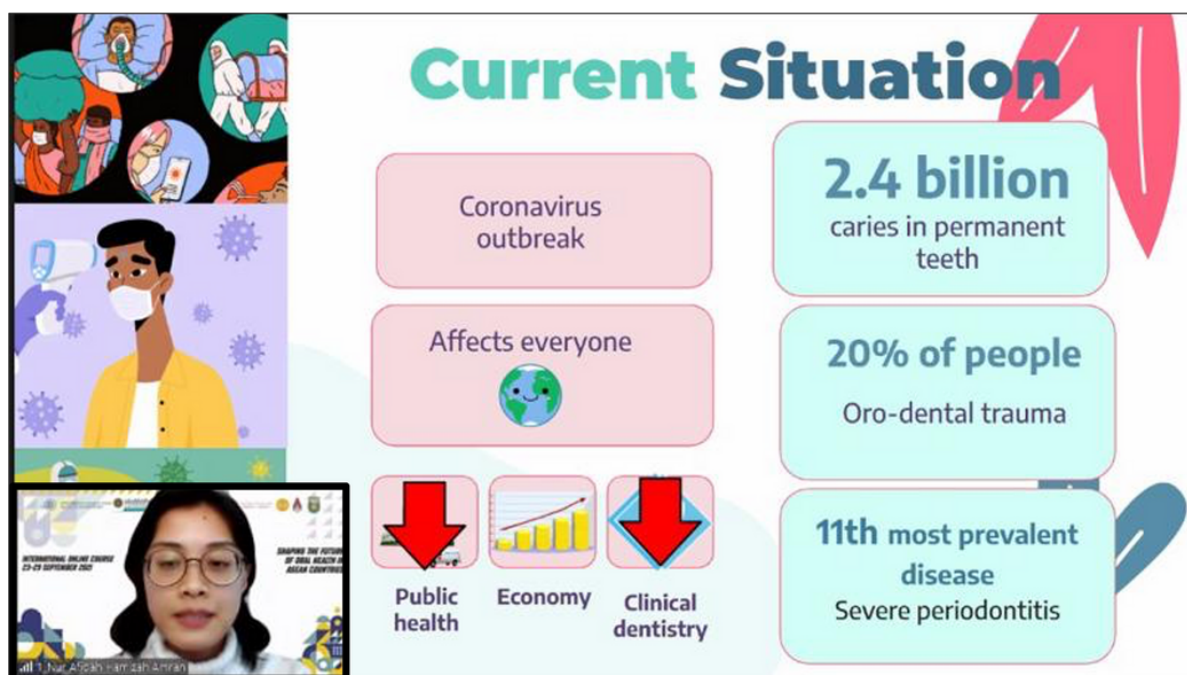
Erica binti Aammton, Nur Afiqah Hamizah Hj Amran (BHSc Dentistry, Cohort 3), Dr. Joe Knights (Assistant Professor) & Dr. Jagjit Singh Dhaliwal (Senior Assistant Professor)

A total of eight Year 3 undergraduate dentistry students from PAPRSB IHS represented Universiti Brunei Darussalam in the first ever International Online Course: Shaping the Future of Oral Health in ASEAN Countries. The virtual programme spanned six days from 23rd-29th September 2021 and was organised by the Faculty of Dentistry, Universitas Gadjah Mada in collaboration with other universities from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Myanmar and Thailand.

The course featured regional experts to address the question of how dental professionals will make a significant contribution to the improvement of oral health worldwide in the next decade. Students were engaged throughout with a variety of topics such as oral health and its relationship with non-communicable diseases, the role of technology and materials in oral healthcare, fundamental and translational research and new technology in dentistry.

A total of 103 dental students participated, allowing for the formation of 10 diverse teams, each comprised of different universities and nationalities. The subsequent group activities included creating a video performance and presenting a problem-based project. These sessions were highly interactive and allowed students to brainstorm innovative solutions to increase the quality of oral health in Southeast Asia across five key aspects: prevention of oral diseases, socio-economics, digital society, novel material for dentistry and relationship of oral health with nutrition. Throughout, students were given opportunities to foster new friendships amongst their teams, gaining understanding and appreciation of each other's backgrounds and culture. Ultimately, students learned to be more proactive in discussions and gained greater understanding of the role of dentistry in different ASEAN countries.

At the conclusion of the course, the organisers highlighted the following IHS dental students for their outstanding contribution; Erica binti Aammton, Valen Ong Jia Cin and Izzah Hazimah bte Haji Ramli.



One of Year 3 BHSc Dentistry students, Nur Afiqah Hafizah Hj Amran, spoke about the impact of COVID-19 on global oral health at an international online course organised by various universities.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS FROM PAPRSB IHS JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2021

Names of PAPRSB IHS faculty members and previous or current students are indicated in bold (114 number of publications).

1. **Abdul Aziz AAHH, Abdul-Mumin KH, Rahman HA.** Willingness of university nursing students to volunteer during the COVID-19 pandemic in Brunei Darussalam. *Belitung Nurs J* (2021) 7:285-293. doi:10.33546/bnj.1518
2. **Abdul Rahman H, Abdul Aziz A, Ibrahim MA, Suhaili N-A, Daud AZ, Naing L.** Implications of Islamic Governance towards Psychosocial Work Stressors and Work Productivity. *J Relig Health* (2021) 60:804-815. doi:10.1007/s10943-020-01134-0
3. **Abdul Rahman H, Bani Issa W, Naing L.** Psychometric properties of brief-COPE inventory among nurses. *BMC Nurs* (2021) 20: doi:10.1186/s12912-021-00592-5
4. **Abdul Rahman H, Bani Issa W, Rababa M, Idris DR, Abdul-Mumin KH, Naing L.** The elderly caregiver questionnaire for COVID-19 (ECQC-24). *Work with Older People* (2021) doi:10.1108/WWOP-09-2020-0050
5. **Abdul Razak R, Abdul Razak N, Zolkefli Y.** Community Nurse Managers' Views of Incompetent Nursing Practice: An Interview Study. *Int J Care Sch* (2021) 4:86-92. Available at: <https://journals.iium.edu.my/ijcs/index.php/ijcs/article/view/204>
6. **Ahmad L.** Implication of SARS-CoV-2 Immune Escape Spike Variants on Secondary and Vaccine Breakthrough Infections. *Front Immunol* (2021) 12: doi:10.3389/fimmu.2021.742167
7. **Alam F, Farooqui N, Rehman R.** Metformin, oxidative stress and male infertility: Way forward. *J Pak Med Assoc* (2021) 71:781-782. doi:10.47391/JPKMA.11-1318
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After contributing over 4 months toward the COVID-19 National Vaccination Programme, the UBD Vaccination Centre took a commemorative photo to mark its final day of operation on the 30th December 2021.



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