

Teamwork pays off

THE International Medical University (IMU) pharmacy programme's Year Three subject, Current Trends in Therapeutics, develops students' critical appraisal ability and component skills to prepare them for research projects in Year Four.

Students in small supervised teams "learn by doing" by undertaking a literature review. In 2016, this student-led activity saw five publications in peer-reviewed journals.

Year Three BPharm students Aruna Ranjan, Chu Jian Feng, Foo Wei Lim, Chai Zhi Xin, Eileen Lau Yin Yien, Ye Heuy Mien, Theam Xi Jin and Lok Yen Ling had their review "Zika Virus: Current Concerns and Perspectives" published in the *Journal of Clinical Reviews in Allergy and Immunology*, a peer-reviewed indexed journal.

They started the review in the period leading up to the Rio 2016 Olympics, when the Zika virus was a big concern worldwide.

As trainee healthcare professionals, they thought it would be useful to do a literature review on Zika virus infection and how to manage it. They also saw it as a chance to increase awareness of said virus in Malaysia.

According to Lok, "The process – from generating the idea, putting the material together in writing and finally to producing a full review article – was long and winding. It required persistence and teamwork."

Theam said a lot of information was collected from the literature and many

amendments were made to the article.

"Fostering an amiable team environment was also important to improve our performance via the recognition of our contribution and strengths. Our team also learnt to accept new ideas, have open communication and view each other as collaborators," said Ye.

IMU's Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons) students have the option to transfer credits in their first two years to the pharmacy programme in the University of Otago, New Zealand or University of Tasmania, Australia.

These international partnerships are a testament to the fact that IMU's innovative education is aligned to global standards.

Students can also complete the entire four-year pharmacy degree in IMU. The next commencement for the Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons) programme is in July and September.

If you are inspired to engage in a diverse career that involves the safe and effective use of medicines, apply online to enrol in IMU's pharmacy programme.

Those who have just completed their SPM and do not have pre-university qualifications can enrol in IMU's one-year Foundation in Science programme, the preferred foundation and direct route for entry into any of the university's local degree programmes.

■ For details, log on to www.imu.edu.my, e-mail start@imu.edu.my or call 03-2731 7272.



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(From left) Foo, Lau, Ranjan, Ye, Lok, Theam and Chu had their review published in the *Journal of Clinical Reviews in Allergy and Immunology* last year.