

# CONFERMENT OF EMERITUS PROFESSOR



## Prof Mak Joon Wah

Prof Mak Joon Wah was born in Penang in 1942. He obtained his medical degree from the National University of Singapore in 1967. After graduation, he served as a medical doctor for 5 years in the Ministry of Health Malaysia before joining the Institute for Medical Research (IMR) in 1972 which saw him heading the Division of Malaria and Filariasis, and the Biotechnology Division before his appointment as Director in 1995. After his retirement from IMR in 1997, he served for 3 years as Professor of Tropical Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences in Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Prof Mak joined the International Medical University (IMU) as Professor of Medical Parasitology in 2001, served as Dean of the School of Postgraduate Studies from 2006 to 2013 and was appointed as the Vice-President (Research) on 1 September 2011 as well as Director of the Institute for Research, Development and

Innovation (IRDI) in September 2012. He served as Pro Vice-Chancellor Research from January 2016 till his retirement in January 2017. Prof Mak is also a Fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia and a Fellow of the Academy of Medicine Malaysia.

Prof Mak's main research interests have been in tropical medicine, infectious diseases and bioactive molecules. He is a globally recognised expert in filariasis and malaria and has been appointed a World Health Organisation consultant in 17 countries. He has published more than 360 papers in refereed journals and was the Foundation Editor of the "Tropical Biomedicine", the first biomedical ISI journal in Malaysia. He has successfully supervised 13 PhD and 13 MSc students and has co-authored an "Atlas of Medically Important Parasites" with his wife, Dr Choong Mooi Fai, a text reference used by undergraduate and postgraduate students, having 5,000 copies currently sold worldwide.

For his significant contributions to fundamental and applied research in parasitology and tropical medicine, Prof Mak was the joint recipient of the National Science Award (Anugerah Sains Negara) in 1985, recipient of the Sandosham Gold Medal in 1989 and winner of the prestigious Merdeka Award for Outstanding Scholastic Achievement in 2011. At IMU's Convocation on 12 September 2015, Prof Mak received an Honorary Doctorate of Science as recognition of his immense contribution in promoting research at the University. Under of his dedicated stewardship, the university has made significant progress in research, as evidenced by increases in the numbers of peer-reviewed publication, external research funding, and numbers of postgraduate research students.