

## **MOU Signing Ceremony between the Ministry of Health, Department of Health Negeri Sembilan (JKNNS) and International Medical University (IMU)**

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The International Medical University (IMU) was established in 1992 as the International Medical College (IMC), Malaysia's first private medical college and attained university status in 1999.

IMU's learning philosophy is grounded on its core values, which fosters students' development into knowledgeable, competent and caring healthcare professionals who are critical thinkers, reflective and yet proactive.

Active involvement in the community allows students to translate knowledge gained in classrooms into health education to the public, enhance communication skills and strengthen professional and technical skills in real world environments.

All these combine to create graduates who are committed to lifelong learning and imbued with a sense of good citizenship, leadership and ethical behaviour.

Population-centred and person-centred paradigms in health system approach represents an enormous opportunity for IMU to advance vital components of her patient care, education and research, from one that is focused on caring for individuals, to adopting a population health framework across clinical, service, education, and research missions.

The opportunity we have to partnering with the State Health Department Negeri Sembilan is to provide improved healthcare delivery to the population of Negeri Sembilan. We hope that the students, their professors and clinical instructors are not seen as a burden on the healthcare department, but as an essential aspect of a dynamic environment involving researchers, learners, practitioners and patients, which develops the health human workforce and drives quality care. On the bigger objective is to promote the development of students to reach their true potential in becoming competent, ethical, caring and inquiring citizens and visionary leaders.

Through the partnership, both State Health Department Negeri Sembilan and IMU will work closely to develop a Health System Approach across three domains - Training, Service and Research - in the hope of elevating the stature and institutional commitments to population health as well as to build future leaders through partnership with communities and across sectors in improving health.

## **OBJECTIVES AND RATIONALE / BENEFITS**

1. Create Training programmes that supports the population and person-centred through engagement with real-life service.
  - Extending healthcare beyond discrete clinic visits and into patients' daily lives, reflecting the move towards self-management and patient-centred care, with promising early indications of impact on health outcomes and costs.
2. Conduct comparative effectiveness research and patient-centred outcomes research
  - The advent of even-larger distributed data networks may offer increasingly rigorous analysis of observational data derived from non-experimental settings evidence-based health-advancing interventions with possible infusions of state or federal support.
3. Provide care delivery models focusing on community-anchored interventions to optimise the health of the patient and populations for which they assume responsibility.
  - Through primary care and community-based interventions, integrating patient preferences into clinical priority-setting regarding behaviour change, and applying principles of behavioural economics to framing health-related choices.
4. Create inter-professional development or team science approach with input and engagements from multiple sectors,
  - Akin to the "health in all policies" approach, it will effectively address integrated attention from multiple disciplines; health, behavioural, social, and applied sciences of population health in an ideal "dry lab" platform for building and strengthening research and policy initiatives that bridge departments as well as participating IMU schools.

IMU is honored to be part of this initiative with State Health Department Negeri Sembilan, which will see us moving closer towards our objective to offer patient-centred healthcare and to provide the necessary knowledge for patients and the general population to be stewards of their own health.

This collaboration is part of the institution's oath to serve the community by giving them access to better healthcare. Working with State Health Department Negeri Sembilan offers us not just the opportunity to fulfil this dedication but also direct access to the community at the grass-roots level.

This helps us to better understand what is needed at the most basic levels for improved healthcare. We are also actively pursuing similar partnerships that will put us right where our expertise is needed - at the heart of the community.

Last, but not least, Negeri Sembilan is always close to our hearts as we first established ourselves here in 1992 and our original partnership is still going strong into our 3rd decade now. Physicians, nurses and staff have already formed deep and lasting connections with our

colleagues in State Health Department Negeri Sembilan and we trust it will be even more profound through this partnership.