

Creating awareness on Medical Biotechnology

KOTA KINABALU: Some 205 Science Foundation students took part in the virtual e-poster competition in conjunction with the International Medical University (IMU) Virtual Medical Biotechnology (MB) Day.

The students are divided into 41 groups and the best 10 posters were selected for the final online presentation held during the Virtual MB Day, on Oct 24, 2020. "Overall, all the entries showed great teamwork and collaboration amongst the group members, and they came up with creative and informative e-posters," said IMU in a statement, Monday.

"The students' participation in the virtual e-poster presentations was remarkable and so much fun.

"They did a commendable job in creating the artworks in the form of e-posters.

"The amount of preparation and research undertaken by the students in designing and creating the e-posters were impressive."

It added, even though there were only three official winners, all the students who have participated in this competition showed great creativity in their entries.

"Throughout the web presentations, participants were able to gain a lot of information regarding the every-day applications and amazing advancement of medical biotechnology.

"Interestingly, most of the entries submitted for the online e-poster competition were focused on Crispr (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) technology.

"The students' preliminary research and information mining has led them to understand how such gene editing tools can be applied in the fight against Covid-19," it said.

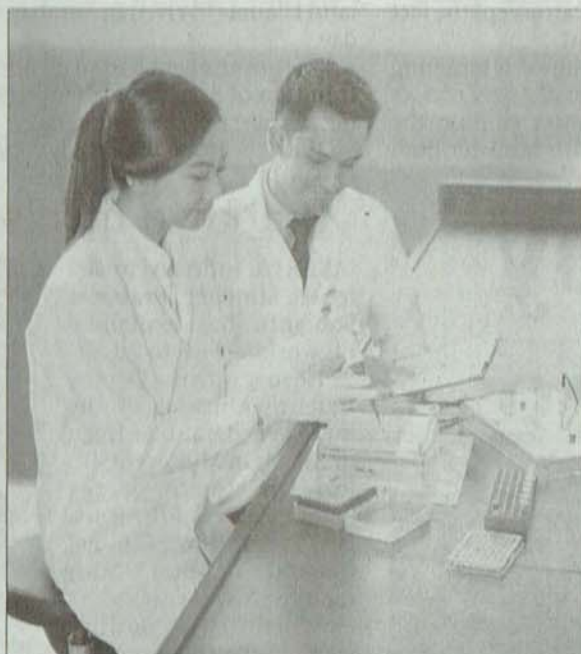
The first place winner was a poster titled "Crispr Based Point-of-Care (POC) Test" which showed the graphical landscape of Crispr as a diagnostic tool to detect the presence of the viruses and the potential it holds in controlling the current and future pandemics.

In second place was a poster titled "Reverse-Transcription (RT) PCR" which showcased RT-PCR as an effective tool in combating viral diseases, especially in detection of viral RNA (ribonucleic acid) in small-volume samples and quicker diagnoses.

And the third place winner was a poster on Crispr showcasing some of the advantages and disadvantages of this tool.

The theme for the MB Day was "The role of medical biotechnology in the era of the pandemic".

The Virtual MB Day also saw a guest speaker Jay Padasian sharing valuable information on the landscape of medical biotechnology in Malaysia's Healthcare Bioindustry.



Jay is a consultant for both the government and private sectors on healthcare bio-Industry, vaccines, medical technology, industry hub development and site selection. He has over 25 years' experience within the healthcare and bio Industries and was involved in building the healthcare bio-industry at Malaysian Bioeconomy Corporation.

"Jay shared about the medical biotechnology field which is currently booming and something to look forward to in the immediate years ahead.

"It is the key field that is known to offer solutions for major issues faced in today's world, such as the environmental crisis and the outbreak of pandemic diseases."

At the IMU, the curriculum of its medical biotechnology MB degree is developed to meet international standards and is accepted by renowned international partner university, University of Newcastle, Australia for credit transfer into relevant programmes.

Students can also complete the entire degree at IMU. IMU Medical Biotechnology graduates also have the opportunity to gain direct entry into the Strathclyde MSc Industrial Biotechnology or MSc Forensic Science.

They will only need to spend one year in Strathclyde to complete their Master's degree on a 15 per cent studentship of the published fee.

Commencement of this programme is in July and September.

For more information, refer to www.imu.edu.my.