



Vice Chancellor's Report 2021

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As we move forward, it is the clarity of our vision that will drive and empower our mission to be a globally recognised, community-centred hub of excellence in education, healthcare and research.

and Awards

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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



Dear readers,

We have moved beyond crisis mode.

The previous year saw us dealing with unprecedented times – responding to urgent situations with quick decisions and swift action. This year, 2021, has allowed us to consolidate our learnings and incorporate them into our ongoing efforts to enhance the overall student experience at the IMU.

It was an early decision that we made – to not be distracted from our longer-term goals and objectives, even as we dealt with the here-and-now issues. The lessons that COVID-19 has taught us, and continues to teach us, are manifold and likewise so are the opportunities.

These are my thoughts on the year, on the clarity we achieved and on how we can continue our journey.

Aspire to thrive

We did not get out of the crisis just to survive. We want to thrive.

Our roadmap has been laid out in ASPIRE III (the IMU Strategic Plan 2021-2025), our most recent five-year strategy. We embarked on ASPIRE III in March 2021, and it has two main pillars.

The healthcare education provider

The first is to cement our position as a top healthcare education provider in the country and in the region. This is about

Values-led and purpose-driven – this phrase has been brought to life in the past 12 months, and will continue to live on as we approach our 30th anniversary.

continuing our journey in transforming the delivery of our teaching and learning. We need to always ask, "How do we continue to differentiate ourselves?"

The answer lies in providing an outstanding student experience. While there are many factors to this, technology, particularly in terms of the digitalisation of our teaching and learning, will be an important feature.

The Academic Health Centre (AHC) ecosystem

The second pillar is the development of the AHC ecosystem, of which an important component is the IMU Hospital and the development of ambulatory care centres and services that will allow us to integrate innovative healthcare solutions such as digital health.

The AHC is a journey. Its ultimate destination is to integrate research, education and healthcare under one symbiotic system, starting with the holistic development of our students. We believe that if healthcare professionals are well trained in the different aspects of healthcare, they will be better prepared to serve effectively.

And that is what the IMU is about – developing students to be competent, safe and effective leaders.

The future is hybrid

It has become clear now that the future of higher education lies in a hybrid form of learning: a blend of face-to-face and virtual learning.

In line with this, a key initiative of ASPIRE III will be the digital transformation of education. While we are not new to this, recent events have generated new urgency, and so the plan now is to scale up more rapidly, using digital tools such as virtual reality and augmented reality. These digital educational tools and related technology will allow us to make learning more immersive and engaging.

Bioethics and humanities

Technology, however sophisticated, will not by itself produce the best doctors. Striving to provide the best platforms for the optimal student experience, we launched the Centre for Bioethics and Humanities this year. The Centre will consolidate and elevate scholarly work around the two areas.

While bioethics and humanities are by no means new components of the IMU curricula, having long been embedded in our various module offerings, the Centre will provide additional legitimacy, and signal to stakeholders that we believe these aspects to be central to the development of our students at the IMU. You can read more about the philosophy behind this in the feature on page 95.

Schools on track

The year saw many notable highlights, among them the launch of our new MBBS curriculum, and the Biomedical Science programme which has again received its international reaccreditation from the Institute of Biomedical Science. Enrolment at our Schools and Centres remained strong in spite of the current pandemic landscape. Some of the new programmes, such as digital health, are configured in a way that enables us to accommodate students from non-science-based backgrounds. This has opened up new markets for us.

In September, we launched an interactive online module that we developed together with the Ministry of Health (MoH) around patient safety. Engaging relevant stakeholders such as the MoH and building partnerships will always be an important focus at the IMU.

The School of Medicine also partnered with the district health department in Negeri Sembilan to help run the mobile vaccination centre (PPV) services. This not only enables us to fulfil our responsibility of assisting the Government in the nation's vaccination efforts, but also provides an important opportunity for our students to experience, as part of their essential learning, working with the community.

Details and highlights from each School, Centre and department are available within the pages of this report.

Healthcare challenges and opportunities

The year 2021 was admittedly a challenging one for healthcare. The Hospital's construction timeline was set back because of pandemic restrictions. Completion of construction is now slated for June 2022, and operations will commence in the fourth quarter of 2022.

Our ongoing digital telehealth initiatives, however, were fast-tracked. In the future, this will incorporate electronic medical records and enable us to mobilise technologies such as artificial intelligence that will give doctors and healthcare professionals access to more personalised and data-driven decision-making processes.

Research on target

The progress of our research students and researchers continued to be significantly affected by the restrictions due to limited access to laboratories. In spite of this, we met our targets in terms of research output – as evidenced by the number and quality of publications published, as well as research funding.

Journeying with us

In 2021 we also welcomed YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Dr Yahya Awang and YBhg Datin Paduka Setia Dato' Dr Aini Ideris as the IMU's new Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor respectively. The former is an icon in the healthcare services sector and the latter has an illustrious academic and research background. Neither is new to the IMU, and together they will continue to bring a wealth of wisdom and counsel to the IMU, especially as we embark on the journey to crystallise the AHC.

The future starts now

As we move forward we will continue to look for ways to enhance the learning experience.

We have started to develop the microcredential pathway, where bite-sized modules can be taken first as stand-alones, and subsequently as modules stacked into certifications or degrees. This would especially fit into the development of modular courses for working professionals looking to upskill or reskill. We expect to launch this in 2022 and this will add to the value proposition of our programmes.

As we continue the digital transformation of our teaching and learning, a central initiative is the use of data to enable personalised learning. By analysing how students interact with learning platforms we can better identify their learning needs and identify those who may require more support.

This is an important agenda at the IMU.

The development of new programmes is also a priority for 2022. One of these is the Master in Health Informatics and Analytics which will strengthen our suite of programmes around data and digital health. We also hope to initiate the Bachelor in Digital Health next year.

Values-led, purpose-driven

Looking back, perhaps one of the most important opportunities that the pandemic gave us was that it provided the impetus for us to break out of our silos and form multi-dimensional teams spanning multiple departments. This allowed people from various departments and divisions to come together and think together. It is this rallying of our most important asset – our people – that has been the key driving force through the year 2021.

Prof Abdul Aziz Baba Vice-Chancellor International Medical University

UNIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS 2021





YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Dr Yahya Awang was appointed as the seventh Chancellor and YBhg Datin Paduka Setia Dato' Dr Aini Ideris was appointed as the sixth Pro-Chancellor of the University.



A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with Selgate Healthcare to cater to the supply and demand of skilled and professional manpower in the areas of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and nursing, among others.



A Memorandum of Agreement was inked with the University of Nottingham together with REM Corporation at the IMU Bukit Jalil campus to discover and develop therapeutics from underexplored medicinal plants. There is definitely an increasingly powerful case for revisiting natural products for drug discovery.



The IMU virtually welcomed the pioneer cohort of students into the Postgraduate Diploma in Endodontics programme.



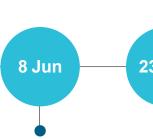
This photo was taken during a face-toface gathering at a later date.



The Centre for Bioethics and Humanities was officially launched on 23 June 2021 by the Vice-Chancellor of the IMU, Prof Abdul Aziz Baba.



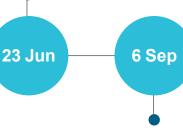
The IMU hosted its hybrid Convocation Ceremony for the Class of 2020 and 2021 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.



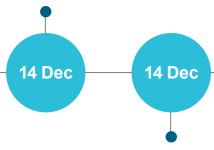
The IMU virtually welcomed the pioneer cohort of students into the Postgraduate Diploma in Prosthodontics programme.



The pioneer cohort gathering for a photo when movement control restrictions were eased up.



The IMU virtually welcomed the pioneer cohort of students into the Master in Health Informatics and Analytics programme.



Launch of the IMU's 30th Anniversary by the IMU's Chancellor, YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Dr Yahya bin Awang, together with Pro-Chancellor, YBhg Datin Paduka Setia Dato' Dr Aini Ideris, Chairman of the IMU Group, YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Dr Abu Bakar Suleiman and Vice-Chancellor of the IMU, Prof Abdul Aziz Baba.





The IMU shall be an innovative global centre of excellence in learning and research, supporting a community of scholars and professionals committed to serving society, promoting the development of students to reach their true potential in becoming competent, ethical, caring and inquiring citizens and visionary leaders. The IMU is committed to academic freedom and the principles of equal opportunity in the pursuit and application of knowledge, the highest standards of intellectual, educational and research productivity; and the establishment of a learning organisation that respects the individual.



As an educational institution, our mission is:

- To further strengthen the IMU as a centre of excellence for undergraduate programmes in medicine, dental, pharmacy, health sciences and complementary and alternative medicine programmes
- To establish the IMU as a centre for higher education providing training through multidisciplinary programmes
- To establish the IMU as a centre for postgraduate training and Continuing Professional Education
- To train knowledgeable and skilful professionals with high ethical standards who will be dedicated to serve and improve the quality of life of the community
- To train competent professionals with the use of innovative technologies of knowledge especially ICT in the teachinglearning process



Our organisational culture is to be based on our value system: We will be an organisation driven by its values. These core values, encapsulated in the acronym TRUST, are:

Trustworthy

We are trustworthy and stand for integrity, reliability and commitment

Responsive

To change, and to the needs of individuals and communities

Unity

Of vision and in working towards the achievement of common goals

Service

A commitment to providing outstanding service

Tenacity

In the pursuit of excellence

We expect staff and students to embrace, live and demonstrate these values, so that they may become role models. These values are integral to our culture; they underpin our work, communication and interaction, and explain why we do business in the way that we do. Our culture and its embedded values will help us realise our vision of becoming a great organisation, and of producing graduates capable of being leaders.



QUALITY POLICY

We aim to be an innovative centre of excellence in learning and research, producing competent, caring and ethical professionals who are lifelong learners. We are committed to achieving the highest standards of intellectual, educational and research productivity.

CHANCELLOR & PRO-CHANCELLOR



CHANCELLOR
YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Dr Yahya Awang
MBBS (Monash), FRCS (Glasgow), SMJ, KMN,
DPMJ, DMPN, DSAP, PSM, Hon Doct (UKM)



PRO-CHANCELLOR YBhg Datin Paduka Setia Dato' Dr Aini Ideris DVM (UPM), MVSc (Liverpool), PhD (UPM), FASc, FIAS, FMCVS, FMSA, SSIS, DPMK, DSIS, PSK, KMN

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Dr Yahya Awang

MBBS (Monash), FRCS (Glasgow), SMJ, KMN, DPMJ, DMPN, DSAP, PSM, Hon Doct (UKM)

YBhg Datin Paduka Setia Dato' Dr Aini Ideris

DVM (UPM), MVSc (Liverpool), PhD (UPM), FASc, FIAS, FMCVS, FMSA, SSIS, DPMK, DSIS, PSK, KMN

YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Dr Abu Bakar Suleiman

MBBS (Monash), MMed (S'pore), DMedSc (UKM), DSc Hon (UPM), PhD Hon (UMS), FRACP, FAMM, FAMS, FACP (Hon), FRCP, FRCPE, FRCP (Glasgow), FRCPI, FRCSI (Hon), FRCSE (Hon), FAFPM, FASc, AMP (Harvard), Hon DSc (Soton), Hon MD (QId)

YBhg Prof Dato' Dr Abu Bakar Abdul Majeed

BPharm (Egypt), MBA (USM), PhD (Neurophysiology) (Sheff)

YBhg Prof Dato' Mafauzy Mohamed

MBBS (Adelaide), MMSc (Sheffield), MRCP (UK), FRCP (Edin), HonDoc (IMU)

Prof Jeyakumar Henry

BSc (FoodTech) (Mumbai), MSc (Human Nutrition) (Lond), PhD (Human Nutrition) (Lond), AfN (UK), FIFST (UK), FIUFoST

Prof Abdul Aziz Baba

MBBS (Melbourne), MRCP (UK), MRCPI (Dublin), FRCP UK (Edinburgh), Member, Academy of Medicine Malaysia

Prof Victor Lim

MBBS (Malaya), MSc (London), MRCPath, FRCPath, FAMM, FASc

Noraidah Yusoff

BBA (Finance) (Ohio), MBA (N.Hampshire)

SENATE

Prof Abdul Aziz Baba

Vice-Chancellor, IMU Education

Prof Dr Zabidi Azhar Mohd Hussin

Pro Vice-Chancellor, Academic

Prof Vishna Devi V Nadarajah

Pro Vice-Chancellor, Education & Institutional Development

Prof Toh Chooi Gait

Pro Vice-Chancellor, Engagement and Industrial Partnership

Prof Victor Lim

Pro Vice-Chancellor, Quality and Special Functions

Prof Datuk Dr Lokman Hakim Sulaiman

Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research

A/Prof Dr Tan Eng Lai

Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies

Prof Ian M Symonds

Dean, School of Medicine

Prof Seow Liang Lin

Dean, School of Dentistry

A/Prof Mohd Zulkefeli bin Mat Jusoh

Dean, School of Pharmacy

Prof Winnie Chee Siew Swee

Dean, School of Health Sciences

Prof Nazimah Idris

Medical Director, IMU Healthcare

Prof Khoo Suan Phaik

Dean, Community Engagement

Prof Er Hui Meng

Dean, Teaching & Learning

Prof Sharifah Sulaiha Hj Syed Aznal

Associate Dean, Clinical Affairs & Development, School of Medicine

Prof Mallikarjuna Rao Pichika

Associate Dean, Research & Consultancy, School of Pharmacy

Prof Chin Beek Yoke

Associate Dean, Research & External Affairs, School of Health Sciences

Prof Azizi bin Ayob

Deputy Director, Commercialisation & Support, IRDI

Prof Leong Chee Onn

Deputy Director, IRDI

Prof Shar Mariam Binti Mohamed

Associate Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies

Prof Zhou Wenxin

Professor, Chinese Medicine

Prof James Koh Kwee Choy

Professor, Internal Medicine

Prof Dr Ong Chin Eng

Professor, Life Sciences

Prof Nafeeza Hi Mohd Ismail

Professor, Pharmacology & Therapeutics

Prof Dato' N. Sivalingam A/L Nalliah

Professor, Surgery

Lim Kean Ghee

Professor, Surgery

Prof Shahid Hassan

Professor, Surgery

Prof Dato' P Kandasami A/L Palayan

Professor, Surgery

Ex-officio Members

Christy Chiu

Chief Operating Officer & Chief Financial Officer

Zuhanariah Mohd Nordin

Chief Librarian

Noor Azlinda Aripin

Legal Counsel, Legal & Secretarial

Secretary

Noraidah Yusoff

Registrar

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Every year, the Academic Council (AC) meets to discuss the issues involved in running the University. It serves as a platform to bring together the University and its Partner Medical and Dental Schools, and to enable representatives to share updates as well as discuss administrative and academic matters. Areas reviewed typically revolve around entry requirements, intakes and other admissions issues; evaluations of all curricula; issues related to the development of respective faculties; research, strategies, activities and partnerships; and postgraduate training in both medicine and dentistry. AC members participate in the discussions and debate on a wide variety of teaching and learning issues to make recommendations and to a certain extent, decisions on transfer matters. The AC continues to play a core role in ensuring that the IMU and its partner institutions remain aligned to the core foundational strategy.

This year's 32nd annual AC meeting was held from 15-16 March. It was carried out in hybrid mode with the physical meeting held at the IMU Bukit Jalil campus while international partners joined online due to pandemic travel restrictions. Although the lack of interaction in a non-physical meeting was felt, the online meeting gave access to more faculty and personnel to attend the AC sessions. This resulted in the attendance of more than one representative from





each of the Partner Schools, which gave opportunities for broader understanding of IMU partnerships, Partner Schools' students, and their various contexts.

Two sessions of the AC were held each day to accommodate the time difference in Australasia and United Kingdom/Canada. During the two days, **Partner Medical Schools** (PMS) had two breakout sessions based on COVID-19 pandemic-centred themes. The topics discussed were:

- Adaptability to the COVID-19 pandemic in the School of Medicine
- Strengthening clinical skills training through the pandemic and beyond

At the same time, the **Partner Dental Schools** (PDS) held their annual meeting, which was chaired by Prof Richard Logan, Dean of the University of Adelaide's dental school. Prof Allan Pau, the then Dean of the IMU School of Dentistry, updated PDS representatives on the dental programme at the IMU. It was also reported that students

had transferred smoothly to the PDS in the UK while border and travel restrictions meant there were no transfers to New Zealand and Australia. The meeting also discussed the topic "Adaptability to the COVID-19 Pandemic in the School of Dentistry".

The PDS were also updated on collaborative initiatives as below:

- MOOC Tobacco Cessation by Dr Sobia
 Bilal
- 2. Ask the Experts by Dr Rohit Kunnan Menon
- 3. Dental Wiki by Dr Umer Daood

Dr Mandakini Mohan presented the Student Preparedness Survey analysis to the meeting. The report showed that the PDS had no major concerns with the competencies of IMU students who had joined their programmes.



PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Professional Education Advisory
Committee (PEAC) is a key driver
of the IMU's commitment towards
the continuous improvement of our
educational programmes. The committee
plays an advisory role and works together
with all Deans, including those from our
partner institutions, to ensure that we
evaluate and evolve all aspects of our
educational programmes. Our findings
are collated in an annual report and
submitted to the IMU Board of Governors.

Due to the restrictions of the pandemic, the PEAC meeting was not conducted in 2021. Instead, a mid-term review was held in November where the PEAC members reviewed the PEAC 2019 recommendations offline. One paper, "Strategy of Continuing Professional Development (CPD)", was reviewed based on the feedback and recommendations given last year.

The PEAC members are:

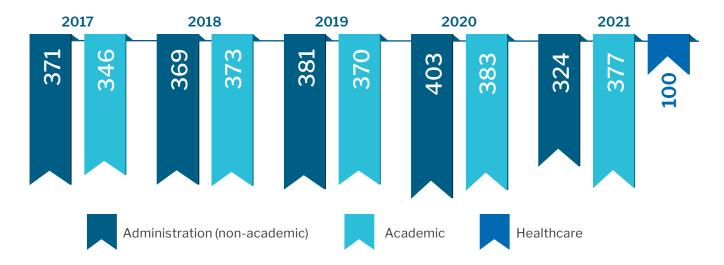
- Prof Trudie Roberts, University of Leeds, UK
- Prof Richard Hays, University of Tasmania, Australia
- Distinguished Prof Annemarie Hennessy, Western Sydney University, Australia
- Prof Tan Sri Salleh Yassin, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia
- Prof John J. Norcini, Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER)
- Prof Nairn Wilson, Queen Mary University of London, UK

The PEAC members and the IMU agreed that a full-fledged meeting will be held in March 2022. This is to give ample time for all Schools to report the updates of their teaching and learning initiatives in terms of "Adaptation to the Pandemic" which was first reported in the 2020 meeting.

The clinic session was not conducted in 2021 either. A review of papers has been circulated and if not closed, will be further deliberated at the next PEAC meeting.

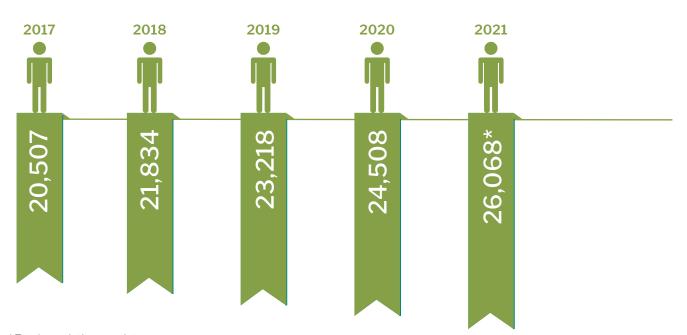
IMU STAFF POPULATION

as of 30 November 2021



IMU STUDENT* POPULATION

as of 30 November 2021



^{*} Total population consists of current students and alumni





Launched in 2014, our one-year Foundation in Science (FiS) has become the top choice for pre-university students considering undergraduate studies in the University's medical and health sciences programmes. By providing a solid introduction to scientific method and other broader areas of study, FiS helps school-leavers transition smoothly to the undergraduate level. Whether at the IMU or at our partner universities, FiS students enjoy a variety of academic opportunities and pathways.

As is reflected in the name of our programme, our primary objective at the Centre for Pre-University Studies is to lay the foundation for students so that they can go on to realise ever bigger dreams. This focus on "foundation" was also very much part of the approach we took as we entered the second year of the pandemic: "How can we take this experience and build on it?"

In 2021 we worked on strengthening methods already in place as well as introducing new solutions to help our students successfully navigate this early, critical part of their academic and professional journey.

PROGRAMME



Foundation in Science (FiS)



TEACHING AND LEARNING (T&L)

- At various points in the year depending on intake as well as movement control order (MCO) restrictions – we conducted T&L via fully online mode, face-to-face, or a mix of both.
- For online, we increased the number of synchronous lectures across all FiS modules, ensuring that at least 90 percent of lectures were synchronous by the second quarter of 2021.
- Videos: To streamline and increase access to T&L materials during the pandemic, a total of 19 Biology and Chemistry lab experiment demo videos were developed with the help of the eLearning team. The videos were filmed and edited by the lecturers, with further editing done by the eLearning team. We also created an Articulate 360 activity on the Gamification of Biology topics.
- Tablet and writing pad teaching, in place of physical whiteboards, was rolled out across all online FiS modules.

- Assessment:
 - In 2021, we successfully implemented and carried out online assessments and exams for all intakes on the Online Assessment System (OAS), with online proctoring or face-to-face when this was allowed under the MCOs.
 - We conducted student feedback surveys on the efficacy and process of online assessments, with respondents stating they were satisfied with how the process had been implemented.
 - Average cGPAs showed no major differences between online exams and face-to-face exams.
 - To relieve the burden on teaching staff, we employed more staff members in January, and we also greatly increased the number of Exams Unit external proctors.
 - Students were surveyed on their vaccination status in preparation for their return to campus to resume face-to-face T&L sessions.



OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2021 we explored various approaches that might bring us closer to the roll-out of a non-science stream foundation programme for the IMU. A minimum of three undergraduate programmes must be in place for these students to progress to at the IMU. In addition to the existing bachelor's programme in Psychology, there is the proposed bachelor's programme in Digital Health. Partner direct entry is being explored as a third pathway with the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA).
- The winner of the IMU AFLAME Student Award 2021 (Nur Nabila Nasharuddin of the School of Medicine), and the winner of the PEArL Award 2021 (Shivadeva Selvamani, also of the School of Medicine), are both former FiS students.



In the year ahead we will focus on making sure our programme remains relevant within the ever-changing landscape of the sciences. Apart from ensuring that all aspects of the FiS experience continue to be accessible to students even in unpredictable times, we will also work to keep it in sync with the broader trends and transformations in healthcare.



"Our responsibility is to prepare students to handle the rigours of an undergraduate programme. In doing so, we are also helping to lay the foundation for the entire journey ahead. The FiS teaching staff have really stepped up to the mark to develop an excellent online learning experience for the students, with great mentoring support, preparing them for the rigours of online learning in their intended undergraduate studies."

Dr James Edward Walsh, Director, Centre for Pre-University Studies



SPOTLIGHT [7]

PROGRAMMES

Digital health: starting them early

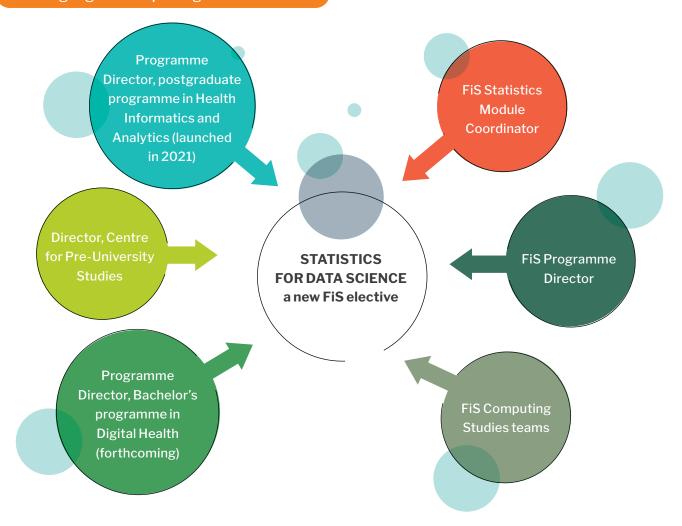
At some point in the very near future, doctors and healthcare practitioners will be looking back and wondering how their predecessors ever managed to help patients without this digital tool, or that bit of data.

At the Centre for Pre-University Studies, the pressing question is no longer how to prepare our students for an undergraduatelevel course in digital health, but how to

bring digital health into our own programme - because this is what digital health has become: part of the foundation.

One of our initiatives in 2021 was the development of a digital health-related FiS elective to feed into a proposed Bachelor's programme in Digital Health. With our other IMU colleagues, we worked on converting the current FiS Semester 3 Statistics elective module to a module on statistics for data science. We hope to launch this new elective in April 2022.

Working together to put together an elective





At the School of Medicine, our aim is to nurture doctors and psychologists who will distinguish themselves with their expertise, passion and compassion. We empower students with professional skills and knowledge while instilling empathy, team spirit and a sense of community service. Our extensive curricula, clinical training and partnerships ensure that students are well prepared for fulfilling careers and leadership roles in healthcare.

PROGRAMMES



Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS)



Bachelor of Medical Sciences (Hons)



Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Psychology



Master of Counselling

The year in review saw the School of Medicine (SOM) affected in various ways by the ongoing pandemic. Restrictions limited clinical placements at IMU teaching hospitals and clinics, while international travel controls impacted transfers to Partner Medical Schools in Australia and New Zealand. There was an increase in requests from students to defer studies, reflecting the effect of prolonged isolation on students' wellbeing.

Amidst these challenges, however, we remained committed to our vision of being an internationally recognised centre of excellence in medical education. We further strengthened our hybrid delivery model (online and face-to-face) and successfully minimised delays in completion of courses. We also achieved a major milestone with the launch of our MBBS new curriculum. With the new curriculum, we are well-placed to respond to the recent strong interest shown in medical careers: in 2021, applications to MBBS increased by more than 30 percent.



MBBS: The new MBBS curriculum was launched in February (see 'Curriculum for the future").

Master of Counselling: An online visit (20 Sep) by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) to go through the Provisional Accreditation (PA) conditions resulted in a favourable outcome, with the MQA noting that we have complied with all conditions outlined in the PA letter.

BSc (Hons) in Psychology: This programme concluded its internal review with the Academic Quality Committee (AQC).



TEACHING AND LEARNING (T&L)

- The SOM's hybrid delivery of the curriculum ensured that programmes experienced minimal interruption despite COVID-19.
- Clinical simulation learning played a bigger role in students' clinical training due to the restricted number of placements in the teaching hospitals and clinics. Also instrumental were virtual webinars and
- forums. Of note was a virtual forum for Year 2 students organised in partnership with the International Engagement Unit and Chang Gung Memorial Hospital.
- Enhancing student interaction was the focus of several initiatives (see "The MBBS is not a solo journey").
- Global Lecture Series (GLS): A total of five GLS talks were organised in 2021, with staff and students engaging with globally renowned speakers on a variety of topics.
- International Undergraduate Medical Research
 Conference: This conference, organised with the IMU's
 Institute for Research, Development and Innovation
 (IRDI), focused on undergraduate research. It was held
 virtually. (2-3 Nov)





- In 2021, we conducted 10 webinars, online conferences and clinical postgraduate training/workshops.
- IMU MRCS Preparatory Course (Part A):

 This 12-day course was organised by members of the SOM's Department of Surgery and the IMU's Centre for Lifelong Learning (ICL), who have conducted similar courses for Part B. A total of 60 postgraduate trainees from various countries attended the course. The objective was to prepare surgical trainees and those awaiting houseman posting for a career in surgery, their master's degree and the MRCS (Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, England & Ireland) exam.
- IMU Family Medicine Postgraduate
 OSCE Preparatory Course: One of the
 IMU's signature CPD events, this course
 was organised by the SOM's Department
 of Family Medicine and the ICL. (31 Jul and
 14 Aug)
- 2nd IMU Mock Examination for the Conjoint MAFP/FRACGP: For the 14th consecutive year, the IMU successfully supported the Academy of Family Physicians of Malaysia in hosting this much sought-after event organised by the Department of Family Medicine. (17 Jul)



 The SOM took important steps to strengthen research activity in 2021 (see 'Embracing research at the SOM").



• Supporting Negeri Sembilan vaccination efforts: In our collaboration with the Seremban District Health Office vaccination team, we supported an outreach programme for vaccination services for secondary-school children, immobilised citizens at home, and people living in plantations and rural areas, including Orang Asli villages. The SOM provided the workforce and facilities to enable fast delivery of services. The collaboration (from 20 Sep to end-Dec) enabled students to learn and fulfil course requirements, and IMU staff to carry out their community service.



- District Partnership Initiatives:
 Workshops on "Training the Trainers
 on Adolescent Sexual & Reproductive
 Health" were successfully conducted
 in Negeri Sembilan, and were attended
 by healthcare professionals and school
 counsellors. (5 Mar and 28 May)
- SOM members in Let's Talk: Health
 Webinar Series: In the first phase of
 the IMU's new Pulse of the Community
 initiative focusing on the Bukit Jalil
 community, SOM members served
 as speakers for this webinar series.
 (Jul and Aug)
- Other community activities in 2021
 include fundraising by the Orthopaedic
 Surgical Society, collaborations with
 Hospital Tuanku Ja'afar Seremban on a
 Blood Donation Drive, and conducting
 online webinars for our community
 partners, for example, providing training to
 students and teachers of Lautu Refugee
 School to enhance the ICT knowledge of
 underprivileged adolescents.





The SOM supporting an outreach programme for vaccination services by the Seremban District Health Office vaccination team.



- Supporting the battle against COVID-19: In 2021, the SOM continued to assist the Ministry of Health in general, and the State Health Offices of Wilayah Persekutuan and Negeri Sembilan specifically, in handling the pandemic crisis.
- The Examination for Provisional Registration was conducted in collaboration with the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC). The exercise allows young medical graduates from unrecognised universities to be reassessed for eligibility to be registered with the MMC in order to practise in Malaysia. (19 Jun)



MOVING FORWARD

As COVID-19 is becoming endemic in Malaysia, we expect to see more opportunities for experiential learning through hospital postings. We will continue to strengthen our engagement with community partners. Leveraging on the Industry Partnership & Career Development Unit's network with industry partners, we also hope to implement "observership" programmes for students next year. In research, plans include enhancing the visibility of Research Interest Groups (RIGs) through the organisation of an Annual Research Week.





PROGRAMMES

Curriculum for the future

The new MBBS curriculum launched in February reflects major revisions to the previous programme. Key principles underpinning the new curriculum include team-based practice for better peoplecentred care; greater emphasis on immersive learning; real experiential learning within interprofessional practice; and a shift of content focus to wellness and disease prevention, with components and modules on Introduction to Health Professions, Healthcare Delivery Science, Behavioural Science within the enhanced Professional and Personal Development Programme, Nutrition and Dietetics, and Social Entrepreneurship.

Despite having to deliver most of the teaching and learning (T&L) activities online due to the pandemic, we were thrilled to introduce our new Year 1 curriculum to students of the first MBBS cohort in 2021. While there were limitations in terms of real experiential learning, the preparation for better immersive learning via simulation and various virtual T&L methods helped students to cope and meet course expectations.

Throughout the year, we continued with the development of T&L and assessment materials for Years 2 to 5. We are collaborating with the University's Community Engagement Department and Industry Partnership & Career Development Unit (IPCDU) to secure industrial placements for rotations i.e. Early Clinical Attachment, Special Study Course (industrial training) and Transition to Clinical Practice.

RESEARCH

Embracing research at the SOM

In 2021, as part of initiatives to strengthen research activity and output at the School, the SOM Research Advisory Committee (SOMRAC):

- organised six webinars covering research-related topics identified by SOM members. Importantly, these have become a platform where the speakers are also from the SOM.
- organised the Global Lecture Series with renowned speakers from around the world. The five sessions organised in 2021 were attended by faculty members and students.
- facilitated the formation of small Research Interest Groups (RIGs) comprising 4-8 members of similar interest. The activities of RIGs within and across groups will be encouraged and steps will be taken to increase their visibility.
- organised the first Annual Research Day in February, during which SOM departments were awarded for their research and publication-related achievements in 2020.
- helped members to review their research proposals before submission to the IMU

Cualitative Research II

Out Control of the Control

In 2021, SOMRAC organised six webinars covering researchrelated topics.



The Global Lecture Series featured renowned speakers from around the world.

Joint Committee on Research and Ethics (IMUJC). To support student research, mock viva sessions were arranged for every cohort.

- initiated a proposal to organise a conference on undergraduate research.
 The proposal attracted participation from the IMU's Institute for Research,
 Development and Innovation (IRDI) and other Schools, and the International Undergraduate Medical Research
 Conference was held successfully.
 (2-3 Nov)
- published the inaugural eNewsletter capturing the main research and publication-related activities of the SOM.

SOM research highlights 2021

147 papers published

116 in indexed journals85 in Q1/Q2 journals1.0 publications/faculty

RM2,895,877

in research grants

(including one **FRGS grant** for RM133,500)

46.4%

SOM members involved as principal investigators in various projects

TEACHING AND LEARNING

The MBBS is not a solo journey

Studying to become a doctor (much like the job itself) is rarely a solo endeavour. In 2021, the SOM undertook several initiatives to enhance student interaction, build teamwork skills, and ensure students always situate themselves within the bigger picture of healthcare.



- The Introduction to Health Professions
 (IHP) course for Semester 1 students
 was part of the MBBS new curriculum. Its
 organisation and delivery online reflected
 strong interaction and teamwork between
 senior students and IMU faculty and
 staff especially from the Alumni Office,
 the Student Services Department and
 the eLearning Department. The course
 itself features teamwork sessions,
 interactive sessions with IMU Healthcare
 professionals, role play and group work.
- The peer tutoring programme was initiated in late 2020 with junior students (from the ME120 cohort) and senior student tutors (ME119). The programme was effective in improving student performance in the First Professional Exam Part 1 in June 2021. Senior students also reported that they themselves learned more when they taught the junior students, and that this helped them prepare for the First Professional Exam Part 2 in May 2021.
- Interprofessional Learning Day (IPL) is an annual event for all Year 1 undergraduate students. IPL enables MBBS students to interact with students from other programmes and to understand each other's roles within the Malaysian healthcare system. Due to the pandemic, this year's IPL was held online for the first time. (10 Nov)

"By building on our experience in online delivery over the past two years, we now have before us an exciting opportunity to further improve our students' learning experience through our programme of digital transformation."

Prof Dr Ian Martin Symonds, Dean, School of Medicine



We are committed to producing exemplary, compassionate and responsive clinicians capable of delivering top-quality, patient-centred comprehensive care using contemporary technology. Resilient and adaptable, our graduates will advocate for better oral health and healthcare through exceptional leadership, entrepreneurship and inter-professional collaboration. Our dynamic programme curricula, well-equipped facilities, experienced faculty and an extensive clinical training component ensure that graduates are relevant and remain sought-after.

PROGRAMMES



Bachelor of Dental Surgery



Postgraduate Diploma in Implant Dentistry



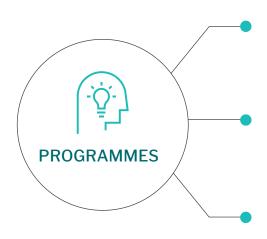
Postgraduate Diploma in Endodontics



Postgraduate Diploma in Prosthodontics In 2021, the School of Dentistry (SOD) continued to focus on delivering a positive learning experience for students. As always, the aim was to produce work-ready graduates who are committed to being the best in their fields.

Staff and students demonstrated an increasing familiarity with online platforms, with some of their initiatives recognised as good practice at regional conferences. Outside the lecture halls, SOD students also took on leadership positions among peers, racking up impressive accomplishments by way of events and the industry magazine *Teeth Talk*.

This year the DT116 cohort for Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) successfully graduated with a 100 percent pass rate. As we bade farewell to these students (who had come on board in 2016 for our well-established flagship BDS programme), we welcomed the pioneer cohorts for our two new postgraduate diploma programmes.



Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS):

A revised curriculum was implemented for the 2021 cohort.

Postgraduate Diploma in Implant
Dentistry (PGDID): A revised curriculum
was implemented for the 2021 cohort.

Postgraduate Diploma in Endodontics (PGDEN) and Postgraduate Diploma in Prosthodontics (PGDPR):

These programmes were successfully launched in April and June respectively (see "Next-level dentistry: endodontics and prosthodontics").



The Postgraduate Diploma in Implant Dentistry 2021 cohort.



TEACHING AND LEARNING (T&L)

- Curriculum content was delivered as per programme requirements, without compromising students' learning experience despite ongoing restrictions due to the pandemic.
- Assessments were conducted within approved timelines without compromising assessment methods. This ensured that students were able to comply with Malaysian National Dental Programme Standards.
- Clinical training: We implemented various measures, for both online and face-toface, to ensure students' clinical skills learning remained on track (see "Teaching clinical skills").
- Partner Dental School track students:
 For transfers affected by international travel restrictions, we negotiated with Partner Dental Schools and agreed on new timelines, keeping students constantly updated.



• IMU International Dental Students Conference 2021 (IDSC 2021): The SOD successfully organised this new virtual conference in October for the first time. The conference aims to provide a platform for dental students to share their research work, clinical cases, oral health promotion videos and sharing perceptions. The theme was "Excelling through Evidence-Based Dentistry". (16-18 Oct)



The inaugural IDSC in numbers

22 universities from 13 countries (including India, Indonesia, Australia, Lithuania, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates and Malaysia)

119 registered participants

81 abstracts received in various categories:

- **63** oral presentation
 - 6 case presentation
 - 9 oral health promotional video
 - 3 "sharing perception competition"
 a platform for students to share their perceptions of and vision for innovations in dental education.
- Oral Health Week 2021: The student-led Oral Health Committee organised and held this event via social media platforms, with the theme "Smile Behind the Mask". (16-22 Aug)
- Other events: Throughout the year, the SOD organised a wide range of online courses, workshops and webinars, several of which were continuing professional development (CPD) events.



 Six students from the DT118 cohort published a systematic review in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (see "Academic Achievements and Awards").

Papers published by the SOD in 2021

69 papers published

83% in Tier 1 and Tier 2 journals

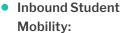
1.77 publications/faculty



 The 5th edition of Teeth Talk magazine, focusing on special care dentistry, was released digitally on social media platforms, and the QR access code was sent to 1,555 Malaysian dental clinics.



Teeth Talk is produced by SOD students for the dental fraternity and also to educate the public on issues pertaining to oral health.



■ The 1st Virtual
Inbound Student
Mobility Programme
"The Global
Experience"
with Universitas
Muhammadiyah
Semarang (UNIMUS)
saw the participation
of 49 students from



UNIMUS and 14 from the IMU. (14-26 Jun)

■ We also organised virtual mobility programmes with Guru Nanak Institute of Dental Sciences and Research, and Rishiraj College of Dental Sciences. (18-29 Oct)

 A/Prof Dr Sivakumar Arunachalam was awarded the Teaching Excellence Award on University Day, and was also the recipient of the John Simpson Trophy for Teaching Excellence.



MOVING FORWARD

One of our priorities in the coming years will be to put in place more initiatives to compensate for lost clinical training time and allow students to receive adequate clinical experience. The SOD will also continue to engage with stakeholders to draw up guidelines to ensure students' learning and patient safety are not compromised. This would include a stringent infection control monitoring policy.

Finally, we aim to strengthen our utilisation of technology, not just in T&L but also in workflow to enhance efficiency and efficacy, for example including the teaching of digital workflow in prosthodontics, in tracking of students' clinical progress, and in dentist-student-laboratory communication.

"We need to continuously stay vigilant and resilient, yet allow our creative and innovative minds to flourish."

> Prof Dr Seow Liang Lin, Dean, School of Dentistry

PROGRAMMES

Next-level dentistry: endodontics and prosthodontics

In 2021, we achieved two major milestones in our postgraduate offerings with the launch of new diploma programmes in endodontics and prosthodontics. Both can be pursued as full-time (one year) or part-time (two years).

Prosthodontics is the treatment, using prostheses to restore the aesthetics and functions of partial or complete edentulism (the condition of being without natural teeth). Treatment modalities include implants, crowns, bridges and dentures.



The inaugural cohort for the Postgraduate Diploma in Prosthodontics (PGDPR 121).

Endodontics is related to the treatment of the dental pulp (nerve within a tooth). Root canal therapy is a common form of endodontic treatment.



The inaugural cohort for the Postgraduate Diploma in Endodontics (PGDEN 121).

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Teaching clinical skills

The teaching of clinical skills online is itself a skill that takes effort to master. In 2021, as the pandemic continued to limit face-to-face instruction, we at the SOD continued to work on providing our students with the best possible online experience.

Online videos featuring demonstrations of practical and clinical procedures were made and shared with students. These were compiled to create a video library that students can access in their free time to enhance personalised learning. Online supplementary case-based "role-play" activities were designed and implemented to promote communication skills (information gathering/giving) and critical thinking (diagnosis and treatment planning).

In October, we began implementing real-time student monitoring and evaluation of clinical experience using Open Dent software integrated with Microsoft Power BI. This enables tracking of students' clinical progress to meet programme standards and national dental programme requirements of minimal clinical experience (MCE) and expected clinical experience (ECE).

At the Oral Health Centre, patient flow was one of the ways in which the pandemic impacted clinical skills training, with patients concerned about seeking dental treatment in light of COVID-19 risks. To ensure students were given opportunities to provide patient care, we focused on reassuring patients that strict SOPS were in place at the Centre. We also gave special consideration to aerosol generating procedures (AGP) by renovating the Centre and setting up 20 AGP bays.



A pre-clinical hands-on teaching and learning activity for PGDID121.



The IMU's School of Pharmacy has built a solid track record of producing students who are fully prepared for the demands of the workplace. Our graduates are well equipped with skills beyond the pharmaceutical practice and go on to become pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists who excel in their work and are leaders in healthcare.

PROGRAMMES



Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons)



Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Pharmaceutical Chemistry

At every White Coat Ceremony, we welcome new students to the School of Pharmacy (SOP) and ask them to make a commitment to professionalism. Professionalism is paramount; at the same time, it is our aim to ensure that our students also learn the importance of teamwork, perseverance, empathy and creativity. These were the critical factors that enabled us to meet the challenges of 2021 and record numerous achievements during the year.

We were able, for example, to conduct the Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE) face-to-face for our students, despite pandemic-related controls. We also received attention for the innovations in remote OSCE that we had introduced and implemented the previous year; these were documented in a research paper that was well-received.

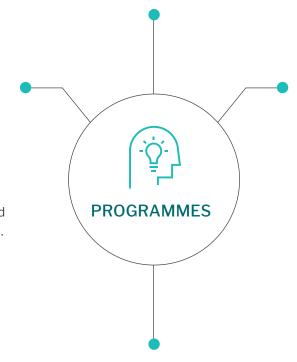


Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons):

- Suggestions received in September 2020 from the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) reaccreditation panel were addressed, approved and implemented in 2021.
- The proposed new BPharm (Hons) curriculum was approved by the Pharmaceutical Sciences Curriculum & Assessment Committee (PSCAC) Meeting. It will be implemented starting with the first cohort of 2022.

Bachelor in **Digital Health:**

This programme received MQA and Ministry of **Higher Education** approvals in 2021 and will be launched in September 2022.



BSc (Hons) in **Pharmaceutical Chemistry:**

Learning outcomes of all modules were revised to meet the new Code of Practice for Programme Accreditation (COPPA) standards. Assessment blueprints were changed accordingly.

Micro-credential programmes:

The Planning Committee for New Programmes and Projects (PCNPP) and Senate approved micro-credential programmes on:

- Immunology and Infections
- Introduction to Data Engineering Application to Healthcare
- The Practice of Data Engineering Application to Healthcare
- Cosmetics and Cosmeceuticals: Beginner Level
- Basic Epidemiology and Pharmacovigilance
- Evidence-Based Practice
- Quality Management and Regulatory Systems



TEACHING AND LEARNING (T&L)

- Online synchronous lectures were delivered successfully across all modules, along with flipped classroom sessions.
- OSCE: This year, the Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE) for Semester 4 (BP119) and Semester 8 (BP117) were successfully conducted face-to-face.
- Hospital placement: With the help of hospital preceptors, hospital placements for BPharm BP117 students were conducted online. Comparisons with previous batches of students revealed that the online training did not impact students' performance.
- Industry partners: We engaged with several industry partners in delivering T&L activities: Blackmore Institute, Australia (for complementary medicine); CCM Pharmaceuticals (for business management), and AMPM Pharmacy and Caring Pharmacy (both for community pharmacy).
- 3rd Stakeholders Meeting: This meeting brought together 33 industry experts representing government departments, research institutes, hospitals, pharmacies, pharmaceutical companies, societies and IMU postgraduate alumni. The relevance of the SOP curriculum in meeting industry expectations was discussed, along with changing trends in the pharmacy and chemistry professions. In general, the stakeholders appreciated the SOP's curriculum content and delivery. (6 Jul)
- Guidelines on online T&L: Building on lessons learnt in 2020, we produced several sets of guidelines covering e-learning innovation, interactive videos, e-practicals (digital transformation of laboratory practicals), recording rules and informed consent for external lecturers, and database management.
- Instructional or demo videos: A total of 31 videos were developed for skill-based T&L activities.



RESEARCH

- A total of 98 research papers were published by the SOP in 2021.
- A paper on the SOP's innovations in OSCE was published in Pharmacy Education Journal (see 'Stesyen berikutnya").
- We also received external research funding for research as well as contract research.

External research funding in 2021

IMU-Monash University Malaysia (School of Pharmacy)	RM20,000
Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC, UK)	£4,000
Malaysia Toray Science Foundation	RM14,000
REM Corporation (see "Remedies from the Plant Kingdom")	RM200,000*

^{*} to be shared with University of Nottingham Malaysia



- MyPSA National Pharmacy Competition Clinical Pharmacy Challenge: The SOP hosted this quiz, which saw 20 teams across the nation tackling multiple choice questions, short answer questions, OSCE questions and a final round consisting of a 30-minute case study presentation. The IMU teams emerged as First and Second Runners-Up. (8-9 May)
- Pharmaceutical Chemistry Week 2021: This annual event is a collaboration with Institut Kimia Malaysia (IKM), the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) and the American Chemical Society (ACS). The theme was "Chemistry for Health and Well-Being", and the programme included talks, alumni and industry experts sharing experiences, and video contests. More than 200 secondary school and pre-university science students participated. (17-18 Jul)
- Pharmacy Week 2021: The IMU Pharmacy Students Association (IPSA) organised this event around the theme for World Pharmacists Day 2021, "Pharmacy: Always Trusted for Your Health". A total of 350 students from Malaysia and abroad attended the webinars on digital health, data sciences and mobile apps for pharmacy. (20-25 Sep)
- School of Pharmacy E-Learning Day 2021: The theme for this event was "Digital Transformation of Higher Education Amid COVID-19". In addition to a keynote address, two sharing sessions, "Ask the Experts" and "Ask the Students" were conducted. (5 Oct)



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Community activities: In a PULSE
 Community Project at Ti-Ratana Home,
 the SOP collaborated with the School of Dentistry to offer medication review assessments and dental screenings.

 (28 Aug)
- Engagement of SOP staff at IMU
 Healthcare: The SOP's registered
 pharmacist staff were involved in
 dispensing and medication counselling.





- Virtual White Coat Ceremony
 2021: This ceremony was
 organised for the BP121 cohort
 on 17 September. The President
 of the Malaysian Pharmaceutical
 Society (MPS), Tuan Haji Amrahi
 Buang, delivered the keynote
 address, emphasising the
 significance of professionalism
 and ethics in healthcare. A short
 video, Invisible White Coats,
 was showcased as a tribute to
 Pharmacy graduates who had
 served the nation during the
 pandemic.
- The SOP renewed its institutional membership with the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) and actively participated in FIP events.

- Dr Ho Ket Li (Life Sciences Department) developed a web-based application to provide COVID-19 and other health informatics information to the public. He also initiated a YouTube channel, "Malaysia Health Analytics", for public education.
- IMU Professional Practice Fellow: In the inaugural year of this initiative, 16 alumni were appointed, with backgrounds in community and hospital pharmacies, and the pharmaceutical industry.



MOVING FORWARD

We expect a busy year ahead as we continue to address points raised at the annual Stakeholders Meeting. We hope to explore various ways in which the upcoming IMU Hospital can play a key role in BPharm students' learning. We also look forward to unveiling our newest programme, the Bachelor in Digital Health, which is slated for launch in September 2022.





Top: Virtual White Coat ceremony 2021.

Above: PULSE Community Project at Ti-Ratana Home.

RESEARCH

Remedies from the plant kingdom

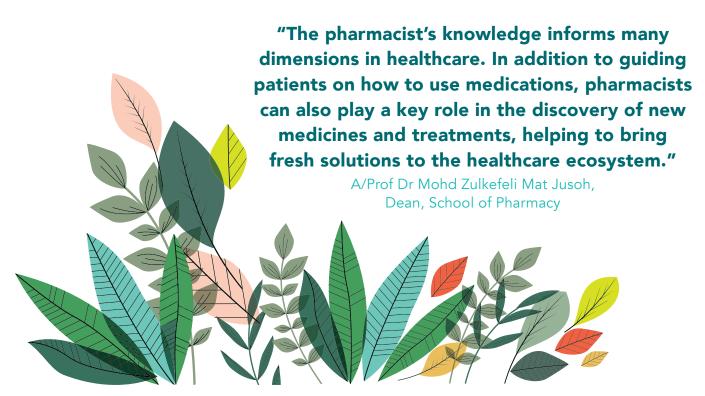
More than 50% of our pharmaceuticals and nutraceuticals are derived from plants. This number is expected to increase further as the IMU signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) on 5 April with the University of Nottingham Malaysia (UNM) and local winery REM Corporation, to embark on a three-party collaboration to discover and develop therapeutics from underexplored medicinal plants.

In addition to providing funding of RM200,000 (to be shared between the IMU and UNM), REM Corporation under the leadership of Managing Director Dr Donald Chen will work to authenticate the plants provided for the studies and to supply plant specimens for analysis.

The UNM research team under Prof Lim Kuan Hon and A/Prof Premanand Krishnan will conduct the research component, collecting and processing selected plant materials as well as extracting, isolating and structuring characterisation of pure compounds from selected plant materials.

The isolated compounds will then be tested by the research team from the IMU consisting of Dr Lim Wei Meng, Prof Leong Chee Onn, Dr Wong Lai Chun and Dr Hii Ling Wei.





RESEARCH/TEACHING AND LEARNING Stocker berikutnya

Stesyen berikutnya (Next station)

The Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) is a method for assessing a student's clinical ability. It consists of multiple stations where candidates perform various tasks within set time limits. The exam requires a circuit of small rooms and sufficient numbers of assessors and standardised simulated patients (SPs).

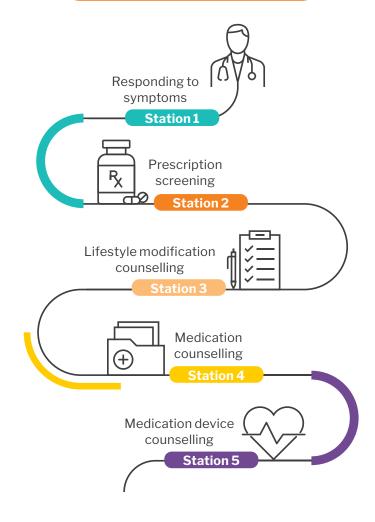
The SOP was the first School at the IMU to implement the OSCE. As a method of assessment, the OSCE is widely deemed to be the gold standard, but what happens when a pandemic hits? In 2020, the SOP introduced an online OSCE for final-year Pharmacy students. The circuit was streamlined from 14 stations in the face-to-face OSCE to five, and the entire process was moved online, with faculty members doubling up as examiners and SPs/prescribers.

In a post-OSCE survey, the majority of respondents agreed that instructions for the process (95.5%) and tasks (100%) had been clear. More than 60% of the respondents agreed that the OSCE had gone smoothly.

A research paper by SOP faculty (Dr Wong Pei Se, Dr Anil Tumkur Mruthyunjaya, Suresh Shanmugham, David Chong, Dr Pravinkumar Ingle and Dr Syed Imran Ahmed) on the SOP's innovations in OSCE was recently published in *Pharmacy Education Journal*. The authors concluded that "the results offer a promising direction for the 'remote' assessment of skills, but require further validity evidence."

Titled "Implementing Remote Pharmacy Objective Structured Clinical Examination during the COVID-19 Pandemic", the paper was well accepted by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), which publicised it on social media.

Remote OSCE (2020): stations and professional tasks





We offer programmes related to allied health, with four divisions covering undergraduate courses in nutrition, dietetics, nursing, biomedical science and medical biotechnology, and a postgraduate course in diabetes management and education. We believe in inter-professional education, service learning and evidence-based practice. Irrespective of specialisation, all students work towards becoming passionate and committed allied health professionals who prioritise excellence in innovation and research, as well as laboratory and clinical practice.

PROGRAMMES



Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Dietetics with Nutrition



Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Nutrition



Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Biomedical Science



Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Medical Biotechnology



Bachelor of Nursing (Hons)



Bachelor of Nursing Science (Hons) Post Registration



Postgraduate Diploma in Diabetes Management and Education

The year 2021 saw many pandemic restrictions from the previous year remaining in place or being re-introduced. This time around, with the infrastructure put in place for teaching and learning, we were able to maximise opportunities with the use of digital learning platforms and hybrid delivery.

There were numerous highlights across the divisions at the School of Health Sciences (SOHS), namely Nutrition and Dietetics (N&D), Applied Biomedical Science and Biotechnology (ABSB), Nursing, and Postgraduate, as well as the Centre for Transformative Nutrition and Health (CTNH).

BSc (Hons) in Biomedical Science:

- This programme received renewal of its international accreditation with the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS), UK, for the next five years. With this, the IMU is one of only five universities in Malaysia to be conferred this recognition.
- This programme also completed the Compliance Evaluation and Programme Review exercise.

Postgraduate
Diploma in Diabetes
Management and
Education: This
programme completed
the First Cycle
Curriculum Review
exercise.



The **Bachelor of Nursing (Hons)**

programme was granted threeyear accreditation by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) (re-accreditation).

The BSc (Hons) in Medical Biotechnology is now recognised as a professional programme by the Malaysia Board of Technologists (MBOT), with graduates recognised as "Graduate Technologists" (and subsequently "Professional Technologists" after three years

of working experience in the relevant setting).

Bachelor of Nursing (Hons)

ODL: The facility visit by the MQA and Nursing Board Malaysia was conducted via Zoom for this open and distance learning (ODL) programme.



TEACHING AND LEARNING (T&L)

- Postings, internships and student mobility were mostly conducted in virtual or hybrid mode due to pandemic restrictions.
- Clinical postings for the Nursing programmes were postponed to 2022.
- Internships included opportunities for N&D's final-year Dietetics students with our industry partners Naluri and LiveSmart Malaysia. The Medical Biotechnology programme under ABSB partnered with Australia's NUW Alliance on the Virtual Science Internship (VSI), with IMU faculty mentoring Australian undergraduates over six weeks using
- the Practera platform. A "reverse-VSI" would then see NUW Alliance faculty (University of Newcastle, UNSW Sydney and University of Wollongong) mentoring IMU students.
- Student mobility: The Nursing division's programme with student mobility partner Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan, was conducted as a medical online training programme.
- Assessment: At N&D, the final-year OSCE for Dietetics and Nutrition was revised to be conducted fully online.



CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

- CPD events in 2021 included:
 - ABSB's "Diagnostic Lecture Series 2021: Essentials in the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory" (23-24 Aug)
 - N&D's "Nutrition Management of Liver Diseases" and "Food Safety and Sustainability during the COVID-19 Pandemic" (14 Oct and 24 Nov)
 - The Nursing Division's "Digital Transformation in Nursing Education" (7 Oct)



"In a world that is increasingly digitised, our students maintain real-world experiential learning in order to integrate the use of technology without losing sight of human interaction."

Prof Winnie Chee, Dean, School of Health Sciences

- Online Forum with GPAC members: The annual Graduate Preparedness Advisory Committee (GPAC) forum for students again featured sessions for N&D, ABSB and Nursing (see "What happens next?").
- Webinars: Numerous webinars were held in 2021 (see "Nurses vs Viruses").

Centre for Transformative Nutrition and Health

- Food Handlers' Training Course (Latihan Pengendali Makanan): We conducted this course online in 2021. A total of 10 training sessions were conducted for 137 participants who were students, stall operators and food manufacturing workers.
- First Online Training on Healthy School Canteen in Southeast Asia: This seven-week online module, launched on 12 July, was part of the CTNH's collaboration with the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre for Food and Nutrition (SEAMEO RECFON). The module targets school principals, teachers and canteen operators in Southeast Asia.

Nutrition and Dietetics

- Case-sharing sessions: Two sessions were organised with Sri Ramachandra University, India. (15 Apr and 30 Apr)
- IMU-Deakin Live Talk: "Why Nutrition is Important to Our Health" was organised together with Deakin University. (26 Aug)

Applied Biomedical Science and Biotechnology

- 11th Malaysian e-Symposium of Biomedical Science (MYSYMBIOS): This national-level undergraduate event was organised by students of the IMU Society of Biomedical Science (ISBS). Conducted virtually, it attracted over 400 participants from universities all over Malaysia.
- Biomedical Science Week 2021: This virtual event was organised by the IMU Society of Biomedical Science (ISBS) in conjunction with International Biomedical Laboratory Science Day (IBLS). The theme this year was "Infection Science". (22-26 Mar)
- Medical Biotechnology Day 2021 was held virtually, with the theme "Biotechnology Innovation for Diseases". Events included an e-poster competition, game sessions and talks. (24 Apr)
- Medical Biotechnology Industry Forum: The theme this year was "Pandemic and Post-Pandemic Interpersonal Skills in the Workplace". (9 Sep)

Nursing

• Nursing Research Enhancement workshop: This workshop was conducted successfully for Bachelor of Nursing Science (Hons) Post Registration students, to further enhance their understanding of nursing research. (19-27 Jan)

Postgraduate Diploma in Diabetes Management and Education

• Live Talk at PG Info Week 2021: Dr Lee Ching Li and Dr Tan Ming Yeong shared insights on the career options of a diabetes educator in this talk organised by the IMU. (10 Apr)





RESEARCH

Regional Centre for Special Educational
Needs (SEAMEO SEN): This collaboration
focuses on research into "Advocating
Proper Nutrition in Special Education
Schools for Children with ADHD and
Down Syndrome in Southeast Asia".
Meetings were held to discuss next steps
as data collection had yet to commence
due to COVID-19 restrictions in Malaysia
and Indonesia.

Research at the SOHS

60 papers published

RM960,000 total grants

RM640,000 external grants
RM320,000 internal grants



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

COVID-19 vaccination efforts. Faculty in the Nursing Division provided support by:

 (1) assisting the Ministry of Health's mobile vaccination team with pre-vaccination assessment and registration (24 May) as well as second-dose vaccination
 (22 Jun) for the elderly and carers at Ti-Ratana Welfare Centre; (2) volunteering under the District Partnership Initiatives for the Community Engagement and Empowerment for COVID-19 (VCEE-19) programme in Seremban; (3) serving as a vaccinator at PPV SCCC, Shah Alam.

 Other activities included several video series promoting healthy eating and meal preparation, and a visit by Medical Biotechnology students to a primary school in Bukit Jalil, for a community service project titled "Occurrence of Microbes in a Community".



Medical Biotechnology students on a community service activity to SJK (C) Lai Meng in Bukit Jalil.



MOVING FORWARD

The CTNH is targeting to launch its Glycaemic Index & Nutrient Analysis Laboratory in 2022 and begin offering these services. A micro-credential course for dietitians on Nutrition Focused Physical Examination (NFPE) is also expected to be launched. Meanwhile, at ABSB, the MBOT new cycle accreditation visit for the Medical

Biotechnology programme has been scheduled, and a micro-credential course in histotechnology is in the pipeline. Nursing is targeting to launch its Bachelor of Nursing (Hons) ODL programme in September 2022. The PGDME team will proceed with plans for a new ODL programme, and is targeting March for the first intake.



EVENTS

What happens next?

Students get the most out of their education if they are in the moment and focused on the present. As they progress closer towards graduation, however, it is also important to have one eye on the future.

This year, the SOHS Graduate Preparedness Advisory Committee (GPAC) Forum featured three online sessions in which industry experts shared valuable insights on what to expect post-IMU.

At the Biomedical Science GPAC Forum on 18 August, over 100 students engaged with Goh Mun Hon (Principal Medical Lab Scientist, National Heart Institute), Dato' Chevy Beh (Founder and CEO of BookDoc) and Shashi Kumar (Business Manager, Core Accounts, Roche Molecular Solutions). Goh outlined career prospects in the hospital setting, while Dato' Chevy spoke about growing a tech start-up in healthcare. Shashi shared insights on opportunities in the pharmaceuticals and diagnostics industry.

The N&D GPAC Forum on 9 September attracted over 200 students. The panel (representing various career paths) included Wong Mei Ching (Group Corporate Nutrition Manager, Nestle Products), Basmawati Baharom (Head of Food Service and Dietetics Services, Hospital Tuanku Ja'afar), Chua Kai Jia (Dietitian and Sug 0365 Programme Coordinator, Alpro Group Head Office & Distribution Centre), Georgen Thye (Dietitian, Holmusk), Nurul Aziah Musa (Subang Jaya Medical Centre), Siti Amirah Shaheera Shalihin (Founder, Studio Dietitian MY) and Prof Norimah Abdul Karim (IMU).

The Nursing GPAC Forum on 24 September drew about 80 students from the IMU and International Medical College. Prof Claudia Lai (Honorary Professor, School of Nursing, Hong Kong Polytechnic University) spoke about how technology is helping nurses provide better care for the elderly. Nurse-led telehealth consultation and its challenges during the pandemic was the subject of another talk on 19 November, by Elaine Ng (Group Head of Nursing, IHH Healthcare Berhad).

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Virtual and real-world, in class and out

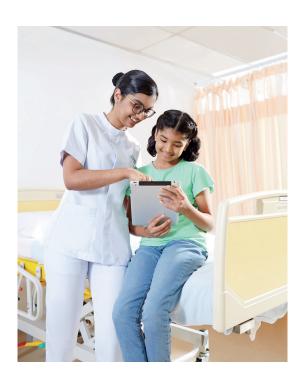
If 2020 was about finding workable solutions under urgent conditions, 2021 gave us some leeway to reflect on past experience and fine-tune our responses. Our five priorities this year were:

Maximising online learning and student engagement. This was achieved through flipped classrooms and micro-learning videos for skills development.

Prioritising authentic and real-world experience. Through virtual internships, students worked with real-world data provided by industry partners. Dietetics students interacted with patients and the community by providing online consultations and live webinars.

Enhancing students' outside-ofclassroom experience/experiential learning. Virtual conferences enabled students to present their research work, while virtual mobility programmes with Australia and India provided an international dimension. 4 Enhancing faculty digital skills. The SOHS faculty worked hard to provide a more immersive online learning experience for students. Over 95 percent obtained E-licence certification.

5 Maintaining assessment integrity and professionalism. The SOHS maintained assessment integrity with online assessments and all students maintained their professionalism during classes, exams, and placements with external stakeholders.



Enhancing students' learning experience at the SOHS

Micro-learning videos as supplementary materials

Flipped classroom sessions to encourage self-directed learning and faculty-student engagement

Virtual Medical Nutrition Therapy Clinic open to all IMU students involved in patient care and interested in medical nutrition therapy

FVFNTS

"Nurses vs Viruses" and other webinars of 2021

As in past years, webinars proved highly effective in connecting SOHS students and faculty with top academics from around the globe as well as industry practitioners from all corners of the healthcare landscape.

Centre for Transformative Nutrition and Health

- "Diabetes in Malaysia and South-East Asia: Is Remission Possible?" was coorganised with the Malaysian Endocrine and Metabolic Society (MEMS) and the Malaysian Dietitians' Association (MDA). (20 Mar)
- "Asian Diets in Combating Non-Communicable Diseases" and "Dietary Patterns in Disease Prevention – Multi Country Experience" were part of a webinar series organised with SEAMEO RECFON. (21 Jul and 21 Oct)
- "Osteoarthritis Care and Obesity Comorbidities – Weight Loss Solutions for South-East Asia" was organised in collaboration with the Parker Institute, Frederiksberg Hospital, Copenhagen and the Malaysian Society of Rheumatology. (27 Nov)

Applied Biomedical Science and Biotechnology

 "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Reflections of Some Encounters with Crime and National Tragedies" saw nationally-renowned pathologist Datuk Prof Dr Looi Lai-Meng from Universiti Malaya sharing her experiences in this field and knowledge of some high-profile forensic cases. (27 Aug)

Nursing

 "Care Beyond the Bedside: Success Stories of Nursing Alumni" and "Combating the War of Pandemic: Nurses vs Viruses" were held in conjunction with International Nurses Day 2021. (25 May and 25 Jun)





Our aim in the field of complementary and alternative medicine is to deliver worldclass education, service and research. At the undergraduate level, our programmes in Chiropractic and Chinese Medicine meet regional and international standards as well as requirements for licensure. At the graduate level, our MSc in Acupuncture offers healthcare professionals an advanced programme that broadens their scope of practice.

PROGRAMMES



Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Chinese Medicine



Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Chiropractic



At the Centre for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CCAM), we focused on our goal of producing professional and ethical chiropractors and Chinese medicine practitioners to serve the community. In 2021, we achieved uninterrupted delivery of the curricula while abiding by SOPs imposed due to the pandemic. Various methods were used to accomplish this, including expanding our clinical training space for students.

Despite the challenges, we recorded several milestones in 2021. We marked the 10^{th} anniversary of our Chinese Medicine programme with various webinars, talks and articles in the media. Our Master of Science in Acupuncture programme received full accreditation for five years. Finally, we were happy to see the high degree of enthusiasm for our programmes on the part of prospective students: the intake that we eventually welcomed in 2021 was 43 percent larger than the previous year's intake.



MSc in Acupuncture: This programme was accredited for five years by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency.

BSc (Hons) in Chinese Medicine:

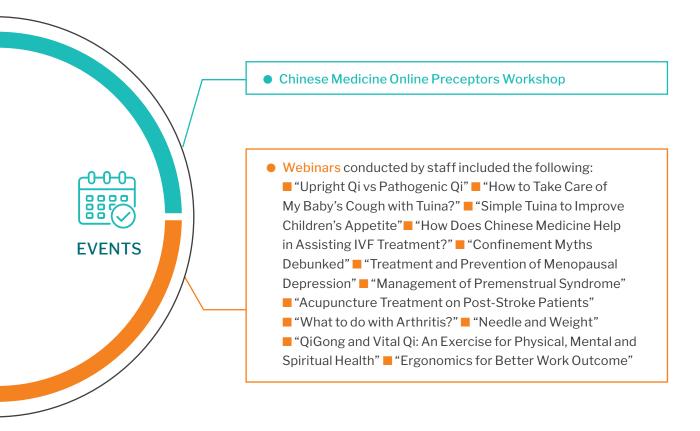
This programme celebrated its 10^{th} anniversary in 2021.



TEACHING AND LEARNING (T&L)

- Clinic space:
 - In 2021, we expanded the Chiropractic clinic space at the IMU Chiropractic Centre SetiaWalk by acquiring an additional shop lot.
 - We also received approval to expand the Chinese Medicine clinic space for student learning at the Bukit Jalil campus.
- Skills training: Conducting skills training was a challenge due to movement control orders (MCO) and closure of the traditional and complementary medicine (TCM) clinics. Despite this, in 2021 (in contrast to the previous year) we were able to conduct the clinical training with no postponement. We also succeeded in catering for the higher number of students in the programmes while still minimising the number of students in clinics to meet required SOPs.

- Ten more preceptors were added to the existing number for Chinese Medicine students' clinical attachment.
- The CCAM also delivered home practice kits to Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture students.
- OSCE: We conducted Objective
 Structured Clinical Examinations
 (OSCE) for all semesters online. Faculty
 underwent training in conducting OSCE
 online, and changed the skill questions
 to suit the online format. A mock OSCE
 was done online to train the students,
 who were able to adapt well to the online
 environment in a short period of time.
- In 2021, we were able to graduate students in Chinese Medicine with minimal delay, while the Chiropractic programme was delayed by three weeks.





RESEARCH

• In 2021, several CCAM faculty authored papers that were accepted for publication by journals such as the Archives of Geriatrics and Gerontology and the Journal of Chiropractic Humanities. Topics included an evaluation of anticholinergic cognitive burden and falls among elderly Malaysians; use of radiographs among chiropractic interns; and interprofessional learning through patient simulation.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

 As part of our efforts to raise awareness of health issues, some of the webinars organised by the CCAM throughout the year were made accessible to the public.



MOVING FORWARD

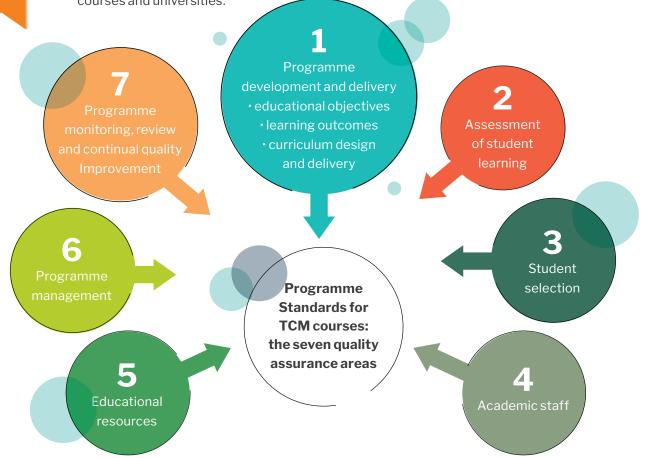
In 2022, we will be focusing our attention on ensuring all CCAM programmes comply fully with the new Programme Standards issued by the MQA. Also in the coming year, the Chiropractic programme will undergo a reaccreditation exercise by the Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia.

PROGRAMMES

Traditional medicine, new standards

In October 2021, the Malaysian
Qualifications Agency (MQA) introduced
new Programme Standards (PS) for courses
in traditional and complementary medicine
(TCM), with the duration of undergraduate
degree programmes in these fields now
standardised at five years across all
courses and universities.

The MQA first introduced PS for TCM in 2009. This latest PS was the result of collaboration between the MQA and stakeholders including the IMU, whose faculty served as panel members and subject matter experts.



"Despite the uncertainties arising from the pandemic, we remain confident of the value of the education we offer. Our graduates are employed in Singapore, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, New Zealand and Australia, as well as Malaysia."

A/Prof Dr Ranjit De Alwis, Director, Centre for Complementary and Alternative Medicine



The School of Postgraduate Studies supports, administers and coordinates the University's higher degrees (Masters and PhD) by research, as well as its taught Masters programmes. We aim to deliver a postgraduate experience that supports students in their intellectual pursuits, builds the IMU as an academic centre of excellence, and nurtures a commitment to improving communities and human life.

PROGRAMMES



PhD in Medical & Health Sciences



MSc in Medical & Health Sciences



Health Professions Education (PGCert / PGDip / Master)



MSc in Public Health



MSc in Molecular Medicine



Business Administration in Healthcare Management (PGCert / PGDip / Master)



MSc in Analytical & Pharmaceutical Chemistry



Master in Pharmacy Practice



Health Informatics & Analytics (PGCert / PGDip / Master)

In 2021, our postgraduate students faced ongoing challenges in activities such as research and placements, with movement control orders (MCOs) restricting both. Some students were also frontliners with heavy professional workloads. Despite this, they continued to show a strong commitment to fulfilling research requirements, while we at the School of Postgraduate Studies (SOPGS) endeavoured to provide them with full support.

The digitalisation of teaching and learning was another ongoing initiative, with good progress on several open and distance learning (ODL) programmes, and the launch of the Postgraduate Certificate in Health Professions Education ODL.

We must also note as a highlight the rollout of our Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma and Master in Health Informatics and Analytics programme, the first of this nature in Malaysia. Health Informatics and Analytics (also referred to as Digital Health) is a discipline that combines healthcare, information technology and artificial intelligence. For the inaugural intake of the Master's programme, we had student numbers that were double our initial forecast.



"The pandemic has in fact opened up new vistas of opportunity in the way we learn and carry out research. As we enter the new normal, we will be ready to do things in many exciting new ways."

A/Prof Dr Tan Eng Lai, Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies

SNAPSHOT 2021 🌠

• PGDip Business Administration in Healthcare Management: Full accreditation was granted by the IMU Senate for five years until 2026.

The MSc in
 Molecular Medicine
 ODL programme
 underwent a full
 accreditation exercise
 and was granted five year full accreditation
 by the IMU Senate.

MSc in Analytical and Pharmaceutical Chemistry

ODL: This ODL programme was also granted full accreditation until March 2024 by the Committee for Accreditation and Validation, Royal Society of Chemistry.

Health Informatics & Analytics (PGCert / PGDip / Master): This

new postgraduate programme was launched in 2021, with the first intake on 6 September. We have full-time and part-time students now enrolled in the Master's programme (MHIA) and the Postgraduate Certificate programme (PGCHIA).

The Master in Pharmacy
Practice completed a programme compliance exercise in 2021. (22-23 Nov)

MSc in Public
Health: A compliance
evaluation was
completed and a
programme review
was conducted in

MSc in Public Health ODL: A

June.

programme review was conducted in June, and this open and distance learning (ODL) programme was granted full accreditation for five years by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA).

Postgraduate Diploma in Health Professions Education:

PROGRAMMES

This programme underwent a full re-accreditation exercise and was granted three-year full accreditation by the IMU Senate.

MSc in Analytical and Pharmaceutical

Chemistry: This programme was granted full accreditation until March 2024 by the Committee for Accreditation and Validation, Royal Society of Chemistry.

Postgraduate Certificate in Health Professions Education

ODL: Approval was obtained from the MQA and the Ministry of Higher Education.



TEACHING AND LEARNING (T&L)

- MCOs necessitated alternative arrangements in terms of field visits and attachment (which are part of T&L in six modules). For the MSc in Public Health, for example, module coordinators employed these alternative methods:
 - **E-field visits** with videos of the field visit site, website link and case study
- Virtual visits and presentations by preceptors at the field visit site
- Online short courses.
- For Master in Pharmacy Practice students, placement or attachment related to clinical pharmacy and pharmacy management streams were conducted online and via faceto-face mode respectively.
- Postgraduate Info Week: This year the SOPGS hosted the first virtual Postgraduate Info Week. The event was supported by 18 faculty members from all participating programmes, six industry partners and 14 students/alumni. (8-11 Apr)
- The Business Administration in Healthcare

 Management (PGBAHM) programme organised five
 webinars offering practical knowledge on healthcare
 management, including aspects relevant to the
 pandemic.





RESEARCH

- With limited access to research laboratories, many students had to apply for extensions to the study duration.
 Some opted for qualitative research which required less or no movement for data collection.
- The pandemic challenged research supervisors to rethink their research approaches. Many initiated new studies involving in silico study or systematic reviews. Students were still able to achieve the learning outcomes and
- communicate their research findings in the form of publications and presentations.
- Five MSc in Public Health students successfully completed communitybased research projects as part of their dissertation modules:
 - Revathi Naidu A/P K Chandrasekaran
 - "Emotional Resilience and Stress Coping Mechanism Among IMU Medical Students. Do Extra-Curricular Activities Make a Difference?"

- Nancy Choon Si-Ng "Quit Intention Induced by Pictorial Health Warnings (PHWs) on Manufactured Cigarette Packages Among Johor Bahru Adult Smokers"
- Nobonita Hoque "Comparing Depression, Anxiety, and Stress Among Sub-groups of Bangladeshi Male Migrant Workers during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Malaysia. Are Anxiety and Stress
- Significantly Associated with Depression Among the Workers?"
- Megana A/P Ramasamy "Factors Associated with Stress and Coping Strategies Among Postgraduate Students Who Are Employed in Klang Valley"
- Gunasunthari A/P Rajoo "Perceived Risk to HIV, Awareness and Acceptance of PrEP Among New Clients at a Private Clinic in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia"

Publications by postgraduate students in 2021*

77 publications

90% in Tier1 and Tier2 journals

^{*} as of November 2021



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

 Five faculty members from the Master in Pharmacy Practice programme conducted PULSE Community activities at Ti-Ratana Welfare Society, Desa Petaling. They conducted medication review assessments with counselling for 30 elderly residents of the community home. (28 Aug)



Master in Pharmacy Practice faculty volunteering at Ti-Ratana.



MOVING FORWARD

Innovation in e-learning is the way forward in taught postgraduate programmes.

Our ability to respond to new scenarios rapidly and boldly will depend very much on our continued readiness to embrace communication technology. To this end, we look forward to developing more ODL programmes next year, as well as launching our range of micro-credential courses.

2021 PhD and MSc Graduates and Thesis Titles

PhD in Medical and Health Sciences

Chang Chung Yuan Peak bone mass attainment in Malaysian children: Influence of diet,

lifestyle patterns, vitamin D status and maternal interactions

Chin Yin Yien Ecotoxicological effects of atrazine and endosulfan on the growth

and biomarker expression of three green algal species (Chlorophyta)

under various nutrient conditions

Gerard Thomas Flaherty International travel with pre-existing medical illness

Hii Ling Wei Sphingosine kinase 1 is a key regulator for the survival of human breast

cancer stem cells via suppression of STAT1 and interferon signalling

Kanimolli A/P Arasu The effects of soluble corn fibre and calcium supplementation on

bone health indices in children aged 9-11 years old - a double-blind

randomised controlled trial

Kasthuri Bai A/P Magalingam | Neuroprotective role of palm vitamin E against 6-hydroxydopamine

Magalingam (6-OHDA)- induced cytotoxic damage in differentiated

SH-SY5Y neuroblastoma cells

Lai Pei Kuan Impact and utilisation of biomedical research findings in the healthcare

policies of Malaysia: 2005-2015

Ramona Khanum Modulating methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus epidermidis biofilm

formation using exogenous lactoferrin and low dose carbon monoxide

Wong Li Zhe Identification and characterisation of vitamin D and its analogues as

spliceosome inhibitors

MSc in Medical and Health Sciences

Chan Hong Hao Roles of receptor interacting protein kinase 1 in beta amyloid-induced

neurotoxicity in SH-SY5Y cells

Gan Li Lian Identification of tumour cell-intrinsic immune modulators in Pancreatic

Ductal Adenocarcinoma (PDAC)

Juay Harn Li Skin allergenicity of airborne and soil algae isolated from Malaysia

Liew Hui Shan Novel gemcitabine-Re(I) tricarbonyl complexes combinations, conjugate

and formulations with liquid crystalline nanoparticles for pancreatic

cancer photodynamic therapy

Tan Joe Jen Synthesis of new benzylidenehydrazinylphenylthiazoles and evaluation

of their anti-inflammatory activity in vitro and metabolic stability

Tan Oon Hock Development and validation of LC-MS/MS method for simultaneous

quantification of vitamin E isoforms in human plasma

quantification of vitamin Lisotomis in fluman plasma

Tan Xu Jen A study on the phase behaviour of lyophilised protein-disaccharide

mixtures at various temperatures

Wong Soon Yee Validation and reproducibility of a calcium and Vitamin D Food

Frequency Questionnaire (FFQ) in Malaysian pre-adolescent children

Yee Zong Yang Role of p53 gain-of-function mutations on epithelial-mesenchymal

plasticity (EMP) in immortalised human mammary epithelial cell lines

MCF-10A and MCF-12A



PROGRAMMES

Bit by bit: micro-credential courses

The pandemic did not just push virtual T&L to the forefront, it also reminded us that flexibility will be an increasingly sought after feature in education.

It's not just the unpredictability of MCOs that discourages people from committing to

degree programmes. Financial concerns and time constraints are other factors, with the latter a concern especially for students who are working professionals.

It makes sense, therefore, to offer flexible arrangements involving shorter courses. This year we developed micro-credential courses under several programmes, to be launched in 2022.

Micro-credential courses (MiC) slated for 2022

Programme	Micro-credential course
Pharmacy Practice	Evidence Based Practice
Health Professions Education	Basic Epidemiology and Pharmacovigilance
	Roles and Needs of 21st Century Healthcare Educators
Health Informatics and Analytics	 Introduction to Data Engineering – Application to Healthcare
	 Practice of Data Engineering – Application to Healthcare
Molecular Medicine	Immunology and Infection
Analytical and Pharmaceutical Chemistry	Quality Management and Regulatory Systems
Public Health	Advanced Biostatistics: Multivariate Analyses
Business Administration in Healthcare Management	Biostatistics Intermediate – I & II
	Healthcare Strategic Management



CREATING SYNERGY AND ENERGY

In every production, there is a crew that brings all things together, providing support and enabling the show to go on. Working behind the scenes at the IMU, a group of departments and teams come together to create synergy and energy to support the University. These are the teams responsible for optimising learning and enhancing the educational experience at the IMU.



his cluster of departments includes the Teaching and Learning (T&L) team which works to enhance the quality of teaching, learning and assessment activities in IMU academic programmes; the IMU Centre for Education (ICE), which provides teacher training programmes, data collection for academic quality assurance, and research into medical and health professions education; the IMU Learning Resources Department (comprising eLearning, the IMU Library, the Medical Museum and the Multi-disciplinary Laboratory (MDL)) and the IMU Clinical Skills and Simulation Centre (CSSC), which provide critical support and learning services and resources for members of the University; and the IMU Centre for Lifelong Learning (ICL), which provides continuing professional development (CPD) programmes in research, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and health sciences.

ALWAYS TEACHING, ALWAYS LEARNING

The teams have grown in leaps and bounds and the lessons learned in 2020 have pushed all departments to reach greater heights in 2021.

Prof Er Hui Meng, Dean, Teaching and Learning, says, "Since the COVID-19 pandemic started in March 2020, online teaching has been a major mode of delivery. Last year, the faculty had to adapt and upskill quickly to transition from face-to-face to online delivery."

This year, she says, the team continued to work very closely with the Schools and Centres to provide the necessary support for the faculty. This resulted in great improvement in the faculty's evaluation rating.

"Staff are more confident and ready to embrace technologies in their work, which is an important factor for successful change management toward digital transformation," Prof Er adds.

Some of the work done to get to this point involved the preparation of teaching

AMEE ASPIRE-to-Excellence Award

In 2022, the T&L team together with the IMU Centre for Education (ICE), and guided by the Office of Education and Institutional Development, will apply for the AMEE ASPIRE-to-Excellence Award for Faculty Development. The ASPIRE award allows medical, dental and veterinary schools to be recognised internationally for their excellence in education.

guidelines. The T&L office developed the new Guidelines on Flipped Classrooms and the Policy and Concept Paper for Teaching Assistantship. They also reviewed and updated the Policy and Concept Paper for Experiential Learning.

Training for faculty continued throughout the year and the biggest challenge remained the lack of physical gatherings due to the Movement Control Orders. "Online training enabled the continuity of faculty training, but it definitely took away the opportunity for the kind of face-to-face interaction that happens during workshops," says Prof Er. The silver lining is that online platforms have made communication among staff more convenient and accessible. "I personally receive more questions from faculty for advice on T&L matters now. This helps to create a collegial and friendly culture within the organisation that promotes peer learning," she says.

The T&L office also carried out the Personalised Learning Analytics pilot project. "This pilot project has helped us to identify the gaps in data collection and systems integration within the organisation," says Prof Er. "We can now carry this forward and work with the various system owners to improve and automate the processes."

Of the year ahead, she says "the team will continue to work closely with faculty to further enhance teaching skills through feedback and reflective practice, in line with the University's Peer Observation of Teaching initiative," adding that "there is also a plan to develop online faculty training courses in line with the concept of flexible learning."

AT THE HEART OF EDUCATION

Besides the annual International Medical Education Conference (IMEC 2021) (see box), the IMU Centre for Education (ICE) organised a series of forums over the year to ensure the continuity of interaction and discussion around education issues as well as to create opportunities for collaborative engagement in scholarly activities. The forums this year touched on topics such as reflections on 2020, surviving 2021, research opportunities and challenges in health professions education as well as the issue of scholarships for health professions education from individual, institution and community perspectives. Speakers were from the IMU as well as local and international institutes.

The ICE also launched its new programme, the Postgraduate Certificate in Health Professions Education (PGCHPE) by Open and Distance Learning (ODL) in September. Meanwhile the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Professions Education (PGDHPE) has been granted full accreditation for the next three years effective 25 August 2021.

"Throughout the year, the ICE experienced diverse opportunities through the planning of faculty development activities, collaborative engagement with experts in the field and

"It is a collective effort on the part of everyone at the University to provide a great experience for students at the IMU."

> Prof Er Hui Meng, Dean, Teaching and Learning

continuous improvement in postgraduate programmes in health professions education," says Norul Hidayah, Acting Director of the ICE.

For the year ahead, the ICE will be developing the PhD in Health Professions Education to add to its programme offerings. Virtual initiatives will continue with the online conversion of faculty development activities such as the Clinical Education Workshops. The conversion will cater to the faculty's needs in terms of timeless availability and accessibility to course content. Efforts will also be taken to accommodate both onsite and online deliveries for faculty development activities including the IMEC 2022.

"As we enter 2022, we will keep building the ICE as one of the premier health professions education centres in the region."

Norul Hidayah, Acting Director, IMU Centre for Education (ICE)

14th International Medical Education Conference (IMEC 2021)

The International Medical Education Conference (IMEC) is a forum for forging and renewing friendships between educators of healthcare professions from the region and beyond. It is a platform where ideas and experience are exchanged and innovations showcased.

This year saw the first fully online IMEC held from 12-14 March. The theme -"Setting the New Norm: Current and Future Practice for Health Professions Education" – was inspired by the global effort toward innovation in health professions education during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chairperson of the Scientific Committee, A/Prof Dr Nilesh Kumar Mitra worked together with Conference Chairperson Prof Ian Wilson, Deputy-Chair Dr Wong Pei Se and an organising committee comprising senior faculty from the Schools of Medicine, Health Sciences, Dentistry and Pharmacy as well as staff from the ICE, the ICL, Marketing, eLearning and the IT department. Participants included those from Malaysia, Singapore, USA, UK, Canada, Cambodia, Qatar, UAE, Indonesia,



Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, India, Taiwan, Oman, Sri Lanka, Japan, Germany and Australia.

Following a day of pre-conference workshops covering a variety of topics and facilitated by 15 international and 16 local academics, the main conference started with a stimulating keynote address on "The New Norm and Changing Role of Students" by Prof Ronald Harden. The participants were appreciative of the sharings by the prominent speakers on the teaching and learning strategies adopted during the pandemic. They also had the opportunity to engage with each other and the speakers through virtual meeting rooms.

IMEC in numbers

3 days

305 participants

24 countries

12
pre-conference
workshops

4 plenaries

6 symposia

LEARNING RESOURCES

"The digital transformation initiative under the University's ASPIRE III strategic plan has become a catalyst to push best practices in online learning," says A/Prof Dr Nilesh Kumar Mitra, Director of Learning Resources. In support of this, the teams under Learning Resources were committed to supporting faculty from the various programmes throughout the year.

The IMU Library uploaded a series of online book reviews on YouTube and the IMU Library Spotify podcast channel to encourage the use of its e-resources. It has also been ensuring the inclusion of e-library links to interactive resources in clinical campus modules.

Meanwhile, the Medical Museum built a platform to telecast online lectures and other practicals; and the Multi-disciplinary Laboratory (MDL) prepared interactive videos on the demonstration of equipment and laboratory practices.

The eLearning team organised online workshops towards faculty development with subjects such as "Construction of Microlearning Content" and "Using Videos as a Teaching Tool". It also started the initiative to upskill faculty and staff of other departments to learn, adapt and apply technology tools such as Vyond, H5P, Articulate 360 and Articulate Storyline.

"The success of online teaching and learning at the IMU will depend on increasing student engagement."

A/Prof Dr Nilesh Kumar Mitra, Director, Learning Resources The eLearning and Library teams successfully hosted modules in the e-learning portal and arranged online teaching resources for the Postgraduate Diploma in Prosthodontics, Postgraduate Diploma in Endodontics, Bachelor in Digital Health, and the Health Informatics and Analytics PG Certificate-PG Diploma-Masters. sNext year, Learning Resources will be looking forward to build a cloud repository to archive all video-based teaching resources. The second phase of the project will see the Library extending its current repository to cover all non-video-based contents such as soft copies of unpublished research projects, photos and academic content from various academic meetings and conferences along with the copies of software.

The MDL and Medical Museum also plan to develop Self-Directed Learning (SDL) stations for students and will continue to develop more interactive videos to support student learning in different parts of laboratory practice. In the various areas of faculty development, there will be more focus on the gamification of interactive teaching resources, enhancement of microlearning content and support towards the flipped classroom approach.



International Learning Resources Festival (ILRF)

The IMU International Learning Resources Festival (ILRF) is an annual event jointly organised by the Learning Resources department, the Clinical Skills and Simulation Centre (CSSC) and the ICE. Formerly known as the Learning Resources Festival, this year's ILRF was held from 25-28 October with the theme "Driving Digital Transformation: Adapting to the Future Learning Demands".

The Festival kicked off with the keynote discussion, "Machine Learning: What is It and Why It Matters" by Dr Mohammad Reza and Prof Patrice Boursie. This was followed by a knowledge and experience sharing session on "The New Norm in Education" by Prof Er Hui Meng, Dean,



Teaching and Learning, along with IMU corporate partner representatives from Elsevier and McGraw Hill. Dr Robyn Defelice from Bloomsburg University presented an engaging plenary on "Microlearning: Are you Doing It Right?" on the concluding day.

This year the School of Pharmacy took the Tan Sri Dato' Dr Abu Bakar (TSAB) Challenge Trophy. The award acknowledges Schools that display and incorporate technology-enhanced learning in their teaching and learning activities.

ILRF in numbers

4

days

280

participants

6

workshops

3

forums

2 plenaries

keynote discussion

SIMULATING REAL LIFE

During the past year, students who were not able to attend hospital postings relied instead on simulation learning. The IMU Clinical Skills and Simulation Centre (CSSC) was central to supporting these learning needs and leading the conversion of clinical learning to online mode.

The Centre also supported the year's Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs) which were carried out online and onsite. "The team created a simulated clinical area on campus due to restrictions on entering hospitals, and with simulation facilities expanded, both real and simulated patients, as well as staff, were called to assist in classes," says Dr Sow Chew Fei, Director of the CSSC.

The Direct Observation of Procedural Skills (DOPS) – a structured formative assessment for students on their practical procedure competency as well as communication skills with the patient – was also offered online and was extended to cover different semesters. Students were allowed to borrow equipment to practice outside of the Centre and a booking system was introduced for the practice area to ensure crowd control.

"The CSSC will be equipping more rooms (with furniture, fixtures and recording systems) to run more simulation sessions next year as well as to create a second virtual reality room. We are also hoping to add more specialised CSSC faculty to ensure simulation is done effectively," says Dr Sow. Training opportunities for internal and external customers will also be increased and the variety of training will be broadened beyond basic life support and first aid skills.

"The CSSC will continue to support students' clinical learning experience when they are not able to utilise the authentic environment and supplement their clinical learning in challenging clinical areas to ensure students are competent and work-ready."

Dr Sow Chew Fei, Director, IMU Clinical Skills and Simulation Centre (CSSC)

Augmented and Virtual Reality in Health Science Education

The T&L, eLearning and CSSC teams have embarked on an innovation in education initiative – the Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality Applications in Health Science Education project in collaboration with the Asia Pacific University (APU) XR Studio. The APU XR Studio is a facility that comprises technologies capable of developing Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR) and Mixed Reality (MR) applications. With them. eLearning and CSSC teams have created a prototype virtual platform for viewing basic microbiology techniques used in the medical microbiology laboratory of the IMU. Students of the Biomedical Science programme can now visualise a set of laboratory experiments using Virtual Reality Glasses with stereoscopic headsets at the CSSC and experience a completely immersive game-based experience before doing their practicals in the MDL.



A LIFETIME OF KNOWLEDGE

For the IMU Centre for Lifelong Learning (ICL), 2021 brought new opportunities through new product offerings and increased confidence in bringing back customers to ioin online events.

Although the uncertainties of the pandemic had reduced events and restrictions had affected ICL's operations, the Centre was able to gain new partnerships throughout the year. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with Selgate Healthcare to foster collaborative efforts in graduate employability programmes, career advancement and community engagement initiatives. The Centre also collaborated with new partners for events and projects in 2021, such as the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) and Autumn Consulting on a Career Advancement programme, Selgate Healthcare and Selgate Nursing, TEE IP on intellectual property in healthcare, and Alpro Pharmacy on the development of



MoU signing with Selgate Healthcare.

massive open online courses (MOOCs) with the School of Pharmacy and the Institute for Research, Development and Innovation (IRDI).

Next year, the Centre looks forward to enhancing CPD events carried out virtually with more interactivity to add to the experience of learners and participants. "We are also looking into the possibility of offering MOOCs for asynchronous learning, for example on IRDI's topics on research and data science," says ICL Manager Ts Dr Mohd Tanwyn Mohd Kushairi.

Bite-sized lessons

The ICL and the ICE with the Schools and Centres have been developing micro-credential courses, as part of the IMU's new product line-up. These will open opportunities to offer bite-sized learning in the healthcare and sciences topics. E-Learning Essentials is the first micro-credential course to be offered for learners to upgrade their teaching skills via online delivery. Another course titled Needs and Roles of 21st Century Health Professions Education is targeted to be launched in the first quarter of 2022. It aims to upskill and reskill educators' competencies to fulfill the needs of the next generation of healthcare professionals. This will ensure that healthcare professionals are "fit for purpose" upon graduation. A total of 19 micro-credential courses are targeted to be launched in 2022.

"The ICL strives to be the most relevant professional education and training provider in healthcare, mainly targeting external customers and the masses."

Ts Dr Mohd Tanwyn Mohd Kushairi, Manager, IMU Centre for Lifelong Learning (ICL)

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

School of Medicine

Faculty

- A/Prof Dr Chandramani Thuraisingham was elected as the President of the Academy of Family Physicians of Malaysia for 2021-2022.
- A/Prof Dr Erwin Khoo Jiayuan was appointed as an Advisory Board Member for COVID-19 Vaccination for Adolescents in Malaysia by Zuellig Pharma.
- Prof Dr Igor Nikolayevich lezhitsa received the Award of Merit (Republic of Croatia) in conjunction with the Malaysia-Croatia Technology Exchange 2021 at the 20th Malaysia Technology Expo (MTE 2021).
- Prof Dr Igor Nikolayevich lezhitsa and Prof Dr Renu Agarwal received the Innovation Award (Silver Award) in the category of "Healthcare, Personal Care Technology, Biotechnology and Life Sciences" at MTE 2021.
- Prof Kwa Siew Kim was elected as a Council Member for the Academy of Family Physicians Malaysia (AFPM), where she was also appointed to the Board of Senior Examiners for the Conjoint MAFP/ FRACGP Examination. At AFPM Prof Kwa also served as the Director and later as an Advisor of the Quality Improvement Programme (QIP) for Training in Family Medicine.

- Prof Lim Kean Ghee was elected as the President of the College of Surgeons, Academy of Medicine Malaysia, for 2021-2022.
- Prof Nafeeza Mohd Ismail was part of a team comprising Dr Nur Aisyah Zainordin and other colleagues from Universiti Teknologi MARA that won Best Oral Presentation at the 11th Annual Congress of the Malaysian Endocrine Society 2021 ("The Very Low Carbohydrate Diet (VLCBD): Short-Term Metabolic Efficacy in Diabetic Kidney Disease Patients"). Prof Nafeeza was also appointed by the National Institute of Health as an Advisor to their study on Lifestyle Intervention on Patients with Diabetes; and by non-profit organisation MyLCM as an Advisor for their lifestyle intervention programme on non-communicable diseases.
- Dr Nicole Chen Lee Ping was appointed as the President of the Malaysian Marriage and Family Therapy Association (MyMFT).
- Prof Dr Philip George was appointed as the Vice Chairman of the Psychiatry Chapter, College of Physicians of Malaysia; and as an Advisor to Mind Matters Network, the Youth Initiative for the National Coalition of Mental Wellbeing.
- Dr Serena In was appointed as a Board Member of MyMFT.

- Dr Siew Wei Fern and Alexius Cheang Weng Onn were part of a team from the IMU and Multimedia University that won the Best Paper award at the International Conference of Creative Multimedia (ICCM) Virtual Conference. ("Exploring eHealth Model and Its Acceptance for Mental Wellness among Digital Talents")
- Dr Teoh Gaik Kin was appointed as the Head of the Research Division for the Malaysia Chinese Community Counselling Association.
- Prof Zabidi Hussin was appointed as a Member of the Expert Panel to the European Research Commission; and as a Member of the Greater Klang Valley Special Task Force for COVID-19.

Students

- Goh You was awarded the Commendation Certificate for Best Oral Presentation at the Malaysian Society of Pharmacology and Physiology (MSPP) 34th Scientific Meeting 2021.
- Tee Chen Giap, Aaron Prasad, Lim Wen Wei and Yee Yi Ling were first runners-up for the IMU-RHIME Award 2021.
- Wynne Sim won the Gold Medal Award for Best Poster Presentation (Basic Science/ Translational Research) at the Singapore Health and Biomedical Congress 2021, the largest virtual medical congress in Singapore. ("Novel Use of Histone Deacetylase Inhibitors to Overcome Cytotoxic T-cells Mediated Resistance in Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma")

School of Dentistry

Faculty

- Dr Abhishek Parolia was appointed as Adjunct Faculty for Manipal College of Dental Sciences, Manipal, India.
- Dr Divya Gopinath was appointed as Adjunct Faculty for Saveetha Dental College and Hospitals Chennai, India.
- A/Prof Dr Naresh Shetty received an IMU Achievement Award for Individual Development on University Day.
- Dr Pravinkumar Patil won Second Place, Kim Award, at the 12th Biennial Congress of the Asian Academy of Prosthodontics ("Single Implant Mandibular Overdenture in Four Different Clinical Situations: Case-Series"). He was also appointed as a Curriculum Advisor for Dr DY Patil Dental College and Hospital.
- Dr Rohit Kunnath Menon was awarded Second Prize for the Teaching Excellence Award on University Day. He was also appointed as Adjunct Faculty for Saveetha Dental College and Hospitals Chennai, India.
- Prof Dr Seow Liang Lin won Best Oral Presentation at the International Medical Education Conference (IMEC) 2021 for "Empowering Students in Peer Assisted Learning for Virtual OSCE: Unmuting Dental Education During COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond". She was appointed as an External Examiner for the 4th Professional Examination for the Bachelor of Dental Surgery programme, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia, and as an External Examiner for First Year Final Examination for the Bachelor of Dental Technology, Asian Institute of Medicine, Science and Technology (AIMST). She was also a reviewer for Journal of Oral Rehabilitation and Frontiers in Oral Health.

- A/Prof Dr Sivakumar Arunachalam was awarded the Teaching Excellence Award on University Day, and was also the recipient of the John Simpson Trophy for Teaching Excellence. He was invited to be a reviewer/ member of the editorial board for various journals such as the American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, The Angle Orthodontist, Journal of Indian Society of Orthodontics and Journal of Dental Education.
- Dr Smita Nimbalkar won Third Place, Research Poster Award, at the 54th Indian Orthodontic Society Conference, Bhubaneswar. ("Effects of Three Enamel Protecting Agents on Shear Bond Strength of Orthodontic Brackets Bonded to Demineralised Enamel: In Vitro Study")
- Dr Swarna Yerebairapura Math won
 Best Oral Presentation at IMEC 2021 for
 "Radiology Reporting Skills: Interactive
 Digital Learning Guide for Dental Students".
 Dr Swarna and team also won the IMU
 Achievement Award (e-learning-Illnovation
 Competition) on University Day.
- Dr Yogeswari Sivapragasm was appointed as a Committee Member, Revision of Guidelines in Management of Severe Early Childhood Caries, Ministry of Health. She was also part of the organising committee for the Malaysian Association of Paediatric Dentistry 2021 Virtual Conference.

Students

 Audrey Gan Mei Xin won Second Place for the Undergraduate Researcher in Dental Public Health Award at the 20th Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Association for Dental Research Malaysian Section (IADR-MALSEC). ("Standardisation of Record-Keeping for Refugee Patients in Paediatric Dentistry Using Consensus-Based Delphi Method")

- Fong Zi Qing and Tey Lu Yen won First
 Prize at the 13th National Dental Students
 Scientific Conference (NDSSC) 2021
 hosted by the Faculty of Dentistry, SEGi
 University, Malaysia. ("A Comparison of Facial Attractiveness Rating with a Posed Smile, Spontaneous Smile and Selfie Smile")
- Lee Su Mun, See Wye Lum, Genevieve Kong Yuiin Sze, Cheong Hock Yoong, Kwek Ching Yung, Liong Kah Lok and Divya Gopinath published a systematic review in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. ("Association of Microbiome with Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma: A Systematic Review of the Metagenomic Studies")
- Lim Jia Ying was elected as the Secretary of the Malaysian Dental Students'
 Association (MDSA) for Session
 2020/2021; and as the Secretary for the National Dental Students' Scientific
 Conference (NDSSC) 2020 Special
 Edition. She was also a Content Writer of the International Association of Dental
 Students (IADS) Annual Summit of Asia-Pacific 2021.
- Ng Lu Yi won Second Place in the Undergraduate Category, Oral Presentation Scientific Research Competition at the 20th Annual Scientific Meeting of IADR-MALSEC for "Peer-Assisted Learning via Virtual OSCE: An Innovative Learning Model Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond". Ng was also elected as the Vice President of Asia Pacific Dental Student Association Malaysian Division (APDSAMD) for Session 2020/2021, and as the Head of Secretariat for the Malaysian Dental Students Association (DSA) x APDSA-MD Community Project (MACP).

School of Pharmacy

Faculty

- Dr Dinesh Kumar Chellappan won the IMU Research and Publications – Investigator Award (Individual).
- Dr Hii Ling Wei was a top-12 finalist for the Merdeka Award Grant for International Attachment; a finalist for the Young Scientist Network-Akademi Sains Malaysia (YSN-ASM) Chrysalis Award 2021; and Track Winner under the Cancer Biology track of the Monash Initiate 2021 Virtual Conference. She was a preceptor for the IMU Provisionally Registered Pharmacist (PRP), certified by the Ministry of Health's Pharmacy Board. Dr Hii also secured a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in respect of a collaboration with Alpro Foundation and Monash University Malaysia for collaboration on future projects. The first project to be undertaken is the My Medication Disposal Programme.
- Dr Hira Choudhury won the IMU Research and Publications – Investigator Award (Individual); and the IMU Research and Publications – Best Publication Award (Individual).
- A/Prof Dr Lo Yoke Lin was a Reviewer for PLOS One.
- Dr Low May Lee, Dr Vasudeva Rao Avupati and Prof Dr Er Hui Meng won the Silver Medal Award at Congress and Innovation Competition in Teaching and Learning 2021 (kNovasi 2021). ("Integrating Augmented Reality and Choose Your Own E-Learning Adventure in Undergraduate Chemistry's Ethics and Laboratory Safety Module")
- Mak Kit Kay was a finalist for the Young Scientist Network-Akademi Sains Malaysia (YSN-ASM) Chrysalis Award

- 2021; and a finalist for the British Council FameLab 2021 Science Communication Competition.
- Prof Mallikarjuna Rao and Dr Lee Choy Sin secured an MoU with Solution Biologics, a manufacturer and distributor of vaccines. Solution Biologics will offer internship placements to BSc (Hons) in Pharmaceutical Chemistry students.
- Dr Manisha Pandey won a Bronze medal at the Kinovasi e-Learn Festival organised by Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.
- Dr Mayuren Candasamy was appointed as an External Examiner for evaluation of a MSc thesis in UiTM.
- A/Prof Dr Mohd Zulkefeli Mat Jusoh was appointed to the MQA Full Accreditation Panel for PhD in Science Programme, and the Provisional Accreditation Panel for Diploma Pharmacy Programme.
- Prof Ong Chin Eng was appointed as an External Examiner for the evaluation of a PhD thesis at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM); and as an independent reviewer of the Universiti Sains Malaysia micro-credential course, "Drug-Herb interactions".
- Dr Palanisamy Sivanandy was an Associate Editor of three publications: the Bharathiar National Journal of Physical Education and Exercise Science; the MedNEXT Journal of Medical and Health Sciences; and the International Journal of Physical Education Health & Sports Science. He also won the AKS Global Faculty Award 2020. He was appointed as a PhD thesis examiner by the Tamilnadu Dr MGR Medical University, India; and as a Member of the Board of Examiners for PhD thesis evaluation by Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, India.

- Dr Pravinkumar Vishwanath Ingle was a Resource person for an AICTE-sponsored Faculty Development Program (FDP); and a Resource person for an FDP organised by Western Regional Center of Association of Community Pharmacists of India (WRC-ACPI). He was also an Organising Committee Member for the 9th World Conference on Pharmaceutical Science and Drug Manufacturing, Dubai.
- Dr Rohit Kumar Verma was appointed as the Research Lead for the Malaysian Pharmacists Society – Immunisation Advocacy Chapter (MIAC).
- Dr Thiagarajan Madheswaran won the IMU Research and Publications – Young Investigator Award (Individual).
- Dr Vasudeva Rao Avupati was Best
 Speaker at the online Induction/Refresher
 Programme for tertiary teachers
 sponsored by the All India Council for
 Technical Education (AICTE)-Indian
 Society for Technical Education (ISTE).
 He also won the Teaching Excellence
 Award, Third Prize, on University Day
 2021; and was part of a team that won the
 Bronze Medal Award at kNovasi 2021.
 ("Development of e-Briefing Tool for
 Laboratory Instruments: A Step toward
 Technology-enhanced Learning")
- Dr Wong Lai Chun was the Principal Investigator, IMU-Monash University Malaysia (School of Pharmacy)
 Collaborative Research Fund. She was also elected to the Member Communities Board of the Royal Society of Chemistry.
- Dr Wong Pei Se won the award for Excellence in Demonstrating IMU Core Values (Individual).

Students

- Ong Yee Swen won the Best Academic Performance: 2021 IMU Tun Zahir Merit Award.
- Sherlyn Chan Huei Shan won the Best Academic Performance: 2021 IMU Tun Zahir Merit Award.
- Tan Qian Ying won the First Place Award in the MyPSA 15th Anniversary Poster Designing Contest 2021. She was also First Runner Up in the 1st National Pharmacy Competition 2021 - Clinical Challenge.
- Tan Wee Toong won Third Place in the 1st National Pharmacy Competition 2021 -Clinical Challenge.
- Teng Carine was Second Runner Up in the 1st National Pharmacy Competition 2021 -Clinical Challenge.
- Tiong Shao Qin was First Runner Up at the 4th MyPSA Online Inter-University Clinical Skill Event.

School of Health Sciences

Faculty

Nutrition and Dietetics

- Charmaine Lavinia completed the Strategic Centre for Obesity Professional Education programme by World Obesity Federation.
- Dr Kanimolli Arasu qualified for the finals in FameLab, a Scientific Communication Competition organised by British Council Malaysia. She also completed her PhD and was conferred the Doctor of Philosophy from the International Medical University.
- Prof Norimah Abdul Karim was appointed as a Consultant to the Medical Advisory Board for Mama Net.

- Dr Sangeetha Shyam was elected as a project team member of the FAO's World Committee of Food Security High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition Data Collection Tools and Analysis. She also received the Interstellar Initiative Award (2021-2022) from the Japanese Academy of Medical Sciences and New York Academy of Science for Early Career investigators.
- Teo Soo Lay was appointed as a Committee Member and Malaysian Dietitians' Association Representative for a CPD workshop on Medical Nutrition Therapy in Surgical (Gastrointestinal).
- Prof Winnie Chee, Prof Norimah Abdul Karim, Dr Megan Chong and Dr Lee Yi Yi are involved in the revision of the Malaysian Dietary Guidelines for Children and Adolescents 2013 for a two-year period.
- Prof Winnie Chee was appointed as a
 Writing Committee Member for the 2022
 Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) for
 the Management of Osteoporosis. She
 was also appointed to the Expert Panel
 for Diabetes Lifestyle Programme (DLP)
 for Healthcare Professionals & Patients
 to Promote Lifestyle Change as Part of
 Holistic Diabetes Management, organised
 by MEMS, MMA, AFPM, FMSA, MDES, and
 MDA for 2021-2022.

Applied Biomedical Science and Biotechnology

 Dr Fabian Amalraj Davamani was appointed by Saveetha Dental College and Hospitals (Chennai, India) as a Distinguished Adjunct faculty member in the Department of Microbiology.

Nursing

- Dr Chang Woan Ching completed her PhD and was conferred the Doctor of Philosophy (EDU) from Asia eUniversity. She also won the Gold Award for Best Presenter at the Asia Pacific Conference on Curriculum Studies and Instructional Designing (APCCSID) 2021. ("The Mediating Effect of Student Satisfaction on the Relationships among E-learning Success Factors in Nursing Education")
- Dr Lim Swee Geok was appointed as a Committee Member of the Board of Studies for the Bachelor of Nursing Science (University of Malaya) curriculum review exercise.

Students

Nutrition and Dietetics

- Chang Chi Yin won the Consolation Prize 4
 Undergraduate Poster Competition Prize at the 36th Nutrition Society of Malaysia

 Scientific Conference (NSM Conference 2021). ("Development and Sensory Evaluation of Egg Custard Pudding Using Isomaltulose")
- Cheow Yi Qi and Kong Wen Yuan won
 Third Prize for Best Student Research Oral
 Presentation at the Malaysian Dietitians'
 Association Virtual Conference 2021 (26th
 MDA National Conference). ("Association
 between Cognitive Function and Sedentary
 Behaviour with Sarcopenia among Older
 Adults with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus in a
 Primary Care Setting")
- Chin Hau Tung won Second Prize for Best Oral Presentation (Out-Patient) at the International Virtual Undergraduate Symposium on Clinical Dietetics 2021 (IUCD '21). ("Middle Cerebral Artery Infarction in Adult Inpatient Setting")
- Lee Sue Syuen and Claudia Ng Mei Xuan won Second Prize for Best Student Poster Presentation at the 26th MDA National

- Conference. ("Evaluation of a Food Environment Survey in Three Different Types of Eateries in Hulu Langat and Bangsar Pudu Neighbourhoods")
- Ng Xin Qian won the Undergraduate
 Thesis Prize at the NSM Conference 2021.
 ("Colonic Fermentation of Isomaltulose in Healthy Malaysian Adults: A Single-blind, Randomised Crossover Pilot Trial")
- Syarifah Hasanah Adeila Hassan won Best Oral Presentation (In-Patient) at IUCD '21. ("The Role of a Dietitian in the Management of Enteral Feeding Transition")
- Wong Soon Yee won the Postgraduate
 Thesis Prize at the NSM Conference
 2021. ("Validation and Reproducibility of
 a Calcium and Vitamin D Food Frequency
 Questionnaire (FFQ) among Malaysian
 Pre-Adolescent Children")
- Wong Ting Xuan, a PhD candidate, won the Third Prize Young Researchers' Symposium Award at the NSM Conference 2021. ("Obese Yet Undernourished – Preoperative Nutrition Status of Breast and Colorectal Cancer Patients")

Applied Biomedical Science and Biotechnology

- Nur Adania Shaibie won First Prize (Oral Presentation, Oncology Category) at the 11th Malaysian e-Symposium of Biomedical Science (11th MYSYMBIOS). ("Oncolytic Effect of Pteropine Orthoreovirus (PRV) in Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma Cells in Comparison with Mammalian Orthoreovirus Type 3 (MRV3)")
- Ooi Li Ting won Second Prize (Poster Presentation, Wet-Lab Category) at the 11th MYSYMBIOS. ("Melatonin Induces Autophagy in CNE1 through PERK/CHOP/ Bcl-2/Beclin-1 Pathway")

 Pravin Kumran A/L Nyanasegran won Second Prize (Oral Presentation, Non-Communicable Disease Category) at the 11th MYSYMBIOS. ("Evaluation of Clinical Chemistry Analytes in Haemolysed Plasma and Serum Samples")

Centre for Complementary and Alternative Medicine

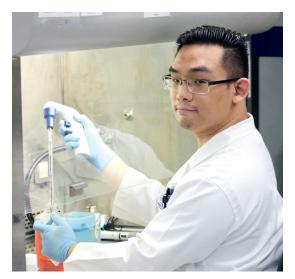
Faculty

- Janice Chan was appointed as an Assessor for the T&CM programmes, Ministry of Health.
- Dr Melissa Kioh, Dr Tamara Pooke and Cheah Siew Vern won Best Poster at the 16th World Federation of Chiropractic's Biennial Congress. ("Utilisation of Radiographs among Chiropractic Interns in a Chiropractic Teaching Clinic")
- Dr Melissa Kioh Sheng Hui was appointed to the World Federation of Chiropractic (WFC) New Research Committee.
- Dr Ong Siew Siew was appointed as an Assessor for the Traditional and Complementary Medicine (T&CM) programmes, Ministry of Health.
- Dr Tamara Pooke was made a Peer Reviewer for the Journal of Chiropractic Education.
- Wong Yi Kai was appointed as the Vice President of the Association of Chiropractic Malaysia; and as the Honorary Secretary of the Federation of Complementary and Natural Medical Association.
- Dr Wong Zhi Hang was appointed as an Assessor for the T&CM programmes, Ministry of Health.

School of Postgraduate StudiesStudents

- Hii Ling Wei, a PhD in Medical and Health Sciences student (and lecturer at the School of Pharmacy) was a top-12 finalist for the Merdeka Award Grant for International Attachment; a finalist for the Young Scientist Network-Akademi Sains Malaysia (YSN-ASM) Chrysalis Award 2021; and Track Winner under the Cancer Biology track of the Monash Initiate 2021 Virtual Conference.
- Low Jun Sheng won Best Student
 Oral Presenter (Pharmacognosy and
 Phytochemistry category) at the
 International Postgraduate Conference
 on Pharmaceutical Sciences (IPoPS)
 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. ("Melastoma
 Malabathricum and Melastoma
 Imbricatum Extracts Accelerate the
 Wound Healing Activity of Primary Murine
 Fibroblasts")
- Mak Kit Kay, a PhD in Medical and Health Sciences student (and lecturer at the School of Pharmacy), was a finalist for the Young Scientist Network-Akademi Sains

- Malaysia (YSN-ASM) Chrysalis Award 2021; and a finalist for the British Council FameLab 2021 Science Communication Competition.
- Pravinkumar Patil won the Kim Award, Second Prize, at the 12th Biennial Congress of the Asian Academy of Prosthodontics ("Single Implant Mandibular Overdentures in Four Different Clinical Situations: Case-Series")
- Samantha Valerie Anak Unting won the Best Poster Award at the Royal Society of Chemistry International Accreditation Celebration Event 2021. ("Repurposing of FDA-Approved Drugs As Inhibitors of Porphyromonas Gingivalis Gingipain R, a Causal Agent of Rheumatoid Arthritis: In Silico and Biological Studies")
- Wong Ting Xuan won Third Prize at the Young Researchers' Symposium of the 36th Nutrition Society of Malaysia Annual Scientific Conference 2021 Malaysia. ("Obese Yet Undernourished – Preoperative Nutrition Status of Breast and Colorectal Cancer Patients")



Low Jun Sheng won Best Student Oral Presenter (Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry category) at IPoPS.



Mak Kit Kay was a finalist for the British Council FameLab 2021 Science Communication Competition.







At the Quality Improvement Unit (QIU), it's all about ensuring continual improvement of systems and processes that help to keep the University running in its best form. 2021 was no different – even though the Unit had to double down on efforts to ensure the challenges of the pandemic did not slow anyone down.

As in previous years, the QIU was kept busy in 2021. This year the Unit had four focal points. The first focal point was to ensure that programme accreditation and monitoring activities were efficiently managed according to the Self-Accreditation Status awarded by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) in 2017.

The second focal point was to make certain that the IMU's quality management system was up to date and aligned with current best practices and the latest quality management standards of ISO 9001:2015.

The third focal point was to effectively manage the safety and health of the institution by establishing an occupational, safety and health management system.

Lastly, we worked to ensure continual improvement of all processes with a focus on areas of perceived deficiencies.

ISO AND ACCREDITATIONS

One of the highlights for the year was attaining the ISO 45001:2018 Occupational Safety and Health Management System (OSHMS) certification for the IMU's facilities

- Successfully attained the ISO 45001:2018
 Occupational
 Safety and Health
 Management System
 (OSHMS) certification.
- Improved remote accreditation methods, through lessons gained from 2020.

- Completed 10
 accreditation exercises
 despite pandemic
 restrictions.
- Held a virtual workshop session on "Understanding MOE and MQA Standards and Guidelines and the Code of Practice for Programme Accreditation (COPPA)".

located at the Bukit Jalil Campus. This was done with the combined efforts of the Safety and Health committee, the QIU and a working group comprising representatives from key corporate and academic support departments.

At the same time, and despite the challenges faced during the movement control orders, the QIU managed to complete 10 accreditation exercises successfully from February to August. These were carried out as close as possible to the original schedule to prevent any gaps in the accreditation period. The audits by both internal and external assessors were carried out virtually and, although challenging, were successfully completed with improved remote methods gained from the Unit's experiences in 2020.

The QIU also held a virtual workshop session on "Understanding MOE and MQA Standards and Guidelines and the Code of Practice for Programme Accreditation (COPPA)" to pass the knowledge that it had acquired through its experiences.

MOVING FORWARD

To move forward, the Unit is currently exploring a new ISO certification, namely the ISO 21001:2018 Education Organisation Management System (EOMS). The effective application of the EOMS will enhance the levels of satisfaction of learners, other beneficiaries and staff. The road to certification will include processes that will improve the system and ensure conformity to learners' and other beneficiaries' requirements.



On top of that, the QIU will also be seeking an extension of scope of the ISO 17025 (a certification for laboratories dealing with testing and calibration) as well as an extension for the ISO 45001:2018 OSHMS to the IMU's other campuses and offices.

Awareness campaigns will also be rolled out in 2022 as part of an initiative to promote the importance of quality among the IMU community, which can help encourage a mindset and attitude of excellence.

Awareness campaigns will be rolled out in 2022 as part of an initiative to promote the importance of quality among the IMU community, which can help encourage a mindset and attitude of excellence.



Strategic partnerships with industry players are an important part of the IMU's ecosystem and the Industry Partnership and Career Development Unit (IPCDU) is central to this. But can online engagement be as effective as face-to-face interaction? The IPCDU has discovered that it can.

The IPCDU has always been the bridge between industries and students, with a focus on accelerating partnerships with industry for internship, research and employment opportunities for students.

BRIDGING THE GAP

When the COVID-19 pandemic first hit, there was doubt that online events would be able to achieve the IPCDU's vision and mission to bring industry and students together. In 2021, however, the IPCDU doubled the number of activities involving industry partners and skills development training for students compared to the previous year.

The Unit saw good progress in terms of students' attendance and engagement levels at virtual webinars, talks and workshops by offering relevant topics and securing well-known speakers from the industry. By the third quarter of the year the Unit had doubled its participant numbers, resulting in an exciting year of engagement with over 1,000 event registrations.

PASSPORT TO THE FUTURE

In 2018, the IPCDU launched its Career Readiness Passport. Three years later, the Unit took the opportunity to develop this into a digital format. The Digital Career Readiness

- Webinars: The Dialogue with CEOs and Future of Work webinars were held to help students prepare for the workplace and the challenges ahead.
 - This year's Virtual Graduate Career Fair focused on Healthcare and Medicine. Health Sciences and Complementary Medicine. Students were able to attend a myriad of activities including career talks. essential skills workshops and online chats/interviews with prospective employers.
- Two IMU Hackathons were held where students were challenged to innovatively solve healthcare problems using real-life data.
 - It's time to go digital! The **Digital** Career Readiness Passport is an online version of the passport that was launched three years ago. The digitalisation of this initiative has enabled easier tracking and feedback to students on their career readiness.
 - The IPCDU has started a YouTube channel where all recorded webinars and talks can be viewed. Additionally, career readiness support for students is provided through the Unit's refreshed LinkedIn channel.

Passport tracks and maps all student activities against career preparation and readiness. This includes tracking activities such as setting up a LinkedIn profile, activities of entrepreneurship and CV writing. By doing this, the digital passport allows the IPCDU to provide personalised feedback and support when needed.

BUILDING RESOURCES

Where possible, all online activities webinars, seminars and dialogue sessions - were recorded and edited into two forms: a full-length version as well as an abridged one. All video resources were made available on a YouTube channel to enable self-led discovery and learning. Online attendance of students was tracked and entered into their Digital Career Readiness Passports.

MOVING FORWARD

The IPCDU firmly believes that virtual sessions will be the future of knowledgesharing platforms. In the next year, this will not just provide flexibility to participants but also to speakers, opening more opportunities for the Unit to welcome global guests.

Another major project for the Unit in 2022 will be the launch of the Industry Mentoring initiative in conjunction with the IMU's 30th anniversary celebrations.

PROGRAMMES HELD OVER THE YEAR



■ Dialogue with CEOs (webinar)

Four webinars were held – one each with the founder of DoctorOnCall, the Country President of AstraZeneca Malaysia, the Managing Director and CEO of Selgate Healthcare, and the CEO of BIG Pharmacy.

The CEOs shared their journeys, as well as the challenges of and skills required to be a leader and entrepreneur.

LinkedIn articles

The IPCDU also posted six articles to LinkedIn to promote best practices at work as well as to establish the IPCDU as a potential career development provider.



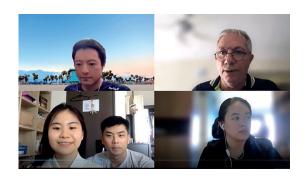
◄ Future of Work (webinar)

Three webinars were held discussing the impact of the Industrial Revolution 4.0 on the workplace, and the opportunities and challenges it will bring. The panel discussions also tackled the empowerment of women at the workplace, practices for

gender equality, revolution of modern healthcare as well as how companies are analysing social media to make hiring decisions.

Virtual Graduate Career Fair

In 2021, the Graduate Career Fair was conducted virtually with a myriad of events catering to three primary groups of graduates: Healthcare and Medicine, Health Sciences and Complementary Medicine. The career sharing sessions featured a dietician from Naluri (pictured above left), a chiropractor from Hong Kong-based New York Medical Group (above right), and a pharmacist from BIG Pharmacy.



◄ IMU Hackathon 2021

The first hackathon was organised in collaboration with HealthMetrics with the theme "Where Health Meets Data". The challenge was for teams to come up with innovative ways to solve healthcare problems using data. It was held from 19 August to 1 September and a total of six groups took part. A second hackathon was held in collaboration with BookDoc in October and November.

The IPCDU has always been the bridge between industries and students, with a focus on accelerating partnerships with industry for internship, research and employment opportunities for students.



STUDENT SERVIC

It was a year of emergence. Having adapted throughout 2021, the Student Services Department (SSD) accelerated its pace to keep up with the evolving landscape and emerged better able to do what it does best – supporting students, alumni and staff.

Self-initiative, creativity and analytical thinking were central to the SSD in 2021. Enhancement of blended lesson delivery platforms and the building of a holistic support system have improved students' learning experiences.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT

One of the more important ways in which the SSD was able to support students in 2021 was through the Financial Aid Intervention Programme which assisted more than 300 students. The programme included clinics that educated students on available scholarships and loans as well as guidance on the processes and procedures in attaining aid.

Through its efforts, the SSD successfully saw a 139 percent increase in PTPTN borrowers and a 58 percent increase in financial aid recipients for the year. The aid disbursed included IMU bursaries, discounts, internal and external scholarships and loans.

- This year, the **Financial Aid Intervention** Programme helped over 300 students to access monetary aid.
- The IMU is now included in the MARA Young Talent Development Programme (YTP), a sponsorship initiative by MARA.

- The Alumni Entrepreneurship Chapter was launched, with an aim to enhance entrepreneurship
- skills among former students.

• The SSD also launched the **Lend an Ear** programme – a peerled programme aimed at offering emotional support and a conversational space to

IMU alumni.

- The Inter-University Youth Summit was held in collaboration with three other universities. with webinars centred around the theme "Keep Hope Alive".
- In light of the toll that the pandemic has taken on the mental health of students. the SSD launched the **Mental Health** (NEC) Project. Staff were educated on ways to identify early signs of mental health problems in students. An online course is now mandatory for all staff.

- Both the Student and Alumni **Portals** have been upgraded. The **ECA Participation and Achievements Tracking System** is the newest feature in the Student Portal which will capture all of a student's participation and achievements.
- Initiatives at the clinical campuses included the publication of the Survival Guidelines Clinical Sciences e-booklet, the setting up of the Student Support Group and the General Information Deck @ Student Information Center.

The MARA Young Talent Development Programme (YTP) has also included the IMU in its sponsorship initiative. Under the programme, MARA will fund Medicine and Dentistry students from Kolej Matrikulasi Kulim to further their studies at the IMU in 2022.

ENHANCING NETWORKS

The Alumni Entrepreneurship Chapter was established this year to foster innovation by bringing together IMU alumni from different schools, interests, skills and backgrounds. The objective of the Chapter was to provide opportunities for students and alumni who were interested in embarking on a journey of entrepreneurship in the healthcare business sector. The initiative was led by top IMU Alumni entrepreneurs who will continue to be advisors and mentors to the Chapter.

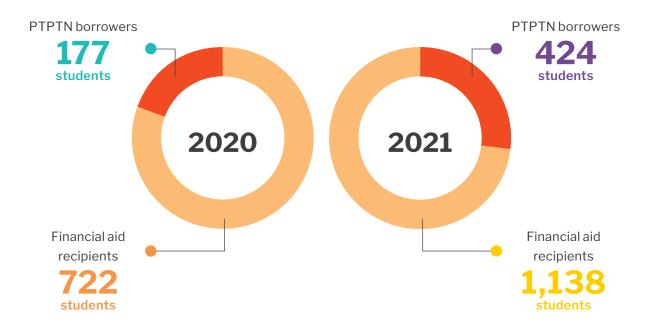
The alumni have also formed the Community and Medical Chapters as well as introduced the Alumni Buddy Programme for Partner School Track Students.

MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH

Under the SSD, the Self-Development Unit (SDU) pioneered the Mental Health (NEC) Project in 2021. Six Mental Health (NEC) briefings were conducted in April to educate all IMU staff, including non-academic staff, to recognise the early signs of mental health problems and understand how to connect students to support and treatment. For students, 22 Mental Health (NEC) briefings were carried out from September to December. It is now mandatory for all staff to take the Mental Health online course which was launched in June.

The IMU and three other private universities – INTI International University, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) and Taylor's University – also collaborated to organise the Inter-University Youth Summit. Held from 6 to 27 November, the series of webinars provided an opportunity for university students in Malaysia to discover

PTPTN borrowers and financial aid recipients 2020-2021



their potential, and create hope and purpose in life through the sharings of experienced counsellors and professionals. It was themed "Keep Hope Alive".

Alongside this, the IMU Alumni worked with the SDU and the Alumni Relations Office to launch the Lend an Ear programme – a peerled programme aimed at offering emotional support and a conversational space to IMU alumni. It is hoped that this programme will raise awareness of the mental health challenges experienced by many healthcare practitioners. The programme went live on 11 October.



The SSD has enhanced the student portal, with one of the new features being the one-stop ECA Participation and Achievements Tracking System which will help to capture students' participation and achievements throughout their journey at the IMU. This will include positions held within the IMU as well as in external events and organisations, participation in internal and external activities as well as internal and external awards and prizes received by students. These will be projected in students' personalised dashboards and an ECA certificate can be generated and downloaded.

The SSD has also upgraded the information available on both the Student and Alumni



Portals. A roadshow was held from April to August to ensure that all IMU students, alumni and staff were aware of the new offerings and were able to utilise the portals effectively. Feedback during the sessions has led to more collaboration opportunities and ideas on future enhancements.

MOVING FORWARD

For the year 2022, the SSD will be looking into approaches that improve attraction, retention and engagement of students and alumni with a high-quality, timely and customer-focused blueprint. This will include improvements in existing services, utilisation of engagement platforms and the introduction of more vibrant and inclusive activities.

"It is you students who have made it here until now, marching through despite all the difficulties. We will face the challenges ahead with determination, confidence in each other's abilities, resilience, and respect for each other's achievements. We are in this together."

May Kuan, Student Services Department

AT THE CLINICAL CAMPUSES

Apart from the IMU's main campus in Bukit Jalil, there are clinical campuses in Seremban, Batu Pahat, Kluang and Kuala Pilah. These make up a thriving environment for the students at the IMU. At the clinical campuses this year, the SSD supported many new initiatives.

Survival Guidelines Clinical Sciences e-booklet.

To help Semester 5 MBBS students to transition into their Phase 2 studies at the clinical campuses, the SSD and the Student Representative Council (SRC) created a Survival Guidelines e-booklet. The publication gives an overview of the Clinical Campuses from its operations to learning activities and lifestyle. The handy guide will also be useful for junior students who want a glimpse of what life is like as an IMU student.

Student Support Group. Aside from providing support between junior and senior students, the group's activities aim to promote engagement amongst peers and strengthen the relationship within IMU communities. Among the ongoing projects is the Bahasa Melayu (BM) Lesson for

International Students which aims to improve the study experience and preparedness of international students as well as smoothen their onboarding at the Clinical Campus.

General Information Deck @ Student Information

Center. The One-Stop-Information on General Welfare and Support Service is now available at the Seremban, Batu Pahat and Kluang clinical campuses. Students will be able to gain information regarding the services and support provided at the IMU as well as by other service providers nearby.

The Last Day Program for Semester 10 MBBS.

After their final examinations and to mark their last physical day on campus, Semester 10 students attended a series of activities such as briefings and a career talk for future housemen.

Online Service System. A new online service system for clinical campuses was introduced to streamline and manage extracurricular student activities at the clinical campuses.



Alumni achievements

Programme, Name	Achievement
Medicine Ho Yan Le	Accepted into the fellowship for cardiothoracic surgery Master's programme and awarded the Young Investigator Award for the National Heart Association of Malaysia Virtual Congress 2021.
Medicine Johannes See Yi Xian	Awarded the Macfarlane Prize at the University of Glasgow. The prize is awarded on the recommendation of the Regius Professors of Medicine and Surgery to the most distinguished third-year Medicine and Surgery students.
Medicine Lee Dai Wee	American Society of Clinical Oncology Leadership Development Program (Asia Pacific) recipient. The Society selects outstanding mid-career oncologists to be part of a leadership development programme. Lee is part of the inaugural batch of 12 clinicians from different countries who were selected from the Asia Pacific region.
Medicine Lim Ming Yao	Awarded a Chevening Scholarship for a fully-funded Master's degree course.
Medicine Wilkinson Tan Yoong Jian	Elected Council Member of the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Malaysia, for term 2021/2022.
Dietetics with Nutrition Tee Weng Yan	Named one of Malaysia's Top 10 Outstanding Pianists (Excellence Award 2021) by the Asia Pacific International Arts Festival. Also won the Gold Medal at the Beijing International Piano Competition 2021 (Malaysia Preliminary Round; Category: Open Class).
Dietetics with Nutrition Thye Choong Jean, Georgen	Recipient of the Rising Star Award 2021 that recognises young, emerging members who play a significant role in the dietetics industry.
Biomedical Science Chong Ho Phin	Won Best Poster for 3-Minute Poster Presentation at the 4 th International Conference on Molecular Biology & Biotechnology 2021, and a Top-15 finalist in the Chrysalis Award by Young Scientist Malaysia-Academy of Sciences Malaysia (YSM-ASM).
Chiropractic Poh Yang Jun	Gained certification as a naturopathic doctor by the American Naturopathic Medical Certification Board.

Student awards from academic conferences and competitions

Achievement
IMEC-RHIME award Top-5 finalist for the creation of the Consultoid Program in IMU-CC, a student-peer-learning programme that has been operational since 2018. Its impact and sustainability won the first runner-up award at the International Medical Education Conference (IMEC).
Champions in the policy-making competition at Policy-Making Competition 2021 organised by Sheffield Malaysian Students Association (SMSA).
Best oral presentation at the Malaysian Society of Pharmacology and Physiology (MSPP) 34 th Scientific Meeting.
Gold Medal for best poster presentation (Basic Science/Translational Research) at the Singapore Health and Biomedical Congress.
 20th Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Association for Dental Research Malaysian Section (IADR-MALSEC): Audrey Gan Mei Xin: Second place for the Undergraduate Research in Dental Public Health Award. Ng Lu Yi: Second place for Oral Presentation in the Undergraduate Scientific Research Competition Category.
Awarded First Prize for their oral presentation at the 13 th National Dental Students Scientific Conference (NDSSC) 2021 hosted by the Faculty of Dentistry, SEGi University, Malaysia.

(continued)

Student awards from academic conferences and competitions

Programme, Name	Achievement
Pharmacy Team 1 Madeline Teoh Pei Lin, Tan Yow Zi Xuan, Teng Carine, Tan Wee Toong Team 2 Laurena Wong Gui Jin, Tan Qian Ying, Wong Jia Wei,	At the $1^{\rm st}$ MyPSA National Pharmacy Competition-Clinical Challenge (NPC-CC) 2021, Team 2 and Team 1 were first and second runners-up respectively.
Clarissa Choong Li Juan	
Pharmacy Tan Wee Toong	Third place in the 1 st MyPSA National Pharmacy Competition-Clinical Challenge (NPC-CC) 2021.
Pharmacy Tan Qian Ying	First place in the Malaysian Pharmacy Students' Association (MyPSA) 15 th Anniversary Poster Designing Competition 2021.
Pharmacy Tiong Shao Qin	First runner-up at the $4^{\mbox{\tiny th}}$ MyPSA Online Inter-University Clinical Skills competition.
Nutrition Chang Chi Yin	Awarded a Nutrition Society Malaysia Undergraduate Poster Competition prize.
Nutrition Ng Xin Qian	Awarded the Nutrition Society Malaysia Undergraduate Thesis Prize 2021.
Biomedical Science • Nur Adania Shaibie • Ooi Li Ting • Pravin Kumran A/L Nyanasegran	 11th Malaysian Symposium of Biomedical Science (MYSYMBIOS): Nur Adania Shaibie: First Prize for oral presentation in the oncology category. Ooi Li Ting: Second Prize for poster presentation in the wet-lab category. Pravin Kumran A/L Nyanasegran: Second Prize for both poster and oral presentations in the non-communicable disease category.
Dietetics with Nutrition • Cheow Yi Qi • Lee Sue Syuen	 Malaysian Dietitians' Association 2021: Cheow Yi Qi: Third place for oral study presentation. Lee Sue Syuen: Second place for poster presentation.

(continued)

Student awards from academic conferences and competitions

Programme, Name	Achievement
Dietetics with Nutrition Chin Hau Tung Syarifah Hasanah	 International Virtual Undergraduates Symposium on Clinical Dietetics 2021 (IUCD '21): Chin Hau Tung: Second Prize for oral case presentations and for oral clinical case presentations. Syarifah Hasanah: First Prize for oral clinical case presentations.
Postgraduate Studies Hii Ling Wei	Winner of the Cancer Biology Presentation Track at the Monash Initiate 2021 Virtual Conference Year 2021.
Postgraduate Studies Low Jun Sheng	Best Student Oral Presenter (Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry category) at the Virtual International Research Network Initiative (IRNI) and International Postgraduate Conference on Pharmaceutical Sciences (IPoPS).
Postgraduate Studies Pravinkumar Patil	Won the Kim Award Second Prize at the 12 th Biennial Congress of the Asian Academy of Prosthodontics Jakarta, Indonesia 2021.
Postgraduate Studies Wong Ting Xuan	Awarded Third Prize at the Young Researchers' Symposium at the 36 th Nutrition Society of Malaysia Annual Scientific Conference 2021.

Student awards from extra-curricular activities

Programme, Name	Achievement
Medicine • Evon Chai Huey San • Wong Zong Yi	The team won First Prize at the Hackathon: Health Meets Data held by HealthMetrics.
Medicine Keshvien Inbashekaran	Leader of a three-person team that won the Silver Medal in the Online Chess Competition at the Virtual Medics Intervarsity Games (MIVG) 2021.
 Medicine Low Leek Chang, Tan Hsin Yen, Tew Yon Ng Chia Tee Hang, Leong Hui Yen, Tan Hzu Shing 	At the Virtual Intervarsity Medical Quiz by RED Association AIMST University, the two teams were placed first and third in The Battle of Asklepios 2021 respectively.

(continued)

Student awards from extra-curricular activities

Programme, Name	Achievement
Medicine Nur Nabila Nasharuddin	Winner of the IMU AFLAME Student Award 2021.
Medicine Raja Nur Shahkeerah Raja Kamarul Zaman	Most Diplomatic Delegate for ASCC Pillar at the Malaysia Model ASEAN Meeting (MYMAM) 2021. Her team also won Best Position Paper and Best Delegation.
Pharmacy Tan Nian Wan	Third place in the Speech Category (International) of the Mercu Buana English Club English Event 2021. Tan also placed third overall against participants from Indonesia, Brunei, Bangladesh and Malaysia in all rounds (prepared speech, table topics and impromptu speech).
Pharmaceutical Chemistry Rachel Si Ching Yi	Appointed Pharmacy Student Representative Council Vice-President in June.
Postgraduate Studies Hii Ling Wei	Top-12 finalist for the Merdeka Award Grant for International Attachment.
Postgraduate Studies • Hii Ling Wei • Mak Kit Kay	Top-15 finalist for the YSN-ASM Chrysalis Award.
Postgraduate Studies Mak Kit Kay	Top-11 finalist in FameLab, Malaysia, a scientific communication competition organised by British Council, UK.





What do you do when restricted movements hinder employee engagement activities? The Human Resources (HR) Department learned new ways to keep staff motivated and productive by utilising online engagements in the best way possible.

The year 2021 continued to be challenging with the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the Government's vaccination programme in full swing, the IMU HR Department played its role by running awareness programmes on the importance of vaccination to protect oneself and others. The Department also helped staff with vaccination appointments. By the third quarter of 2021, 99 percent of staff had been vaccinated.

REINVENTING ENGAGEMENT

During the strict lockdowns, the Department reinvented itself so that it could continue to engage and develop staff. The vision was to maintain staff morale and ensure safety from the pandemic without compromising productivity.

Staff were encouraged to be more prudent in terms of operating expenses and teamwork enabled the University to maintain its operations at an optimal level. Faculty and corporate staff embraced technology-driven platforms to ensure that students continued to learn, and education was not compromised.

Although cultural festivals could not be celebrated with physical gatherings, the Department organised online celebrations to keep alive the spirit of unity and togetherness.

- The IMU achieved a 99% vaccinated staff force.
- Under the People Managers' development initiative, new online learning partnerships were launched with IHH Healthcare and other external parties. These will support staff development.
- Revamping of the HR
 Management System will
 see more modules launched
 in the near future.
- Ongoing support initiatives to help staff manage stress levels through online workshops, email communications and counselling support.

In terms of staff development – under the People Managers' development initiative – online learning partnerships were launched with IHH Healthcare and external parties like the Growth Faculty, Harvard ManageMentor Spark and LinkedIn Learning. Staff were also signed up for virtual workshops and conferences to enhance and develop their skills.

The human resource digitalisation journey continued through the year with a revamping of the HR Management System. This leveraged technology and artificial intelligence to improve operational efficiency and effectiveness. More modules will be launched in the near future.



OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Many had to continue to work from home through much of the year. Teams lacked personal interaction at the office – with managers facing new challenges of leading remotely – and staff had to cope with solitude and stress. In response, the Department activated initiatives to help staff to manage stress levels through online workshops, email communications and counselling support.

From these challenges, however, the staff found the opportunity to increase their tenacity, to learn to be adaptive and resilient, as well as to find the courage to move forward. It was a year that made the IMU team stronger, and more united and aligned in achieving its goals.

MOVING FORWARD

As the country opens up and business resumes, the Department will be striving to continuously reinvent itself to be better, more efficient and effective. This journey of improvement in education and healthcare will be aimed at making the IMU the market leader and will be guided by the three I's – Innovation, Imagination and Insight.

Just like the education sector, the HR
Department foresees that hybrid models
will be the way forward. This will be a model
that gives flexibility and support for staff –
especially those in high-risk groups – as well
as better work-life balance. On the other
hand, it will also ensure that staff will have
the opportunity to give on-site support to
students and colleagues, build stronger
relationships and enhance teamwork. Faceto-face meetings and activities will still be
a fundamental part of our work model.



Fundamentals of Project Management workshop.



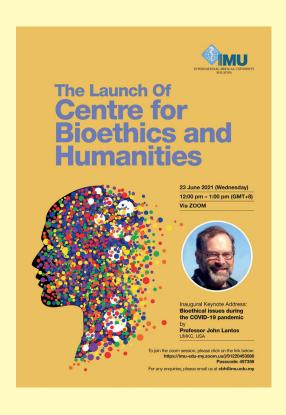
Problem Solving and Decision Making workshop.

From the challenges of the year, the staff found the opportunity to increase their tenacity, to learn to be adaptive and resilient, as well as to find the courage to move forward. It was a year that made the IMU team stronger, and more united and aligned in achieving its goals.



THE CENTRE FOR BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES

As technology continues to redefine what medicine can do, the question remains: "But what would be the ethical thing to do?" Amid an increasingly technology-driven landscape, patient-centred healthcare professionals will also be asking: "What does it mean to be human?" The IMU's new Centre for Bioethics and Humanities aims to be at the forefront of explorations into these two fundamental questions.



t should come as no surprise that issues concerning bioethics and the role of the humanities in healthcare have been familiar topics at the IMU. "Ethics and humanities are very much an integral part of humanity," notes Dr Sheba D Mani, Director of the IMU's new Centre for Bioethics and Humanities (CBH). And humanity, of course, is the reason for being that lies at the core of healthcare.

Bioethics has been the subject of numerous talks, lectures and seminars at the IMU over the years. As for the humanities, every undergraduate's journey has been at least partly shaped by the CBH's predecessor, the Department of Language, Communication and Culture (LCC). Until 2021, the LCC managed the humanities education of undergraduate students (known as General Studies or Mata Pelajaran Umum), organised the tri-annual Humanities Day, and conducted English and Malay language workshops for healthcare professionals.

In addition to taking over these activities, the CBH – which had its virtual launch in June – will now be the nucleus of all initiatives concerning bioethics and the humanities.

As noted by Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdul Aziz Baba during the launch, the transformation of the LCC into the CBH "is aligned with the IMU's vision to nurture and prepare our graduates for a global healthcare environment and to promote a more ethical and humane society, in which the form, scale and scope of healthcare, science and technology are harnessed to foster health, wellbeing, and equity for all."

One of the underlying principles of the Centre is the belief that in order for healthcare professionals to fulfil their responsibilities, they must possess not only knowledge and skills, but also a deep understanding of ethical issues and the human condition.

Prof Dr Zabidi Mohd Hussin, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Academic, IMU, touched on this in his webinar, "What is the 21st Century Doctor? Re-thinking Ethical Engagements", in August. He suggested that theory-based and practical training alone are insufficient to shape a profession, noting that it is ethics and humanities that mould students' behaviour and attitudes.

BIOETHICS: DOING THE RIGHT THING

Bioethics is concerned with ethical issues arising in medicine and biological research. These include questions relating to death and dying; organ donation; and genetic research.

These are just a few of the issues that healthcare professionals, researchers and lawmakers grapple with; the list will no doubt continue to grow as technological advancement make new scenarios possible. Developments such as the COVID-19 pandemic can also lead to new ethical issues. COVID-19 was the subject of two events organised by the CBH in 2021.

In his keynote address at the Centre's launch in June, Prof John Lantos, Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, USA, shared his insights on the topic of "Bioethical Issues during the COVID-19 Pandemic".

In November, the CBH in collaboration with the Centre for Research Excellence Perdana University (Malaysia), the Centre for Bioethics and Medical Humanities Universitas Gadjah Mada (Indonesia) and WHO Malaysia organised a webinar with four panelists entitled "Vaccine Hoarding in a Vaccine-Dependent World – Immoral?"

The Centre for Bioethics and Humanities aims to provide insights into the human condition, cultural sensitivities, ethical considerations, and care for self and others through interdisciplinary approaches, for the continuous improvement of health practices and wellbeing of individuals and communities.

HUMANITIES: THE CONDITION OF BEING HUMAN

Just as some people might find the complex issues in bioethics difficult to grasp, others might struggle to see the link between the humanities and healthcare. A sleep-deprived medical student might wonder, "What use will I have for poetry? How will an art class make me a better doctor?"

The study of humanities can bring many benefits to the education of a health professional, starting perhaps with the simple fact that it enables a science-based student to experience a different way of thinking, encountering the world, and approaching a problem.

Through the humanities, students also develop cultural fluency, which is essential not just in a multicultural country like Malaysia but in an increasingly borderless world.

Perhaps most significantly, the humanities remind us that beyond the symptoms, the readings, the X-rays and, increasingly, the data, there is a human being. The humanities enable students to cultivate a deeper understanding of the human condition, which can then lead to better communication with patients and better outcomes in the treatment of patients.

It's not just clinicians and their patients who benefit from the humanities. Researchers working in a laboratory setting are likely to uncover more dimensions to their work if they have a richer understanding of the human condition.

Humanities events organised by the CBH in 2021 included a webinar on "The Role of Humanities in Medicine and Health





Professional Education" by Prof Dr Saroj Jayasinghe, Emeritus Professor of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. Another webinar, by Nor Adlyizan Theis, Deputy Director, Kolej GENIUS Insan, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia, focused on the *pantun*.

"THE REAL WORK HAS JUST BEGUN"

As the Centre continues to manage the humanities education of undergraduate students, it will look into co-developing bioethics modules at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The Centre will also offer continuing professional development (CPD) programmes through webinars, workshops and conferences.

At the launch of the CBH, Prof Aziz expressed his full support for the Centre's vision, noting that "the real work has just begun." What is the CBH's game plan for achieving its longer-term goals?

CBH Advisory Members

Prof John Lantos

University of Michigan Kansas City, USA

Prof Paul Komesaroff

Monash University, Australia

A/Prof Stefan Kutzsche

Oslo University Hospital, Norway

Prof Dato' Dr Sivalingam Nalliah

IMU, Malaysia

Prof Rita Charon

Columbia University, USA

Prof Paul Crawford

University of Nottingham, UK

Prof Saroj Jayasinghe

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Dato' Tom Abang Saufi

National Art Gallery, Malaysia

As Prof Aziz outlined in his address: "These will be achieved through sharing of information and understanding the practical challenges of translating and transferring the application of ethics and humanities in healthcare education; and identifying existing or potential barriers to compatible local and cultural values while considering what is deemed acceptable as international values. The Centre will also gather views on areas where principles, guidance, or regulation could support the practice of ethics and humanities; and finally, consider ongoing community engagement initiatives for social inclusion."

Recognising that big questions cannot be answered by a single institution, the CBH welcomes collaborators – other institutions, academics, students, professionals – who can help it contextualise and frame its perspective on ethics and humanities.

The four categories of subjects in General Studies (and selected modules)

U1

Appreciation of philosophy, values and history

- Ethnic Relations
- Islamic and Asian Civilisation

U2

Mastery of soft skills

- Thinking Critically and Creatively
- History of Medicine
- Art Fundamentals
- Introduction to Drama

U3

Broadening of general knowledge on Malaysia

- Work-life Balance from a Global and Malaysian Perspective
- Introduction to Media Literacy
- Cultures of the World
- Survey of Asian Literature

U4

Application of community management skills (e.g. community service and extra-curricular activities)

Social Responsibility





At the core of any community is its health. And for IMU Healthcare, this is its core purpose – to serve and support the community in all aspects concerning its physical and mental health. Despite the challenges brought on by the pandemic over the year, IMU Healthcare continued to play its role, introducing new services and activities to the community it serves, as well as continuing with the construction of and service planning for IMU Hospital.

The year saw continued development of the range of services and capacity of the IMU's Ambulatory Care Centres (ACCs) where outpatient treatments are offered. These included intervention, consultation, diagnosis and treatment services. The ACCs, which currently serve the local community, are being developed to be part of the ecosystem which will complement the upcoming IMU Hospital.

These new offerings launched in 2021 meet the healthcare needs of the community as well as provide vital learning opportunities for IMU students: The **telemedicine service** commenced in April for the Nutrition & Dietetics and Mental Health specialties, followed by Chinese Medicine. Planning is on the way for other specialties to follow suit and to also introduce cross-specialty telemedicine.

The **Eye Care Service** was launched in April, with an experienced team of ophthalmologists and optometrists offering screening, assessment and treatment of various eye conditions for all ages.

The Women's Health and Child

Development Services started in October

SNAPSHOT 2021 💽

- New services at the ACCs comprising eye care, women's health, child's development, early diabetes remission programme and telemedicine.
- Rolled out Infection Control Initiatives to address COVID-19, namely physical renovations and substantive changes to the ventilation system.

- Increased clinical capacity for student practice at the IMU Chiropractic Centre in SetiaWalk, Puchong.
- Rolled out governance initiatives such as the streamlining of Credentialing and Privileging processes for both academic and healthcare clinicians.

- Establishment of Joint Steering Groups
 between academic and healthcare personnel.
- Rolled out digitalising initiatives such as the implementation of the Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS) and Risk Reporting Management software for the ACCs.

and November respectively. The women's health service focuses on obstetric, fetomaternal, reproductive and pelvic health, along with overall wellness. The child development service is provided by an interdisciplinary team that focuses on comprehensive assessments and intervention programmes for children with, or who are suspected to have, developmental, learning and behavioural disorders.

The Early Diabetes Remission Programme was launched in October as a 12-week lifestyle coaching programme to help

control the progression of diabetes without medication.

Other initiatives include the Telemedicine Services for Dietetic Students' Clinical Training launched in November and the School of Pharmacy's faculty practice in August for pharmacy services at the IMU Medical Clinic and IMU Oral Health Centre. Additional clinical capacity was added to the IMU Chiropractic Centre in SetiaWalk, Puchong in November to cater for the increase in student practice.

FOCUS ON SAFETY AND HEALTH

In view of the continuing threat from the COVID-19 virus, IMU Healthcare introduced the Infection Control Initiative. Under this initiative, dental bays in the IMU Oral Health Centre were renovated to improve ventilation and to manage aerosols generated by dental procedures. This included the installation of partitions, upgrading ventilation systems, adding of HEPA filters and Ultraviolet Germicidal Irradiation (UVGI) systems.

As part of its continuous efforts to serve people better, IMU Healthcare installed a new X-Ray unit in May, with upgraded technology that will enhance the service provided to patients through higher quality images for better diagnosis.

CLINICAL AND OPERATION GOVERNANCE

Governance within the department has been optimised with the streamlining of the credentialing and privileging processes for clinical staff as well as academic and healthcare clinicians who will practice in the ACCs.

Joint Steering Groups with representatives from both the academic and healthcare arms for the Oral Health Centre and Chiropractic and Chinese Medicine Centres were also established to ensure rapid progress towards the development of the Academic Health Centre (AHC) ecosystem.



Ongoing construction of the IMU Hospital.

DIGITISATION PLAN

The Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS) has been implemented at the Oral Health Centre and IMU Medical Clinic. This medical imaging technology provides seamless integration of a patient's data across the group of clinics and centres for better diagnosis, care and delivery. In addition, the reporting of incidents has been digitalised with the implementation of the Riskman platform, providing better analysis and management of incidents.

OPPORTUNITIES

The various restrictions under the Movement Control Orders (MCOs) due to the pandemic impacted the completion and planning of the Hospital. While the planning team continued to focus on operational preparedness, it had to actively manage and resynchronise the implementation of various programmes including hiring of staff, procurement and delivery of medical equipment and supplies and the implementation of Hospital Information Systems.

The MCO also brought other opportunities including accelerating IMU Healthcare's efforts in innovating service delivery for its patients through the successful launch of telemedicine services. Clinical training for dietetic students through the telemedicine service also ensured that students could continue to gain their clinical skills.

MOVING FORWARD

In terms of its continued development, IMU Healthcare will focus on developing the strength of its services that were launched in 2021. It will be looking at innovative programmes under these services which will complement the offerings at the Hospital. In addition, it will be seeking to expand clinical capacity for the Dental clinic and Chiropractic and Chinese Medicine centres. It will also increase the infusion of faculty practice in Medical, Pharmacy and Nursing, as well as explore student-led services for the community as part of its wider Academic Health Concept approach.

The opening of the IMU Hospital is targeted for the last quarter of 2022. In line with this, we will continue to transform the offerings of the IMU Medical Clinic to complement that of the IMU Hospital.

Above all, IMU Healthcare will remain open to new ways of delivery and will enter the new year with renewed focus on value-based healthcare.

Above all, IMU Healthcare will remain open to new ways of delivery and will enter the new year with renewed focus on value-based healthcare.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

With the pandemic continuing to put a strain on the country's healthcare system, IMU students have been stepping forward to help ease the burden of frontliners by volunteering at vaccination centres (Pusat Pemberian Vaksin or PPVs). Here, seven of them reflect on what they encountered and the lessons they learned, offering insights into how such experiences can help to shape future medical and health professionals.





Fathimath Hadhima **Memorable** moments

For me, knowing that the public is coming forward and doing their part to end this pandemic by

getting vaccinated was the best part of this whole experience.

What I gained as a medical student...

During the volunteering, I had to give counselling regarding the side effects of the vaccine, etc. As medical professionals, delivering adequate patient education in a manner that patients understand is crucial. From this experience, I have familiarised

myself with a more patient-centred care (mindset) and learnt how to properly address patient concerns and provide more holistic care.

Most valuable lesson

Even if you have very little to offer, it can make a huge impact on others. For instance, my main responsibility was data entry and patient counselling, which may seem like a rather small task. However, this small task had a great impact on keeping the flow going and reducing the waiting time for the people who had come to get vaccinated. I was playing an equally important role in the volunteering programme. So my take home message from this experience would be to contribute to society however much you can, whenever you can.

Yoosuf Yaeesh Ibrahim Why volunteer?

At first I started volunteering because I wanted to go out during my break (during the lockdown) but then I continued volunteering for two months because I loved the work. Apart from that, I have always had an interest in volunteer work.

What I gained as a medical student...

It helped a lot in terms of communication skills. As early medical students with no frequent patient exposure, we don't get to talk to a bunch of random strangers every day. But at the vaccination centre, I met many people of different ages and personalities and it was nice to talk to them.

Most valuable lesson

It was a humbling experience. I think this volunteering work has taught me to open myself to more of such activities. Before I went I was pretty nervous since I didn't know Bahasa Malaysia much, being from the Maldives. Later on I learned a few essential words and was able to register those coming for their vaccinations. It was very satisfying!



Liang Shang Hang What I gained as a medical student...

It is important to educate the public.
Certain people are so influenced by fake news and misleading information on social media which makes them prejudiced against the efficacy of vaccines and the rationale for giving vaccines. It is the same with other diseases, if primary prevention is not done well, they may eventually end up in

hospital, which requires more resources and causes more suffering to the patient and family members.

Most valuable lesson

Doctors do not just remain in hospitals to treat patients, we must also walk into the community to identify risks and help people to avoid having to enter hospitals in the first place.

"We should always be humble in our work as healthcare professionals as it makes a huge impact on so many people in many ways."

Reema Mujthaba

Chiw Ann Yi Memorable moments

I am glad that a lot of people were proud to be vaccinated by taking videos and pictures of the vaccination process as this indirectly helps to create awareness among the public through social media.

What I gained as a medical student...

I was able to interact with people from all walks of life, from primary school students to healthcare professionals and the elderly. Although every one of us is different, our intentions are the same and this made my volunteering experience even more fruitful.

Most valuable lesson

Help whenever we can, and wherever we go.



Lai Shu Sing
Why volunteer?
My main reason
for volunteering
was to reduce
the workload
at vaccination
centres. I also
wanted to
experience and
understand the

struggles or tiredness that people went through throughout the vaccination exercise.

Memorable moments

I was helping with the consultation at SJK (C) Chung Hua. It was memorable because I felt like a doctor: taking a brief history from people, counselling them on the vaccination, and referring some challenging cases to other doctors.

What I gained as a medical student...

This not only taught us about documenting and recording data, counselling the people or giving injections, but also about the sacrifices and hardships we will face in the future in this profession.

Pang Yong Khai Memorable moments

I noticed a student looking lethargic after taking his jab although he kept saying that he was ok. When I saw him walking unsteadily I quickly held his arms and brought him to the rest station. I learnt to be more observant rather than taking what was said for granted, especially when dealing with younger children.

What I gained as a medical student...

Sometimes due to the lack of coordination, some students would go to the final station by mistake to get their vaccination card before even getting their jab. Thus, I learned how important it is to be careful and vigilant while doing paperwork, giving medications and so on. Everything should be precise and double-checked to prevent any errors.

Most valuable lesson

This experience taught me to be grateful and to be compassionate towards all human beings. Not everyone is as lucky as we are – having good health, a complete family and stable financial status. We who are the luckier ones should be kind and help those who are less fortunate than us.



Reema Mujthaba Memorable moments It was an exceptionally busy day. I was going through the usual work at the verification

counter when someone presented sweets to us at the counter as thanks for our work – it was a heartwarming moment which made me realise the positive impact our work had on others.

What I gained as a medical student...

I got to interact with many people from diverse backgrounds. As an international medical student from the Maldives this was an enriching experience for me as I was able to use my limited knowledge of Bahasa Melayu and communicate with ease. It gave me new-found confidence in my communication skills.





Research is a top priority at the IMU, with projects spearheaded and coordinated by the Institute for Research, Development and Innovation. We adopt a multidisciplinary and integrated approach as we work on advancing knowledge in bioactive molecules and drug delivery; cancer and stem cell research; environmental and population health; translational research; and health professions education research. We are committed to providing comprehensive support to our researchers as they endeavour to make significant contributions to science, healthcare and education.

At the Institute for Research, Development and Innovation (IRDI), 2021 marked the midpoint of our five-year IRDI Strategic and Action Plan. As we progressed through the year, we made sure to align our initiatives and activities with the five priorities identified in the Plan: accelerate research in diabetes and obesity, pancreatic cancer and infectious diseases; increase research funding and productivity; attract and retain the best brains; increase commercialisation activity;

and improve business processes and ensure compliance.

The ongoing pandemic, meanwhile, reminded us of why we do what we do: even as the global health crisis posed challenges for researchers carrying out field work, it highlighted more clearly than ever the need for research-driven solutions to problems confronting our planet.

RM2.21 million in external research funds, up

12 percent from 2020.

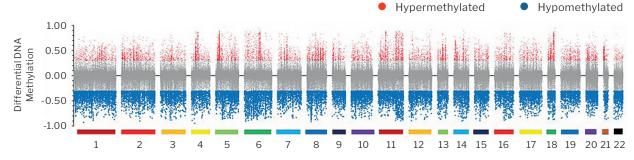
- 53 percent of research funding was supported by external funding (international and national funds).
 We were able to reduce the need for support from internal funding by 26.8%.
- 542 publications,
 82 percent in Tier 1 and Tier 2 journals.
- 1.60 publications per full-time equivalent (FTE).

CENTRE FOR CANCER AND STEM CELL RESEARCH (CCSCR)

Research was carried out in several ongoing areas of inquiry, namely: advancing understanding of immune evasion in pancreatic cancers; targeting breast cancer stem cells; and the epigenetic landscape of nasopharyngeal carcinoma. Another ongoing initiative is our Collaborative Drug Discovery programme, a unique collaborative platform where investigators can submit proprietary compounds for potential screening in IRDI's state-of-the-art internal assays.

CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND POPULATION HEALTH (CEPH)

The focus here continued to be on the synergy between the environment and population health, with a view to producing research that will bring beneficial outcomes to global health. Three ongoing initiatives were: indoor air quality (IAQ) research; D-MOSS or the Dengue forecasting MOdel Satellite-based System; and the Smart Partnership Initiative for Polar Research.



Methylome of immune resistant nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC) cells. The epigenetic landscape of nasopharyngeal carcinoma is one of the areas of study at the Centre for Cancer and Stem Cell Research.

CENTRE FOR BIOACTIVE MOLECULES AND DRUG DELIVERY (BMDD)

At BMDD, experts in molecular biology, chemistry, pharmacology/toxicology, and formulation/drug regulatory affairs work towards one goal: to support a continuum of research and development activities from discovery of bioactive molecules and development of delivery systems to clinical trials. Opportunities for commercialisation will be supported by the Commercialisation and Business Development Unit.

CENTRE FOR TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH (CTR)

Researchers at the CTR are interested in creating a paradigm shift in the way basic scientists and clinicians conduct their research and patient care respectively, so that translation will be included automatically in their day-to-day research activities.

Ongoing initiatives include the Seremban Diabetes Cohort (SeDia); the Health Policy and Systematic Review Group; and the Biostatistics Core Facility.

CENTRE FOR DIGITAL HEALTH (CDH)

The IMU-Fusionex AI Laboratory is the country's first AI-powered medical R&D laboratory to develop research and training that are focused on innovation in data science and big data analytics, evidence-

based decision-making, and education and healthcare services.

The IMU-MMU-UKM Artificial Intelligence in Digital Pathology (AI4DP) Research Consortium focuses on developing AI computer vision technology to address the diagnostic needs of histopathology and cytopathology. This year, AI4DP designed the Health AI – Innovate for Health Hackathon 2021, which consisted of a webinar and a research hackathon/workshop.

- Webinar "Bridging The Gap Between
 Data And Healthcare": Six speakers
 shared insights on how big data is opening doors to medical-related research,
 healthcare service improvement plans and the revolution of modern medical practices.
- Research Hackathon "Code For Health":
 At this event, computer science students learned about utilising medical data to build better models for healthcare industries, while health sciences students explored possible ways of applying machine learning models in their respective fields of study. This hackathon provided participants with the opportunity to enhance skills ranging from teamwork to problem-solving, while building networks with experts from different backgrounds.

Research at the IMU-Fusionex AI Lab: focus areas

Genome Research and Discovery Science

Al-Powered Drug
Discovery &
Development

Al Diagnostics

Healthcare Analytics

Computational Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics

CENTRE FOR TRANSFORMATIVE NUTRITION AND HEALTH (CTNH)

The CTNH received an external research grant of RM497,408 for a study on type 2 diabetes ("A Randomised Controlled Trial to Determine the Effects of Diabetes-Specific Formula on Glycemic Variability in Individuals with Type 2 Diabetes").

The CTNH also received RM87,460 under the Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS) for another project ("Effect of Prebiotic Fiber and Calcium Supplementation on the Association Between Serum Short-Chain Fatty Acids (SCFA) and Bone Health in Pre-Adolescent Malaysian Children").

Prof Winnie Chee Siew Swee is the Principal Investigator for both projects (for other activities at CTNH see "School of Health Sciences").

RESEARCH FUNDING AND PUBLICATIONS

External funding increased by 12 percent from RM1.97 million in 2020 to RM2.21 million in 2021. **Internal funding** from the University totalled RM1.96 million and went to supporting faculty, postgraduate and undergraduate research.

As for **publications**, the total number of Scopus-indexed publications increased from 438 in 2020 to 542 publications in 2021.

Approximately 82 percent of the articles were published in Tier 1 and Tier 2 journals.

Total research funding in 2021



Fundamental Research Grant Scheme

3 projects

1 international project

Sources of funding

Total RM4.34 mil



RESEARCH COMMERCIALISATION

Contract research constituted the bulk of our research commercialisation activities. We also continued to offer continuing professional development as well as laboratory testing and services.

At the IMU Research Laboratory, we successfully completed the surveillance assessment and extension of scope for

ISO 17025:2017, and are awaiting issuance of the Scope of Accreditation from the Department of Standards Malaysia. We also developed two new testing services for food products (ICPMS for heavy metals and Microbiological tests). These two new testing services are ready to be offered, while the extension of scope for food products under chemical testing is planned for 2022.

Overall commercialisation

Activities	Amount (RM)*
Laboratory testing and services	RM34,919.87
Continuing professional development (CPD) activities	RM22,113.00
Contract research	RM954,284.43
Total (as of 30 September 2021)	RM1,011,317.30*

^{*} Note: Amounts stated are based on actual payment or fees received



Contract research: ongoing and new (agreement signed)

Title and period	Sponsor and contract value		
A randomised controlled trial to determine the effects of diabetes-specific formula on glycemic variability in individuals with type 2 diabetes (2020-2022)	Abbot Manufacturing Singapore RM367,826		
Development of an Inference Engine and a Dental Charting System User Interface based on the Decision Tree (2020-2021)	EM2Ai RM96,450		
D-MOSS (Dengue forecasting Model Satelite-based System extending the approach from Vietnam to South East Asia) (2020-2022)	UK Space Agency (Grant Funder); HR Wallingford (Recipient/ Coordinator) RM610,600		
Discovery and development of therapeutics from underexplored medicinal plants (2021-2022)	REM Corporation RM100,000		
Biocompatibility of bio-based surfactants for improved latex film properties with the bioburden testing (2021)	Lembaga Getah Malaysia RM20,000		
UDent Project – formulation of dental adhesive (2020-2022)	Ultradent Product Inc Malaysia RM40,000		
MSD Project – Evaluating the burden of paediatric pneumococcal pneumonia in Malaysia prior to and during pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) implementation (2021-2024)	Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp. (Malaysia) RM1,150,567		



SUPPORT FOR RESEARCHERS

Research Support Services continued to assist researchers in matters related to funding, working with partners and external stakeholders, knowledge exchange, demonstrating impact and ensuring good research practice. Researchers were also supported through the IMU's Financial Support for Open Access Journal Publication, and free courses under the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI).

MOVING FORWARD

In the year ahead we will continue doing our best to be at the forefront of scientific research. This will require us – as researchers and as an Institute – to remain innovative and competitive. At the same time, we will also draw on the power of meaningful collaborations with organisations that share our vision and our belief in the value of research.

"Collaborations and partnerships have always yielded great benefits for us, and we hope to work with more like-minded partners who are as committed as we are to research and real-world solutions."

> Prof Datuk Dr Lokman Hakim Sulaiman Director, IRDI







The IMU Community Engagement (CE) Office worked hard this year building partnerships with local and international organisations as well as strengthening capacity among staff and students. Even with the challenges thrown its way by the pandemic, it carried out its responsibility of articulating and implementing all of the University's community engagement initiatives in line with the anchoring pillars of the University.

PULSE OF THE COMMUNITY

The first deaf-aware university in Malaysia

This year, a new initiative was launched to bridge the gap between the deaf community and the healthcare system. The initiative included a community-participatory study to understand the urban deaf's perception of healthcare services and communication as well as the development of a healthcare network for the deaf community. In May and June a first cohort of students participated in the Basic Sign Language course. The cohort

then initiated a social media awareness campaign to share knowledge on deaf culture and the challenges faced by this community.

Sustainable health

IMU Community Engagement introduced the 2021 IMU Pulse of the Community: Good Health & Wellbeing Initiative, a programme to achieve sustainable health for the surrounding community in Bukit Jalil through inter-professional holistic teamwork by

SNAPSHOT 2021 🔯

 From donating medical equipment to distributing food aid, IMU CE continued to support the nation's battle against COVID-19. The "Good Health and Wellbeing" webinar series and a 10-webinar collaboration with UNHCR provided opportunities for knowledge sharing and continuing professional development.

The IMU became the first deaf-aware university in Malaysia with the launch of a new initiative that bridges the gap between the deaf community and the healthcare system. In April, the Purposeful Leadership in Community
 Engagement (PULCE) workshop was held to set goals and direction for the University's community engagement initiatives for the next few years.

Social Innovation Day
highlighted the power
of Social Innovation and
Social Entrepreneurship
(SISE) in effectively and
sustainably meeting
social needs.

The Advocates for Community
 Engagement (ACE) programme
 developed students' community
 leadership skills, which were then
 put to use in the Chariofare 2021.

 IMU CE affiliated to the Global University Network of Innovation (GUNi). We also took part in the Talloires Network Leadership Conference 2021 (TNLC2021) and became the only university in the Asian region to win a grant to host the local TNLC 2021.

family physicians, nurses and dieticians. In the first phase, the Let's Talk: Health Webinar Series (Jul and Aug) saw faculty from the School of Medicine participating as speakers.

Continuing professional development (CPD)

In collaboration with UNHCR, a total of 10 webinars were organised on various medical topics for medical and healthcare professionals. The webinars, which provided opportunities to earn CPD points, attracted over 380 participants.

EMPOWERING STUDENTS AND STAFF

Aligning goals and directions

In April, IMU CE organised the PULCE workshop for its fellows, project leaders and staff who were actively involved in

BATTLING COVID-19 TOGETHER

This year, IMU CE continued to support the country's healthcare system as well as underprivileged communities through several initiatives.

Medical and non-medical assistance for frontliners

- 450 face shields, 5,000 surgical masks, 50 bottles of hand sanitiser, 50 packs of disposable surface wipes and 100 pieces of tape contributed to Hospital Selayang, Hospital Putrajaya, COVID-19 Assessment Centre (CAC) Kajang Utama and St John's Ambulance.
- 3,080 packed lunches and 50 token-ofappreciation bags for frontliners in CAC Kepong, Titiwangsa, Kajang Utama and Sungai Buloh Hospital.

Food Aid for underprivileged communities

- Food assistance worth RM10,450 for 250 underprivileged families in the Klang Valley through a collaboration with SKRLWN Society in response to calls for help from IMU neighbourhood communities during the Emergency MCO in July:
 - 1,000 food aid packs to Sri Rakyat Apartment in Bukit Jalil
 - 120 lunch packs to four orphanages and three old folks' homes





Supporting the community healthcare system

- More than 500 students and staff volunteered to:
 - campaign and register 180 individuals for vaccination at the Projek Perumahan Rakyat (People's Housing Programme)
 - assist frontliners at eight centres including Public Health Departments, COVID-19
 Assessment Centres (CACs), and vaccination centres (PPVs) in the Klang Valley



Supporting equal access to education

 22 pre-loved laptops for students of a community partner school, SK Bandar Baru Sri Petaling 1, to facilitate online learning during the lockdown



Responding to the spike in COVID-19 cases in India

- RM20,000 for the purchase of oxygen concentrators in India. This donation was made through the International Association for Human Values (IAHV), an international volunteer-based NGO
- Staff and students also posted messages of encouragement to the citizens of India and the Indian community at the IMU through the IMU Community Voices platform

Sing the blues away

 Collaborated with the IMU Choir Club to create an original music video entitled *Together* to uplift spirits. It was launched on 16 September, Malaysia Day, on the the IMU Cares YouTube channel. To date it has reached more than 2,500 viewers.

community engagement-related activities at the IMU. The workshop provided an opportunity for the team to set the goals and direction for the University's community engagement initiatives for the next few years. Another workshop in September saw them learning practical hands-on techniques to bring to life the untold stories of community engagement.

Community leaders through social innovation

Social Innovation Day was held in August and highlighted the power of Social Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship (SISE) in effectively and sustainably meeting the social needs of today and the future. The event enabled participants to discuss and share their thoughts on health and wellbeing, environmental sustainability and empowering communities. Eleven IMU

students who had participated in a four-day SISE Bootcamp in July, pitched their SISE ideas and vied for a seed grant of RM5,000 to develop their social enterprise project.

Student community leadership development

The Advocates for Community Engagement (ACE) programme develops students' community leadership through the Active Citizen and SISE workshops. The skills learned were then applied to social action projects on the Chariofare 2021 platform.

During the Chariofare, students raised funds through five fundraising projects for three identified causes – children with cancer through a collaboration with National Cancer Society Malaysia; mental health of COVID-19 affected communities through Befrienders KL; and women suffering domestic abuse/ trauma through a partnership with Women's Aid Organisation (WAO).

BEYOND BOUNDARIES

Sustainability and community engagement

The pandemic curtailed many physical activities, but it also offered the opportunity to engage beyond geographical barriers. In March, IMU CE affiliated to the Global University Network of Innovation (GUNi), enabling us to exchange resources, innovative ideas, experiences, and solutions with other higher education institutions on emerging issues, as well as to improve society in and around the IMU.

Realising the potential of university community engagement for local and global impact

In September, the IMU as a member of the Talloires Network of Engaged Universities participated in the Talloires Network Leadership Conference (TNLC 2021). The conference involved 419 universities and higher education institutions from 79 countries worldwide. The IMU was the only university representing Malaysia. A total of 37 IMU delegates including students, faculty facilitators together with representatives from six community partners - MERCY Malaysia, Lions Club, Alzheimer's Disease Foundation Malaysia, Reconnect & Recharge, Social Enterprise Academy and Kachin Refugee Learning Centre - attended the conference.

Prof Khoo Suan Phaik bid for the Grant for Engaged Universities offered by the Talloires Network and secured USD13,750 to host local participation at the IMU. Local clusters from around the world will then join the main conference virtually in the US. The IMU was the only university in the Asian region to be awarded the grant to facilitate a local TNLC2021.

Themed "Global Institutions, Local Impact: Power and Responsibility of Engaged Universities", TNLC2021 was a movementbuilding conference that enabled IMU delegates to exchange knowledge on various interrelated issues, including the pandemic recovery, resilience, conflict and inequality, climate change, assessing engagement and civic engagement futures. The conference also enabled IMU delegates to critically reflect on their roles and responsibilities as members of the University, on how they can work together in partnership with local communities to sustainably and equitably address global challenges. IMU students appreciated this opportunity to experience this global conference which had a large student-led element and felt inspired and empowered to take on social issues affecting their own communities.

Also in 2021, IMU CE co-organised a workshop on "Impact Measurement" in collaboration with the Malaysian Community Hub. The workshop was part

"There was an opportunity for something positive and together we made it happen as a community."

Prof Khoo Suan Phaik, Dean, Community Engagement



of the Social Enterprise World Forum programme held in Nova Scotia on 28 and 29 September.

COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES WITH IMU SCHOOLS

Numerous other community engagement activities were co-organised with or led by our colleagues and students at the IMU Schools.

At the School of Medicine (SOM), activities included fundraising by students of the Orthopaedic Surgical Society, and collaborations with Hospital Tuanku Ja'afar Seremban on a Blood Donation Drive. The SOM also conducted online webinars for community partners such as the Lautu Education Centre and the Lautu Refugees School.

Under their District Partnership Initiatives, The SOM conducted courses for healthcare professionals and school counselors. The SOM also collaborated with the Seremban District Health Office vaccination team on an outreach programme for vaccination services for secondary-school children, immobilised citizens at home, and people living in plantations and rural areas, including Orang Asli villages. The SOM provided the workforce and facilities to enable fast delivery of services to various placements.

At the School of Health Sciences (SOHS), students and faculty produced and shared online content aimed at promoting health and wellness in the community. These included the Eat & Live Cooking series by the Centre for Transformative Nutrition and Health (CTNH), and the Project Fast, Good Food series of videos by the Nutrition & Dietetics Division (N&D).

N&D community projects focusing on children and youths included the RUTH



project involving youth teachers under the RUTH Education Centre, and Do Right, Be Bright, a project that focuses on the health needs of kindergarten children. Over at the Applied Biomedical Science and Biotechnology Division (ABSB), faculty and students carried out a community service project at SJK (C) Lai Meng.

The Ti-Ratana Home was the focus of several initiatives in 2021. The School of Pharmacy (SOP) and the School of Dentistry (SOD) were both involved in a PULSE Community

HELPING VICTIMS OF THE 2021 FLOODS

In December 2021, parts of Malaysia were hit by the worst floods the nation had seen in decades. The disaster resulted in loss of life, homes, pets, belongings and livelihoods. Thousands were displaced.

On 19 December, the IMU through its IMU Cares programme quickly responded by organising essential items to support flood victims. Staff and student volunteers worked overnight to pack bread, biscuits, rice, towels, sanitary pads, toothbrushes, toothpaste and more.

As reported by Dr Leong Hui Yen, Community Engagement in *IMU News*: "These were distributed to approximately 300 families (over a thousand individuals). The items for the communities worth over RM23,000 were provided by the IMU Humanitarian Aid Fund. In addition, more items poured in from all corners of the University, donated generously by staff and students as well as from IMU Healthcare."

The IMU worked together with Red Crescent Malaysia, OKU Sentral, MERCY Malaysia and local authorities such as Bomba (the Fire Department of Malaysia). Where road access was not available, the packed items were airlifted by Bomba's helicopter.





Project at Ti-Ratana Home (28 Aug). Dental screening and medication review assessments were part of this project. Faculty members from the Master in Pharmacy Practice programme under the School of Postgraduate Studies were also involved.

The Nursing Division conducted various activities around the theme "Eating Right with Fun" with Ti-Ratana residents and staff during a visit in April. At Ti-Ratana, Nursing also supported vaccination efforts, with Nursing faculty members assisting the Ministry of Health's mobile vaccination team with the pre-vaccination assessment and registration for the elderly and carers at Ti-Ratana, as well as with second-dose vaccination. Besides Ti-Ratana, Nursing staff also volunteered at vaccination centres and for the Community **Engagement and Empowerment for** COVID-19 (VCEE-19) project under the District Partnership Initiatives (DPI), District of Seremban.

MOVING FORWARD

IMU CE's strategic plan is to develop excellence in community engagement for the University, transforming students and building well-rounded graduates. We will continue to develop empathetic, community-centric citizens through the Active Citizen programme; and promote social innovation and entrepreneurial mindsets through the SISE programmes.

As we build social capital for the University as well as capacity of both the University and its students, we hope to make the IMU the "Pulse of the Community" - growing together with the community to form sustainable and impactful partnerships in the future.

AFLAME STUDENT AWARD 2021

The Aflame Student Award was STUDENT AWARD established in 2012 to recognise

and honor our graduating students, who have demonstrated exceptional humanistic endeavours and interpersonal skills in the practice of healthcare and community service. The award carries a cash prize of RM1,000 along with a plaque, certificate, trophy and the opportunity to nominate a beneficiary to receive RM5,000.

This year the award was given to Nur Nabila Nasharuddin whose chosen beneficiary was ProjectEd Malaysia, an organisation that strives for equity in tertiary education.

Nur Nabila said, "Nelson Mandela once said that education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." This, she explained, made her realise that education has always empowered and given her the strength to be the best version of herself. Nur Nabila graduated with a medical degree from the IMU.





IMU IN THE WORLD PARTNER UNIVERSITIES



The IMU's pledge to offer only the best educational experiences for its students extends far beyond its borders. With a secure and long-established global network of 35 partner institutions of higher learning, the IMU is committed to opening doors to education and training opportunities outside Malaysia via our credit transfer programmes. These collaborations in health professional education cover most of the undergraduate programmes offered at the University which makes the dream of studying overseas more accessible to Malaysians.

Similarly, the IMU is unique in fostering and establishing collaborations for the training of practitioners in complementary therapies. Building and developing these worldwide relationships also strengthens the University's ability to secure global talent, which in turn helps attract the brightest and the best to come and study at the IMU. Since 1995, the IMU's Partner Schools have conferred degrees on more than 3,000 individuals. Having established itself as a household name in Malaysia, the IMU is set for international recognition.

AUSTRALIA























CANADA













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NEW ZEALAND



UNITED KINGDOM

































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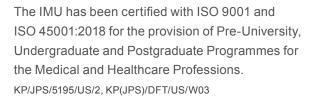




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