

First M'sian to get a DACBR

TAY Pei Shen graduated with a chiropractic degree from International Medical University (IMU) and is the first Malaysian Diplomat of the American Chiropractic Board of Radiology (DACBR).

She is currently a full-time chief resident and lecturer at the New Zealand College of Chiropractic and lectures part-time at IMU, as well as serving as a consultant for chiropractors in Malaysia and New Zealand.

Tay shares her journey on how she became a DACBR: "My humble journey started one ordinary weekday evening when I was working as a Chiropractor at IMU Chiropractic Centre.

"An elderly lady was brought in by her son following a fall and was unable to move her arm. Unfortunately, there was no radiologist on site in the evening, so I had to write a referral letter to an orthopaedic specialist.

"After that, I decided to pursue the residency in diagnostic imaging to earn a DACBR certification and become a chiropractic radiologist who could confidently analyse X-rays and other advanced imaging such as MRI.

"With the help of my previous chiropractic radiologist lecturer, Dr Kenneth Reckelhoff, I was introduced to the residency programme in New Zealand College of Chiropractic (NZCC), the only chiropractic programme in the southern hemisphere that offers this opportunity.

"I was told from the start that this journey would be a long one and it was true. It all started in 2017 when I emailed Dr John Bassano, the residency director of NZCC, to enquire about the requirements of this residency programme. First, I needed to be a registered chiropractor in New Zealand. Then, I had to pass the residency exam and interview.

"I started preparing for the Council of Chiropractic Education Australasia (CCEA) board exam in order to be registered and practise as a chiropractor in New Zealand.

"I was lucky to have a senior to guide me and friends to take the board exam with me. After



Tay (left) with Dr Bassano, who trained her in the field of chiropractic radiology.

passing my CCEA boards, I travelled to NZCC in 2019 for my residency exam and interview.

"I managed to slip my way into New Zealand to start the residency right before the pandemic started in early 2020. I had the opportunity to be trained under Dr Bassano, a very knowledgeable chiropractic radiologist.

"I had weekly didactic and film sessions as part of my training. The residency programme was also designed to train residents to be an educator, so I was taught to assist and teach subjects in NZCC's chiropractic programme.

"After two years of training, I sat for the American Chiropractic Board of Radiology (ACBR) exam. I was fortunate to be able to sit Part 1 of the exam remotely from New Zealand until the borders opened just in time for me to travel to Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa, for my Part 2 exam.

"Dr Bassano and I were sponsored by NZCC

to attend the ACBR conference this year in Cleveland, Kansas, for continuing education and to receive my DACBR certificate.

"It was a great opportunity and experience to connect and meet other chiropractic radiologists and residents, as well as Dr Reckelhoff, who has taught me all my radiology basics way back when I was a chiropractic student.

"I am honoured to be the first Malaysian chiropractic radiologist and looking forward to sharing my knowledge to help the profession grow in Malaysia. It has been a crazy, tough journey and I am very grateful for all the support I received from my family, partner, mentor, colleagues and friends.

"The programme at IMU is accredited by the CCEA board and gave me the foundation to pass my CCEA board exam. It was also where I got my radiology basics which prepared me for my NZCC diagnostic imaging residency exam."

IMU is the first and only university to offer the complete chiropractic educational programme in Malaysia and all of South-East Asia.

IMU's four-year Chiropractic Programme is accredited by the prestigious CCEA and the Malaysian Qualification Agency. The only accredited chiropractic programme in South-East Asia, it offers academic and clinical training.

Students have the option to complete the entire degree at IMU or study part of the programme and then transfer to IMU's partner universities, namely RMIT University in Australia, AECU University College or University of South Wales in the United Kingdom. Currently, IMU alumni are practising in a few countries, including New Zealand, Australia and China.

If you have just completed your SPM and do not have pre-university qualification, consider enrolling in the one-year IMU Foundation in Science, the direct route for entry into any of the university's local degree programmes.

■ For more details, visit www.imu.edu.my or email start@imu.edu.my or call 03-2731 7272.