



Winners of the competition with IMU School of Health Sciences dean Prof Anna Ling, at the IMU Bukit Jalil campus.

Igniting the Algae Revolution

IN celebration of scientific ingenuity and environmental stewardship, the Medical Biotechnology Day 2023 at International Medical University (IMU) on July 6 took a momentous leap towards a greener future.

Themed “The Algae Revolution: Preparing for the Future,” this year’s event broke barriers as it marked the first physical gathering after the Covid-19 pandemic, drawing over 300 enthusiastic secondary school and university students from across Peninsular Malaysia.

The dedicated Medical Biotechnology faculty, in synergy with the collaborative efforts of students from MB121 and MB122 cohorts, worked tirelessly for nearly seven months to ensure the event’s resounding success. Their aim was to highlight the versatile utility of algae in modern biotechnology industries and provide hands-on exposure to techniques used in algae biotechnology.

The highlight of the day was the much-anticipated “Algae Model Building Competition,” which witnessed an overwhelming response from schools. Participants showcased their creativity and scientific knowledge by crafting visually captivating models representing diverse algae species and their potential benefits to humanity and the environment. Winners of this competition include students from Chong Hwa Independent High School, Regent International School, Kuen Cheng High School, MAZ International School, Westlake International School and IMU’s Foundation in Science programme.

The event also featured enlightening public talks by renowned speakers in the field, and one of them was Dr Yow Yoon Yen. Dr Yow delivered a compelling public talk on “Algae for a Sustainable Future: Applications for Humans” that emphasised the vast applications of algae in sustainable food production, pharmaceutical advancements, and renewable biofuels, paving the way for a greener and healthier world.

Following this, Prof Chin Beek Yoke from IMU presented an enlightening talk entitled “Coexisting with Biotechnology: Dangers and Benefits.”

Medical Biotechnology Day 2023 truly ignited the Algae Revolution, bridging the gap between scientific innovation and environmental sustainability, all while reaffirming the power of collective efforts in shaping a greener and brighter tomorrow.

“I am immensely grateful and proud to have a team of enthusiastic organising committee comprising the medical biotechnology students,” said its event advisor Dr Wong Chiew Yen.

“I believed through this event, everyone involved especially participants from secondary schools have broadened their understanding and knowledge in the diverse potential application of algae that benefit to various aspects of our lives such as food, energy, medicine, and environmental sustainability.

“I hope this event has not only provided valuable insights and knowledge but has also forged lasting connections among the participants and organising committee. Congratulations to everyone involved.”

“As the chairperson of Medical Biotechnology Day 2023, I’m thrilled by the overwhelming response and success of the event,” said president of the event’s organising committee, Emily Wong Yan Yi (MB121).

“Witnessing the creativity and dedication of participants in the Algae Model Building Competition was truly inspiring.

“The event effectively highlighted the significance of algae in medical biotechnology and sustainable practices, leaving a lasting impact on the IMU community and beyond. I extend my gratitude to the organising team, sponsors, and participants for their contributions in promoting a greener and healthier future through algae.”

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

Students can also complete the entire degree at IMU. IMU Medical Biotechnology graduates also have the opportunity to gain direct entry into the Strathclyde MSc Industrial Biotechnology or MSc Forensic Science. They will only need to spend one year in Strathclyde to complete their master’s degree. These partnerships are a testament to the excellence of the MB programme which is benchmarked to international standards.

Commencement of this programme is in July and September. If you have pre-university qualifications and have an interest in Medical Biotechnology, apply online now and join the university in your pursuit of a promising and rewarding career.

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

■ For more information, refer to www.imu.edu.my or email start@imu.edu.my or call IMU at 03-2731 7272.