Malaysia needs 18,000 Pharmacists by 2020

UniKL Royal College of Medicine Perak successfully organized an International Conference on Pharmaceutical Sciences with the theme ‘Advances in Pharmaceutical Sciences: Emerging Challenges in Practice’ from 18th March to 20th March 2016. The conference attracted more than 100 participants from ten different countries around the world.
I give great pleasure to pen a few words for the first RCMP Newsletter for 2016. It is my wish that this Newsletter will be well received by everyone concerned and I hope it will become an effective medium of communication among the management, the academic staff as well as the students of this medical college.

This year we have decided to suspend the monthly E-Bulletin which has been going strong for the last five years. This Newsletter, which replaces the E-Bulletin will henceforth be a quarterly issue. The RCMP Newsletter will have a wider circulation, as it will be distributed to all UniKL colleges as well as other relevant public and private institutions and departments. It commences a new chapter in our effort to record the events of the college as well as to open a forum for discussions among all those who have a stake in this educational institution.

I take this opportunity to welcome all the new students who have come aboard as well as all the returning students who I hope have come back with renewed vigour to continue with their studies. I believe all the various training sessions, workshops and short courses that were conducted through 2015 would have equipped our support staff as well as the academic faculty with the tools and skills needed to forge further ahead in this New Year to produce better results and to take the college to the next level of educational excellence as envisioned under We4Asia.

I believe SS, Lean Management and ICC principles, if applied diligently, should take us to greater heights in the future and also create a much more conducive working environment for everyone in this college.

All efforts are now being focussed on Project We4Asia, which is a consolidated endeavour to propel the university to become one of the top educational institutions in the Asian region. Let’s give our fullest cooperation towards this noble and lofty ideal of the university by making positive changes in every aspect of our work.

Thank you.

Hisshamuddin Bin Omar
CEO / Head of Campus
Universiti Kuala Lumpur
Royal College of Medicine Perak

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**FEEDBACK & COMMENTS**

Has something you have read in UniKL RCMP Newsletter intrigued or excited you? Write to us.

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**Engagement session: YB Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Annuar bin Haji Musa, MARA Chairman with MARA Perak**

An engagement session between YB Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Annuar bin Haji Musa, Chairman of MARA and MARA Perak was held on Friday, 12th February 2016 at UniKL RCMP Tasek Premise in conjunction with MARA's 50th Anniversary (1966-2016).

YB. Dr. Hj Noor Azmi, Our New Chairman

Yg. Berhormat Dr. Hj Noor Azmi bin Hj Ghazali has been appointed as the new Chairman of PCM SDN BHD effective 17 Nov 2015 replacing Datuk Dr. Hj Yusof Hj Yacob. Dr. Noor Azmi bin Hj Ghazali is currently the Bagan Serai Member of Parliament and Chairman for Rural Agricultural Development of Bagan Serai (2014 - present). He is also a Trustee for Yayasan Ghazali and Chairman of Rural Development Council of Bagan Serai Parliamentary Constituency (2014 - present), a member of the Board of Directors for Malaysian Research and Forest Development Board (MRFDB) and Chairman/Advisor for Community College (2015 - present).

Dr. Hj Noor Azmi was born in Port Weld, Perak on 28th November 1961. He had his secondary education at SMJK King Edward in Taiping, Perak and pursued his tertiary education in medicine at University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. After graduating from University Malaya, Dr. Hj Noor Azmi worked as a Medical Officer in government hospitals among which were Taiping, Changkat Melintang, Bota and Ipoh General Hospital. In 2013, Dr. Hj Noor Azmi was elected as a Member of Parliament for the Parliamentary constituency of Bagan Serai in Perak. He is married to Siti Norizah binti Bachik and they are blessed with 3 children namely Siti Nadia Binti Noor Azmi and Siti Nabila Binti Noor Azmi (Medical students) and Muhammad Asyraf Bin Noor Azmi (businessman). His father Hj Ghazali bin Hj Chik, 80 years, is a retired teacher and his mother Hjh. Halijah Binti Hj. Ayub, 77 years, is a housewife and both were actively involved in UMNO from 1967 till 1987.
International Conference of Pharmacy and Health Science 2016
“Advances in Pharmaceutical Sciences : Emerging Challenges in Practice”

By Zahaimi Abdullah Sani

Hold at Casuarina Hotel, Ipoh, Perak, the three-day International Conference organized by the Faculty of Pharmacy and Health Sciences UniKL RCMP, gave opportunities to experts from the health industry, academia, government and the public sector representatives to discuss ideas, share knowledge and learn about the latest inventions and current researches that will benefit the Pharmaceutical industry.

The conference brought together experts from countries such as Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Poland, Indonesia, Philippines, Japan, Thailand, Iraq, Italy, India and Malaysia. Meanwhile 23 poster presentations were also held at the conference hall.

Hisshamuddin Omar, CEO and Head of Campus of UniKL RCMP, expressed his hope that this conference would provide an opportunity to exchange views with distinguished speakers in the field of pharmacy. “I believe that this conference will update participants on the latest developments in pharmacy and will give a significant impact to the participants to further motivate them to ensure better treatment and recovery for their patients.”

Datuk Eisah A. Rahman, Senior Director of Pharmaceutical Science, Ministry of Health, addressed the issue of shortage of Pharmacists in Malaysia. At present Malaysia has 13,500 registered pharmacists equivalent to a ratio of 1:2500. Every year Malaysia produced 1200 to 1500 pharmacists locally as well as from overseas but the country still needs 18,000 pharmacists by 2020.

According to Datuk Eisah, pharmacy graduates are unable to secure placement for their internship as there are insufficient places in our hospitals. This is a major problem faced by all pharmacy graduates. The Ministry of Health was also aware of the problem where private hospitals employed untrained staff to dispense medicine.

Datuk Dr Adham Baba, Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of UniKL RCMP expressed his hope that the conference would be the best medium to discuss the challenges in the pharmacy sector and to produce solutions to all the issues concerned in line with the implementation of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA).

Prof Dr Mohd Syafiq Abdullah, Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy and Health Sciences UniKL RCMP said pharmacists are no longer just suppliers of medicines and concocters of medicinal products but are also involved in providing health care whether in the hospital, the community pharmacy, laboratory, industry or in academic institutions. The changing role of pharmacists in monitoring medication usage is in fact subsumed under the term Pharmaceutical care.

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“‘They do not have the experience and skills and they are bound to make mistakes during the dispensing of medicine.”

-Datuk Eisah A. Rahman

Other notable speakers at the conference were Prof. Dr. Anima Nanda, Dean, Faculty of Bio & Chemical Engineering, Sathyabama University, Chennai, India; Prof. Dr. Aranya Manosroi, Faculty of Science and Technology, North-Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand; Hidehiro Uekusa, Department of Chemistry and Materials Science, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo, Japan; Syed Mohd Syahmi bin Syed Mohmad Faudzi, International Islamic University Malaysia; Hamiza Aziz, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia; Dr. Shah Mohammed Ashraf, Advanced Nano-Materials Laboratory, Department of Physics, National Institute of Technology, Srinagar, India.

The closing ceremony was graced by Associate Professor, Ruhaiyem Yahya, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.
Media Roundtable on Ageing 2016

By Zahaimi Abdullah Sani

Universiti Putra Malaysia with support of UniKL Royal College of Medicine Perak, organized a Media roundtable session on Ageing with the theme “Age Inclusiveness & Supportive Environments” on 18th January 2016 at the Boutique Hotel in Ipoh.

The program was meant to share information on the ageing population and the situation of older persons in Malaysia, promoting a holistic approach to understand old age and ageing issues through international and national policies, programs and services as well as to strengthen the use of research data and empirical evidence through media engagement in improving the well-being of older Malaysians.

Professor Dr Tengku Aizan Hamid, Director of Malaysian Research Institute on Ageing said Malaysia needs to prepare for a rapidly graying society with limited resources. She urged all media partners to carry positive articles regarding the aged. “An ageing population is not all just gloom and doom but it also opens door to new opportunities, new thinking and new values”. All the while elderly people have been regarded as a burden, and as useless members of society. “This has to change,” she emphasized.

The session ended with a visit to the Yayasan Teratai Aged Care Centre, the Dementia Daycare Centre, the Green Acres Retirement Village and the Kinta Care Centre.

First Aid Training for Kindy Children

By Wong Siaw Wuei

Twenty three medical students from MBBS Year 2 organised a First Aid Training session at Kinder Joy Kindergarten, Ipoh on 29 February 2016. The objective of this programme was to enhance kindergarten students’ knowledge about what to do when they see an accident or emergency situation and to provide the very basic first aid skills using interactive and attractive demonstrations. A total of 94 six year old children took part in this activity.

POS RAYA – HEALTH PROGRAM

By UniKL RCMP (19th-20th February 2016)

By Dr Sabaridah Ismail

The 2-day health program conducted in the Orang Asli village was a community service as well as a research activity organized by the Community Based Department of RCMP in collaboration with the Kinta District Health Department.

On 19 February, activities were conducted at the SK POS RAYA Primary school. Measurement of height and weight for nutritional assessment, stool collection for examination of soil transmitted helminthiasis, examination for skin infections, lice infestations and treatment were conducted. Altogether 115 school children were examined and treated.

On 20 February, all activities were conducted in the village itself with the Community Hall as our base. Community services rendered included health screening, Pap-smear for cervical cancer screening, mobile medical clinic for consultation and treatment of minor ailments such as skin infections, lice infestation, de-worming etc. and referrals were done where necessary.

A number of competitions such as healthy adults, healthy adolescents, healthy infants and children, best oral hygiene, best hand washing, target shooting contest using blow pipe, best traditional handicraft and Karaoke contest were held and the winners received prizes. The
E - DOCUMENTATION in nursing practice

By Subhashini Nair a/p Govindan

Adoption of information technology in nursing practice has become a trend in healthcare. Computerization can help to save time for nurses so that more time can be spent with the patient. It can create positive attitudes towards computer use, and increase the quality of charting and its relationship to the plan of caring for the patients.

A high quality of nursing documentation is seen as necessary to support patient-centered nursing care, cooperation in the health professional team, quality management, evaluation of nursing care, and the fulfillment of legal requirements. Nursing documentation accompanies the nursing process and is an important part of clinical documentation.

In Malaysia, paper-based documentation systems are used to support nursing documentation. However, problems are frequently reported regarding the time required for documentation, the low quality of documentation, and the limited user acceptance. To overcome these problems, computer-based nursing documentation systems are now being developed for use in nursing practice. Therefore, to be up to date with the new technology and to overcome problems of paper-based documentation such as illegibility of hand writing which can lead to errors, time requirement for documentation and accessibility of records that delay medical treatments for patients. Hence, a computerized documentation system is now being preferred. There are many benefits of the computerized documentation such as control of unauthorized tampering of documents, saves labor and stationary cost, saves storage space for manual records. This documentation system is time saving because it enables fast retrieval of patient records and most essentially it contributes to the Go Green campaign. Nevertheless, nursing attitudes should also be changed, particularly for nurses who have interacted only occasionally with the computer prior to implementation. Nurses with little computer experience are likely to be skeptical and uncertain about the benefits of computers.

However, with no experience of using computerized nursing documentation, it would be difficult for the nurses to identify what they need and want. After they had actually used the system for several months, they would have experienced its limitations and will be much clearer about what they need. This is also a benefit of the implementation of this system. Apparently, negative experience with this system can actually be seen in positive light.

In conclusion, implementing computerized documentation will be challenging in this new millennium. Computerized documentation system has many benefits in ensuring the safety of managing holistic patient care. Therefore, with the advent of this new era of technology where instant connectivity is the buzzword, e-documentation will surely be the call of the day towards more paperless healthcare organization.

SCREENING FOR THALASSEMIA

By Rose Ayu Md Rabi & Ezawaty Mat Johor

34 students from Semester 1 (June 2015 Intake) had an opportunity to do the Thalassemia screening program organised by Klinik Kesihatan Teluk Intan (KXTI). The program was held on 18th January 2016 from 11.00 am until 2.00 pm. The purpose of the program is to detect early blood disorder among the teenagers and to minimize the risk of Thalassemia at birth. The program started with a talk by Dr Jazilah, medical officer from Klinik Kesihatan Teluk Intan. The talk was regarding Thalassemia inheritance. After the short talk, all students had a blood screening for thalassemia. The results came back on 22nd January 2016. Unfortunately 16 students had abnormal results and they had to do blood HbA Analysis to confirm if they are thalassemia carriers. Our special thanks to Klinik Kesihatan Teluk Intan for doing the screening for our students free of charge.

CHINESE NEW YEAR EXHIBITION WITH PAPER CUTTING AND CHINESE CALLIGRAPHY

By Tay Yang Lian

Chinese Paper Cutting and Chinese Calligraphy hands on activities were held in conjunction with Chinese New Year at Tasek campus of Universiti Kuala Lumpur, Royal College of Medicine Perak, Faculty of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. This activity was organized from 1st to 3rd of March, 2016 by Mandarin lecturers from General Studies Unit, FPHS with the help of Diploma in Pharmacy Year 2 Semester 3 students. This event received a warm response where a total of 150 staff and students attended and participated. The main objective of this activity was to highlight Chinese traditional culture as well as to create a fun and interesting learning experience outside of the classrooms.

The first activity was Chinese paper cutting. There was an exhibition to introduce Chinese Paper Cutting as well. All the participants were excited to see the unique, complex, esthetic and unrestrained styles with rich patterns of animals, flowers, and Chinese characters. As we know, 2016 is the year of the Monkey. Hence, the organizer had prepared the “Fu” Chinese words (which means blessing monkey in Chinese) for the participants. Chinese calligraphy competition was held on the second day where it was open to all staff and students. The competition began with a demonstration session by Miss Wong Siaw Wuei from General Studies Unit, FOM. Miss Wong showed the skills and techniques of writing Chinese calligraphy before the participants were required to write the red spring rolls on a piece of red paper provided by the organizer. Approximately 150 students and staff participated in this activity. The participants were excited to experience and enjoy the art and beauty of Chinese calligraphy through this competition.

Closing ceremony and prize giving ceremony was held on the 3rd day. Mr Muhammad Iqbal, Coordinator of General Studies Unit, FPHS was invited to give away the prizes to the winners.

“Our Aim is to Save Lives”

By Chen Hoi Yen

The UniKL RCMP Nursing Programme is dedicated to “save a life at a time”. In this regard, the in-house Basic Life Support (BLS) Instructors conduct Basic Life Support Provider courses regularly. This is to ensure nursing educators are certified as BLS Providers so that they can provide first aid and supervise nursing students in the clinical areas and of course save a live whenever called upon to do so. Besides that, the nursing team consists of BLS instructors and facilitators taking the responsibility to organize BLS Provider courses for the final year nursing students. The team hopes that on being certified as BLS Providers, future nurses will be able to provide BLS and more lives could be saved.

This BLS Provider course is designed using the “Institute Jantung Negara” (IJN) BLS Guidelines which are consistent with the American Heart Association (AHA) Guidelines. It provides the knowledge and skills to recognize several life-threatening emergencies, provide cardiorespiratory resuscitation (CPR) and relieve choking in a safe, timely and effective manner for both adults and infant victims. The methodology includes lectures, videos, lecture-demonstrations and hands-on experience.

This course also uses scenario-based approach to develop the critical thinking and problem solving skills that derive better patient outcomes. To ensure consistency, the participants need to pass a theory exam as well as practical test of 1-rescuer CPR, 2-rescuer CPR, adult choking, infant CPR and choking.

Basic Life Support is a skill that everybody should have and it is of great help while waiting for the ambulance or medical and professional help. Make sure you are educated and able to save a life when called upon. Let’s be the one who are prepared for any life threatening situation that require basic life support. It is so good and so comforting to know that you can help someone near you who needs to be rescued.
Temporary Certificate Presentation and Oath Taking Ceremony
UniiKL RCMP PRODUCES 149 YOUNG DOCTORS

By Zahaimi binti Abdullah Sani

“I’m proud to say that since 2002, UniiKL has successfully produced a total of 918 doctors most of whom are doing commendable service in hospitals across the country. Incidentally, the total number of UniiKL graduates today has increased from 31, 638 (2015) to 31, 787 (2016) with your graduation today”, said Datuk Dr Adham Baba, Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Universiti Kuala Lumpur in his keynote address at the Temporary Certificate Presentation and Oath Taking Ceremony that was held on 21st March 2016 at Casuarina @meru Hotel, Ipoh, Perak.

Datuk Dr Adham Baba congratulated all the 149 Medical graduates from the Class of 2011 - 2016 for their excellent achievement in their final examination. “I know it has not been an easy journey because I have been there too. You have gone through a tedious academic and professional journey, one that can only be successfully completed through hard work, diligence and determination. The MBBS curriculum is a very intense and elaborate curriculum and I am proud that you have made it.”

He said, the internship programme is normally for two years but some take longer and this has caused a backlog with new graduates being unable to enter due to the limited vacancies in public hospitals. Applications for placement in the Klang valley take a longer time compared to Sabah and Sarawak.

He added that the government has decided to limit the number of students accepted into universities so that there are not too many graduates and a moratorium was issued three years ago to reduce the intake of medical students in public and private universities. This is a major problem facing all medical graduates. Even dentists and pharmacists are facing the same problem.

Pursuant to this he said UniKL in its 10 year strategic plan (2014-2023) has proposed to provide state of the art teaching and learning facilities. The strategic planning for RCMP includes building a teaching hospital and to have collaboration with Alexandria University of Egypt. On top of that, UniKL will ensure adequate lecturers in all areas of specialization to facilitate quality teaching and learning.

The reading of the Hippocratic Oath was led by Dr Ung Lik Hoe who had clinched the Dean’s award, as well as awards for Outstanding Performance in the Final Professional Examination and Outstanding Performance in the First Professional Examination. Dr Ung was also given the opportunity to deliver the valedictorian speech. In his speech he expressed his gratitude to all the lecturers. “Thank you for putting in the extra effort to make our lessons more interesting so we wouldn’t just tune off. Behind every successful graduate there are at least a dozen people or more providing support in innumerable ways.”

“The best way we can show our gratitude to all of you is to make the most of the opportunity we have been given, and go forward into the world with the conviction of making it a better place for the present and future generations of Malaysians. We promise to pay that debt of gratitude to the Malaysian society”.

Also present were Dato’ Dr Hjh Juita Ghazalie, Director Perak State Health Department, Puan Teh Arfah Kamarul Zaman, Director Perak State MARA, En Hisshamuddin Omar, Chief Executive & Head of Campus, Y.B. Dr. Haji Mohd Noor Azmi Bin Ghazali – Chairman of PCM Sdn Bhd & Prof. Dr. Osman Ali, Dean, Faculty of Medicine. The session ended with a group photo session to commemorate the event.
RCMP IN NEWS

A proud achievement

Forging stronger ties

Demand for pharmacists

Negara perlu 18,000 ahli farmasi menjelang 2020