‘Mad Scientist’: A Dream Come True

Heavily influenced by the infamous “Mad Scientist” cartoon of the late 1980s, Tan Lay Kim has always dreamt of becoming a scientist since she was a little girl. Her dream drove her to pursue a study in Biology and she graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Biology) Degree in 2006 and subsequently a Master in Science (Biotechnology) degree in 2010. Upon completing her Masters degree, she was offered a permanent post as a researcher at the Institute for Medical Research (IMR), Ministry of Health Malaysia.

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UniKL RCMP Wins Three Gold Medals

Five final year students from Bachelor of Pharmacy programme participated in the 7th “Made in UniKL” Final Year Project Competition, organised by the Centre for Research and Innovation (CoRI), UniKL, at UniKL-MSI campus, Kulim, Kedah from the 25th to the 27th of July, 2017.

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Since then, she has continued her journey as a researcher in the biomedical field and her passion in research continues to burn. Her work in the biomedical field, dealing with clinical-oriented research and playing an active role as a crucial support to the health system has fanned the flames in her and inspired her to go even further in acquiring knowledge and skills.

Anything worth achieving will always have obstacles in the way. This includes becoming an independent researcher. Knowing that it is difficult to become one without a doctorate, she is more determined to pursue her doctoratorial study in medical science. Armed with an inquisitive mind and a burning passion for research, she embarked on her Ph.D journey, with the hope of becoming an independent researcher one day.

In early 2016, Lay Kim was offered a “Fully Paid Study Leave” scheme by the Ministry of Health Malaysia to pursue her doctorate degree. Having strong confidence in the Doctorate of Philosophy (Medical Science) programme offered by Universiti Kuala Lumpur Royal College of Medicine Perak (UniKL RCMP), she registered as the first Ph.D student of the programme in July 2016. As a PhD student, she continues to show profound interest and persistence in medical science research and has published research articles in peer-reviewed international journals. Her thirst for knowledge in science has encouraged her to attend many local and international conferences. Indeed through these conferences, she has built up a strong scientific collaborative network locally and internationally.
Lay Kim has represented UniKL RCMP and won several awards including the “Best Paper” award during the 5th UniKL Postgraduate Symposium (October 2016), “Best Poster” award during the NIH Research Week 2016 Incorporating the 19th NIH Scientific Seminar (November 2016) and the Korean College of Rheumatology 2017 Travel Grant Award for the oral presentation during the “37th Korean College of Rheumatology Scientific Meeting and 11th International Symposium” at Conrad Seoul, South Korea (May 2017).

These achievements continue to encourage her to accomplish her goal of becoming an independent researcher and it was evident even at the international stage, when she was awarded the bursary to attend the upcoming Wellcome Genome Campus Advanced Course: Genetic Analysis of Population-based Association Studies at Hinxton, Cambridgeshire, United Kingdom this September. These achievements were attained with the support and hard work of her teammates in IMR (Ms Salsabil Sulaiman, Dr Nurul Aain Ahmad Fauzi and Dr Mohammed Faizal Bakhtiar) and her supportive supervisory team (Professor Dato’ Dr Wahinuddin Sulaiman (UniKL RCMP, Malaysia), Dr Too Chun Lai (IMR, Malaysia), Associate Professor Dr Leonid Padyukov (Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden) and Professor Dr Osman Ali (UniKL RCMP, Malaysia)).

Despite her tight schedule as a PhD student, Lay Kim is also closely involved in planning several patient-oriented researches with her collaborators. Her involvements include selecting proper tools to address scientific questions, in planning and performing experiments, analysis of experimental data, writing manuscripts, critical reading of scientific literature and publishing research findings in international proceedings such as the Annals of Rheumatism Diseases, Internal Medicine Journal, and Journal of Rheumatic Diseases.

The enthusiastic Lay Kim believes that this is only the starting point of her journey in becoming an independent researcher. In the future, Lay Kim looks forward to sharing her knowledge and passion with her peers and juniors.
UniKL RCMP Wins Three Gold Medals
By Dr. Mahendran Sekar

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The event was officiated by YB Dato’ Sri Dr. Adham Baba, Chairman & Pro Chancellor of Universiti Kuala Lumpur. This year’s Final Year Project competition attracted 46 projects from 12 institutes of UniKL, with the participation of more than 120 students. The projects were evaluated based on their commercial value and their usefulness and application to overcome real-life situations.

UniKL-RCMP (FPHS), was represented by three teams in this competition. The project entitled “Novel and Natural Mosquito Repellent Liquid to Prevent Dengue Mosquitoes” which was carried out by “Farah Nurliyana Abd Rahim” won a Gold medal & 2nd runner-up in best innovative product category and was awarded RM 500.00 cash prize.

The projects entitled “Novel Natural Ultrasound Gel for Physiotherapy Treatments” & “Novel and Natural Antibacterial and Anti-Inflammatory Cream” carried out by “Afikaah Sha An Ali & Nur Syahira Abdul Jalli” respectively also won gold medals.

The judges were quite impressed by our students’ presentations which displayed innovative and creative skills. It was a great result for all the efforts of our students. This competition encouraged the students to be more innovative and has opened up opportunities for them to explore their entrepreneurial skills for future undertakings.

Based on the merits of the projects, the panel of judges recommended that all the three gold medal projects would represent UniKL at the “Novel Research & Innovation Competition (NRIC) 2017 “ which will be held at USM, PENANG from 15 to 17th August 2017. Congratulations to all our students for their commendable achievements.
The iftar program with the Orphans and Underprivileged Children & Teachers of Rumah Budi Mulia Nurul Huda was held on Friday, 16th June 2017 at KFC, Bandar Meru Raya, Ipoh. This event celebrated 32 children and the caregivers of the orphanage and was organized by the General Studies Unit of UniKL Royal College of Medicine Perak. Among the main guests during the ceremony were the CEO of UniKL RCMP, Tuan Haji Hisshamuddin Bin Omar and the Special Officer of ADUN Manjoi, Encik Haji Mokhtar Bin Yeop Bahuddi. Encik Ibrahim, the Head of the General Studies Unit, assisted the VIPs in giving away the Eid money packets, Eid goodie bags of clothing, boxes of goat’s milk and packets of honey sticks. All 32 children from the orphanage received a total of RM260 worth of Eid cash gifts and Eid goodie bags of clothes.

According to Puan Siti Noraihan Binti Sheikh Ahmad, the project manager of this event, the total value of the money & goods collected by MBBS Year 1 students & staffs from the General Studies Unit was RM11,000.00. A day prior to this iftar event, MBBS Year 1 students & staff of Student Development Unit accompanied the children to shop for their Eid necessities at Mydin Meru Raya Ipoh. The happy and excited faces of the children choosing their Eid clothing was priceless to watch.

These children were also celebrated in a similar event last year. Therefore, this was the second time we had raised funds for this activity. With the donation from everyone, the children were able to receive a complete set of clothing for Eid together with the traditional outfit for boys (“samping”), head scarfs for the girls, shoes and some other essentials such as towels and shampoo.

It was very satisfying to see those smiling faces throughout this event. We would like to thank all the donors for helping to make this event a very successful and memorable one. By organizing such events during the holy month of Ramadhan, we get the opportunity to share with the less fortunate, the happiness and love that is very much in the air during the month of Ramadhan. By god’s grace we will continue to do such noble acts as much as we can, in the future.
Bringing Joy and Happiness to Senior Citizens

By Zahaimi Abdullah Sani

In the spirit of Ramadhan Al-Mubarak, 50 UniKL RCMP staff and students surprised the residents of Rumah Seri Kenangan Tg Rambutan by visiting them. Led by Nur Iman Abdul Wahab, Senior Executive of Corporate Governance Department and Helvinder Kaur, a Senior Lecturer, the team distributed goodies to 350 residents of the old folk’s home.

The visit was a part of UniKL RCMP’s corporate social responsibility initiative to bring joy and happiness to the less fortunate during the festive season.

The residents of the home were entertained by activities conducted by UniKL RCMP students from the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) and Health Sciences programmes.

Also present at the event were YB Dato’ Dr Muhammad Amin bin Zakaria, Perak State Education, Science Environmental and Green Technology.

“After greeting the elderly and speaking to them one-to-one, I was amazed to see how appreciative they were of my visit. Perhaps they have been feeling lonely or abandoned, but now tears of joy glistened in their eyes. Maybe what these people need is to know they are being cared for, even by young people like students,” said Dr Muhammad Amin.
The Elderly Will Not Be Forgotten
By Zahaimi Abdullah Sani

On 4th August 2017, for the second time this year, I was able to spare some time together with five other UniKL RCMP volunteers to visit Rumah Seri Kenangan (RSK), an old folk’s home located in Tanjung Rambutan, Perak. We brought with us 230 packets of goodies donated by the generous staff of UniKL RCMP, together with some pre-loved items and magazines.

I have learned that volunteering is a two-way process. You’ll be surprised by how much love and warmth you will receive when you give your time to help a hapless soul. On a few occasions during our visit to RSK, my friends and I were hugged by one of the residents whom we call ‘Adek’, whenever she saw us around. Perhaps this was out of sheer joy and gratitude.

Even after so many visits there, honestly I didn’t know what to expect this time around. It is hard to imagine the difference we could make in their lives, since we were just a bunch of strangers paying them a visit once in a while.

Nevertheless during the recent visit, Nornatasafaziana Mohd Zulkifly who was busy distributing goodies at the women’s dormitory was asked to open a muffin plastic cover by an elderly woman. Upon returning the muffin to the lady, Nornatasafaziana was hugged and kissed by the woman to show her appreciation. I now realize that one cannot underestimate a stranger’s capacity to impact another’s life, because the effects of a kind gesture can be tenfold.

A handful of the senior citizens here are educated people and some of them can speak fluent English. They’re probably books of knowledge waiting to be uncovered. For those who want to brush up their English probably this is a good place! You might kill two birds with one stone, keep them occupied through conversation and at the same time gain some extra knowledge and life lessons from them.

God willing, my team and I will be back to see the RSK folk soon to bring more joy and to fulfill one of the ladies
UniKL RCMP Students Engagement Programmes in Cambodia and Vietnam

By Prof Dr Abdul Karim Russ Hassan

The general health status of the people in rural areas of Cambodia is still low considering the high annual incidence of maternal and infant mortality rates. There is still a dire lack of clean water and sanitation among many rural communities. So, this mission was designed in response to these basic human needs of such communities to provide primary health care, health promotion and social entrepreneurial projects to bring toilet and tube well facilities for these rural folk through the collaboration with the Alumni of Tuanku Muhammad School, Hospital Beyond Borders, Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC) and the Malaysian Embassy in Cambodia.

Other activities included an educational tour to one of the most highly ranked Universities in Vietnam, the University of Medicine and Pharmacy (UMP), Ho Chi Minh City and a study tour of Pasteur Institute, a well known medical research institute, to gain exposure on medical research for our medical students.

There were also student interaction programmes through dialogue sessions and learning through experience with fellow medical students of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy.

Interestingly, UniKL has recently signed an MOU with these institutions in Vietnam as a direct consequence of a follow up visit by our Dean of Medicine and medical lecturers with the counterpart of these institutions during the preceding year.

On 5th of May 2017, eleven 4th Year Medical Students of UniKL RCMP with their Supervisor Prof.Dr Abdul Karim Russ Hassan, left RCMP and arrived safely at the Phnom Penh International Airport. The team leader and their supervisor met the officials at the Malaysian Embassy to discuss the preparation for the programme during their stay in Cambodia.

The next day, they were assisted by The next day, they were assisted by Dr Roly, Director of Hospital Beyond Borders (HBB) to conduct a medical clinic for minor medical conditions for people living near the HBB in Phnom Penh. Later, a van was hired for the three hour journey to another province in Kampung Thom for the next mobile medical clinic and health screening in rural Traiping Thom. This place comprises mainly of people from the Champ community. The students performed health screening for Diabetes, hypertension, Body Mass Index (BMI) and primary health care together with their supervisor.

They also witnessed the completion of the tube well facilities to provide clean water for the households and the Surau with funds collected from donors. In addition, the team also witnessed the completion of Pour Flush toilet facilities constructed for the households through contributions from wakaf.

On the third day, the team continued its journey to the northern city of Seam Reap in Cambodia. A mobile clinic was organised for the people living near Lake Tonle Sap and also educational activities for the children of boat people on the lake. During this dry season, the boats were anchored further into the lake and the children had to go to school using the land route. Our students donated rice packets for the children in the primary school built by a local NGO.

On the fourth day, the students visited a clinic in Seam Reap set up by the Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC). They were briefed by Dr Chotima, Clinical Director of RHAC on the health screening, prevention of HIV and sexually transmitted diseases especially among the youth and the most vulnerable groups.

The team travelled back to Phnom Penh from Siem Reap for another health promotion and health screening among the staff and visitors at the premises of the Malaysian Embassy in Phnom Penh. The event was officiated by The Ambassador, Dato Seri Hasan Malek with the presence of representative from Tuanku Muhammad School Alumni, Dato Zakri Said who has contributed to the construction of tube wells and wakaf for the toilet facility. We also met a few UniKL students from the Information Technology programme doing their industrial training at the University of Agriculture in Phnom Penh who volunteered for the health screening program.

The next day, our students continued their journey by express bus from Phnom Penh to Ho Chi Minh City for an educational tour. They toured the Pasteur Institute, one of the oldest research centre established during the French rule in Vietnam. They visited the institute's museum and were briefed on the achievements of the research centre in the discovery of tuberculosis vaccine by Gamide Geurine, and other tropical diseases. They also attended a lecture presented by a foreign scientist on the molecular detection of infectious diseases.

The final part of the programme was an educational tour of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy. The students were given a guided tour to the university library and the teaching hospital. They also had a dialogue session with the medical students of the university.

As a whole, the team was very satisfied and contented with the array of activities conducted during the humanitarian tour and they had certainly gained a lot of hands-on experience from the study tour as well.
University Kuala Lumpur Royal College of Medicine Perak (UniKL RCMP) observed a double celebration on Monday, 21 August 2017 to commemorate UniKL’s 15th anniversary and the 60th anniversary of our National Day.

The occasion was a historical event on its own as all the 12 UniKL colleges located at various places from the north to the south of Peninsular Malaysia were connected via video conferencing for the occasion. Each campus had its own role to play during the event. UniKL RCMP was given the honour of singing ‘Sehati Sejiwa’ and ‘Kibaran Jalur Gemilang’ songs.

The guest of honor for the event was Yang Berbahagia Dato’ Dr. Gurdeep Perkash Singh, the Dean of Royal College of Medicine Perak who had served the college from 1999-2014.

The 15th anniversary was an opportunity for all of us to reflect on our successes and challenges; to share what we have achieved, and to celebrate the spirit of intellectual discovery that has been our hallmark since the inception of this university.
Dean’s List Award

By Zahaimi Abdullah Sani

Faculty of Pharmacy and Health Sciences hosted a Dean’s List Award Ceremony to recognize the outstanding achievements of UniKL RCMP students. It was the moment which the 130 students were waiting for in recognition of their hard work throughout the semester. The certificates were presented by Professor Dr. Ahmad Fuad Shamsuddin, Dean of Faculty of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. The ceremony was held on 9th August 2017 at UniKL RCMP campus.

The number of award recipients for each of the disciplines was as follows:

1. Diploma in Pharmacy- 33 recipients
2. Diploma in Physiotherapy- 23 recipients
3. Diploma in Radiography-38 recipients
4. Bachelor in Pharmacy- 36 recipients

Congratulations to all the award recipients who have earned the Dean’s List Award for their academic excellence this year. We hope that you will continue to excel in your studies.

Defence, Security and Sustainability Exhibition 2017

By Dr. Mahendran Sekar

Lecturers & Students of Bachelor in Pharmacy program won “Three Awards” at the “Defence, Security and Sustainability Exhibition 2017 (DSS 2017)” which was held on 10th and 11th July 2017 at University Pertahanan Nasional Malaysia (UPNM) Sungai Besi, Kuala Lumpur.

The team won the Gold Medal Award, Best Innovative Product Award & Best Poster Award for the invention entitled “Novel and Natural Latent Fingerprint Powder from Durian Seeds – A Green and Effective Approach at the Crime Scene”.

Participants from UniKL RCMP were Dr. Mahendran Sekar (Project Leader), Dr. Seow Lay Jing and Miss. Khor Poh Yen (Co-Researchers), Nur Fatin Binti Zulkifli and Nur Syahira Binti Abdul Jalil (Bachelor of Pharmacy Final Year Students).

Well done and congratulations to the UniKL RCMP team. Keep our flag flying high!!
Dr. Muhamad Naqib Shariff

By Rose Suzila Yahaya and Suhailie Yaacob

Dr. Muhamad Naqib bin Shariff of Ipoh is a UniKL RCMP MBBS graduate of 2012. The opportunity to study at UniKL RCMP was fully utilized by him to study diligently. Dr. Naqib is now serving as a medical officer at the Tanjung Karang Hospital, Selangor.

Currently, Dr. Naqib is the President of the Alumni Chapter of UniKL RCMP. His team is responsible for managing and organizing programs involving the Alumni. The team also actively communicates with other members of the Alumni Chapter from other UniKL campuses to allow for more coordinated activities. As a student, Dr. Naqib was constantly involved in student clubs and associations. He served as the Chairman of Club PEMBINA and throughout the period under his leadership, the club had carried out many high-impact activities involving UniKL RCMP students.

He had also actively participated in CSR programs organized by Kelab Remaja Ikatan Muslimin Malaysia and I-Medik, and he was one of the speakers at the ‘Say No to Zina’ campaign. Currently, he has also begun to engage in entrepreneurship field and is committed to furthering himself together with other business partners.

Medical Officer
Tanjung Karang Hospital

Dr. Naqib at work

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