

### UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA SIGNING MOA FOR VETERINARY VACCINES



19 December 2019 (Thursday) - University of Malaya has embarked on another milestone, with the signing of a memorandum of agreement (MoA) with Malaysian Vaccines and Pharmaceuticals Sdn Bhd (MVP) to research, develop and market veterinary vaccines.

The agreement between UM's Tropical Infectious Diseases Research and Education Centre (TIDREC) and MVP is geared towards commercialising and marketing veterinary vaccines yielded from the research centre's findings.

The MoA was inked by UM's Vice-Chancellor Datuk Dr Abdul Rahim Hashim and MVP's Chief Executive Officer, Rashidah Ibrahim,

witnessed by the chairman of UM's board of directors, Tengku Datuk Dr Mohd Azzman Shariffadeen Tengku Ibrahim and chairman of MVP's board of directors, Datuk Mhd. Nordin Mohd Nor.

TIDREC was working on developing a new vaccine, its first collaborative product with MVP. The centre is also in the midst of the research stage in developing two more veterinary vaccines.

The MoA will also emphasise on the need to innovate new knowledge and manufacturing processes that will enable cost-effective local production of vaccines.

# MOU SIGNING FOR MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE



The National Morbidity and Health Survey (NMHS) 2015 reported that 29.2% of Malaysians above the age of 15 years old struggle with mental health issues, namely stress, depression, and anxiety. Of late, there is an increasing number of reporting of mental health cases by the media which affects young people in society and therefore, there is an urgent need to address this.

As a direct response to this, UM launched the "UM Mental Health Initiative" on 20 February 2020. The initiative was initiated by UMCares together with The Student Counselling Centre, Student Health Centre, UM Sustainability and Living Labs Secretariat, and the Faculty of Medicine. The initiative also receive strategic support and active participation from Johnson and Johnson Sdn. Bhd., which leads to the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UM and the company on the same day.

The event was officiated by YBhg. Datuk Seri Dr. Haji Dzulkefly Ahmad, Minister of Health (MoH) Malaysia. Dr. Dzulkefly said that the MoH is excited to be part of this new wave of collaboration between the public and private entities to uplift mental health care awareness and services. It is hope that this initiative will be the start for a catalyst of change in all institutions of higher learning in Malaysia. It is important for all agencies in both the public and private sector to "talk the same story" for mental health and work together on it.

The UM initiative supports other initiatives champion by the MoH through the #Letstalkmindasihati national program for mental health awareness, and the Ministry of Education (MoE) through the University for Society (U4S) program. It is hoped that this initiative will assist the national agenda to reduce mental health stigma, and allow people to find help apart from improving the health of Malaysians in general.

# MALAYSIA TECHNOLOGY EXPO 2020



20-22 February 2020 - UM has won 2 Special Award, 6 Gold Medals, 3 Bronze Medals and 1 Merit Award at the Malaysia Technology Expo (MTE) 2020 held at the PWTC, Kuala Lumpur. MTE is an international expo organised by Professional Trade Exhibitions & Meeting Planners (PROTEMP) and supported by the Ministry of Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives (MEDAC), Ministry of Education (MOE) and Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MESTECC).

UM has participated in two (2) categories; Institutional and Individual. The team leaders are Prof. Dr. Ramesh (Faculty of Science), Dr. Rosazlin (Faculty of Science), Dr. Vengadaesvaran a/l Balakrishnan (UMPEDAC), Dr. Wong Kah Hui (Faculty of Medicine), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ubagaram Johnson, Prof. Dr. Misni (Faculty of Science) and Assoc. Prof. Dr Poo Balan (Faculty of Engineering).

Recognition is important in innovation and invention to propel ideas from its infancy to mature stage, ready for commercialisation and global implementation. The international recognition gives it the boost it needs to find its footing in today's fast-growing world. Winners from MTE shall continue along a path of success after clinching a prestigious title at MTE, paving the way to more opportunities to compete at overseas competitions and perhaps initiate an income generating opportunity.





# ICO/ICTP GALLIENO DENARDO AWARD



**18 February 2020 (Italy) - The International Commission for Optics (ICO) and the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) have announced Ir Dr Lim Kok Sing as the recipient of the 2020 ICO/ICTP Gallieno Denardo Award. The award ceremony took place at Budinich Lecture Hall, Leonardo Building, ICTP, Trieste, Italy on 18 February 2020. He was invited to give a prize lecture entitled "Few-mode fibre components for mode conversion in Space Division Multiplexing system" after the ceremony. The award cites Dr. Lim for his achievements in the field of optical fibre sensing and optical communications, and his substantial contributions to sustainable development in Malaysia through promoting the use of optics-based technologies in the industrial sector.**

**Dr. Lim obtained his B. Eng in Telecommunication Engineering from the Faculty of Engineering, in 2008 and PhD in Physics from Faculty of Science, in 2012, both from the University of Malaya, Malaysia. He is currently a Senior Lecturer at Photonics Research Centre, University of Malaya, one of the HiCoEs (Higher Institute Centre of Excellence) in the country. Dr Lim attributes his success to the support from the university and the conducive research environment at the research centre where he and his team conducted his scientific research in the field of optical communication, optical fibre sensing and medical laser devices. Dr. Lim would like to acknowledge the guidance from his Director, Prof. Ulung Dr. Harith Ahmad and the hard work of his postgraduate students for his achievement.**



# THE 2020 BREAKTHROUGH PRIZE IN FUNDAMENTAL PHYSICS

On 19 April 2019 (Friday), a worldwide press release, the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) consortium revealed the first image of a black hole taken by means of an Earth-sized alliance of telescopes. The discovery was awarded the Breakthrough Prize 2019 in Fundamental Physics, also known as the Oscars of Science, or the 21st Century Nobel Prize. To commemorate the event, the American Astronomical Society has published a special issue of the *Astrophysical Journal Letters* focused on the First Event Horizon Telescope results.

Dr. Juan Carlos Algaba (Faculty of Science) is one of the researchers awarded from University of Malaya. The Breakthrough Prize annually recognizes achievements in the Life Sciences, Fundamental Physics and Mathematics, disciplines that ask the biggest questions and seek the deepest explanations. Considered the world's most generous science prize, each Breakthrough Prize is \$3 million, which has been shared equally among the 347 scientists of the Event Horizon Telescope who co-authored the articles that revealed the discovery.

Black Holes are the most extravagant and exciting objects arising from Einstein's theory of gravity, developed in 1917. Considered to be the singularities where the theory breaks down, they have been into the realm of imagination and fiction for more than a century. Are these objects just a mathematical concept, or do they exist in reality? Although several indirect evidences pointed towards their existence, no definite proof had been found prior to the first image.



On 3 November 2019, a gala ceremony was held at NASA's Hangar 1 in Mountain View, California under the topic "Seeing the Invisible". The prizes were presented by celebrities such as Tyra Banks, Edward Norton, and Mark Zuckerberg, among others. Collaboration Director Shep Doeleman of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics attended the ceremony on behalf of the collaboration. This Breakthrough Prize is a wonderful validation of more than a decade of hard work, risk taking, failures, successes, and building an expert team that was committed to the highest scientific goals, and celebrates a new beginning in the study of black holes.

# UM AS THE REFERENCE POINT FOR JOURNAL MANAGEMENT



In early 2020, USP has hosted a training session on Open Journal Systems (OJS) and Digital Object Identifier System (DOI) to Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Shah Alam and Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI) on 21 Jan and 11 February 2020 respectively.

The OJS training workshop was participated by Dr. Yong Soon Kong (Coordinator of Publication for Research Management Centre, UiTM Shah Alam) and the DOI training workshop was participated by delegates from UPSI; Mdm. Aisiah Abdul Rahman (Head of Journal Section, UPSI Press) and Mr. Shahrizal Ridzuan (Assistant Publication Officer of Journal Section, UPSI Press)

Research Support Unit (USP) is a group of professional and management staff who embracing the support services for journal publications under Centre for Research Services (PPP), IPPP. Established for more than 10 years and formerly known as Scholarly Publications & Support Unit (SchoPus), USP provides consultation and

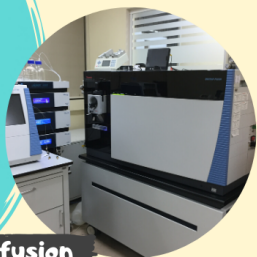
comprehensive Open Journal System (OJS) training to journal editors to enhance the quality and prestige of journals publication globally. And now, USP has successfully grown to become the reference place for local and international journal managers from institutions and agencies for training, workshop and consultation on journal management, analysis and indexing.



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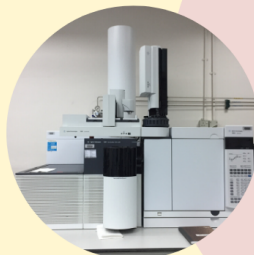
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# RECIPIENT OF THE TRINITY LONG ROOM HUB VISITING RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP



Professor Azirah Hashim is a recipient of the Trinity Long Room Hub Visiting Research Fellowship, Trinity College Dublin (TCD), Ireland. This fellowship is pivotal to TCD's mission to connect their research community with the most distinguished scholars in the world and to raise the international profile of Trinity's Arts and Humanities research. During the fellowship from March to April 2020, Prof. Azirah will continue with her research on English in ASEAN focusing on regional aspects of language and identity formation. English, which is used for multiple functions as a second, foreign or even first language, and which is accepted as the lingua franca for regional and global purposes, will be examined in its multilingual habitats in South East Asia and within the political framework of ASEAN. Language policy in ASEAN member states, and cross-regional ASEAN

commonalities and distinctions inside this cluster of English varieties, will be examined. This research is intended to contribute to deeper understanding of the ASEAN region, Global Englishes, and relationships between language and identity in the region. This will add to knowledge of language policy and linguistic identity within the theme of 'Identities in transformation' at the interdisciplinary Trinity Long Room Hub. Prof. Azirah will seek opportunities for mutually beneficial relationships in applied linguistics. In addition, she will explore possible collaborations between the Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya, and the Trinity Centre for Asian Studies, given their similar aims and activities.

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