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MILESTONE @ UM NEWSLETTER



UNIVERSITI
MALAYA

MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION VISITED UM



August 11, 2020 - Despite her busy schedule of attending the Dewan Rakyat session in Parliament, YB Dato' Dr. Noraini Ahmad, Minister of Higher Education has managed to took some time for a site visit at the Virology Laboratory, Institute of Biological Sciences and Drug Design and Development Research Group Lab (DDDRG), Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, UM.

The visit was also attended by Mr. Rosli Yaakub, Deputy Secretary General (Development Management), Ministry of Higher Education; Datuk Ir. (Dr.) Abdul Rahim Hashim, UM Vice Chancellor; Prof. Dr. Noorsaadah Abd Rahman, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research & Innovation) UM; and UM Financial Controller, Mr. Wan Mohd Sofi Wan Mustapha.



After the visit, YB Dato' Dr. Noraini chaired a discussion and lunch session with the Vice Chancellors and treasurers from Malaysia public universities at the Tunku Chancellor's Hall, UM.

Among the matters discussed during the meeting were the planning and direction of the university during the post-COVID-19 as well as matters related to staff and student affairs.

UM AND YALE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH & TRAINING CENTRE ON HIV IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE



UM and Yale University have been awarded a multi-million grant to establish a research and training centre on HIV implementation science through the Fogarty International Programme at the National Institutes of Health – one of the world's foremost medical research centres. From the overall grant, UM is receiving RM1.5 million.

Building on 15 years of research collaboration in addressing critical issues at the interface of HIV, viral hepatitis, tuberculosis and addiction, the Malaysian Implementation Science Training (MIST) programme is introduced at the centre to train the next generation of implementation science researchers.

MIST will be co-directed by UM Faculty of Medicine Dean, Datuk Prof Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman and Yale medicine and public health professor Frederick L. Altice, both have had a long and successful history of collaboration in Malaysia on prevention and treatment of HIV, especially amongst vulnerable populations like men who have sex with men, prisoners, people who inject drugs, transgender women and sex workers.

Their very successful and productive collaboration has resulted in multiple joint research grants and more than 50 joint publications including in high impact journals such as The Lancet and The Lancet Global Health.

MIST will create a new generation of implementation science researchers and practitioners in Malaysia to adequately scale-up prevention and treatment services in a setting where HIV-related mortality and new HIV infections continue to increase.

Furthermore, the expertise generated from this programme will ultimately be applicable across all diseases. MIST will be training 4 current UM faculty members in implementation science along with 10 doctoral students in public health over the next five years to create the local expertise to address HIV prevention and treatment. Between 25 to 30 local public health practitioners will also be trained during a summer implementation science “boot camp” in Malaysia. This practical training will incorporate implementation science skills embedded within a human rights framework because harsh criminalisation of drugs, sex work and homosexuality have undermined optimal implementation of HIV prevention and treatment services.

Doctoral training will be provided through a hybrid training model where Malaysian trainees will participate in a combination of distance-based and onsite learning with Yale faculty. While at Yale, they will complete one semester of coursework, attend seminars and receive mentorship with leading implementation science experts.

WINNER OF THE 2020 ASEAN-U.S. SCIENCE PRIZE FOR WOMEN



UM would like to extend our heartiest congratulations to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chan Yoke Fun from the Department of Medical Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine on being named as the Winner of the ASEAN-U.S. Science Prize for Women 2020.

The award was announced by the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology, and Innovation (COSTI), the U.S. Government through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and Underwriters Laboratories.

The competition emphasises the role of women scientists whose research improves society in sustainable ways. They serve as role models for other women working in and pursuing careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Winner must demonstrate strong academic expertise and identify specifically community and promotes greater female engagement in STEM activities.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chan is currently an Associate Professor and the Head of Department of Medical Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Her research has been focusing on enterovirus A71, an emerging virus that causes severe neurological disease and hand, foot and mouth disease. Specifically, she is developing vaccines, antivirals and education tools for this highly preventable disease common in children.

She leads a virology laboratory with research interests in epidemiology and pathogenesis of emerging viruses such as enterovirus A71, chikungunya, and respiratory viruses. With more than 20 years of research experience, she has over 80 publications, and have been involved in many research programs and grants at both national and international levels. She serves as an Associate editor of BMC Infectious Diseases and guest editor in PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases. She is also a member of the Asia-Pacific Network for Enterovirus Surveillance which serves as a sharing hub to monitor enterovirus circulation in Asia.

She was the recipient of L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science Malaysia Fellowship, 2014, L'Oréal-UNESCO International Rising Talent, 2015, Young Women Leaders award Category Science and Technology, National Council of Women's Organizations Malaysia 2015 and Asian Women Entrepreneurs leadership award, Science and Environment, 2019. These awards have given her the opportunity to promote women in science in Malaysia.

HONOURABLE VISIT FROM UNIVERSITI TEKNIKAL MALAYSIA MELAKA (UTEM)



August 11, 2020 - Researchers from Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM) has visited UM on discussion of research practices and future research collaboration.

The delegation was led by Prof. Datuk Wira Dr. Raha Abdul Rahim, Vice Chancellor of UTeM, was well-received by Prof. Dr. Noorsaadah Abd Rahman, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research & Innovation).

The UTeM delegates include Prof. Dr. Zulkifilie Ibrahim, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research & Innovation); Prof. Dr. Zahriladha Zakaria, Director of Centre for Research Innovation & Management (CRIM); Prof. Dr. Ghazali Omar, Director of Advanced Manufacturing Centre (AMC); Faculty Deans, Managers of Centre of Excellence, and Senior Managers/Administrators.

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