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MILESTONE @ UM NEWSLETTER



UNIVERSITI
MALAYA

UM SOLE MALAYSIAN COLLABORATOR IN CANCER CHALLENGE SHORTLIST



18 July 2021 - A team from Universiti Malaya (UM) led by Associate Professor Dr. Amer Siddiq Amer Nordin, Chief Coordinator of UM Centre for Addiction Sciences (UMCAS) and Consultant Psychiatrist at the Faculty of Medicine, UM and UMMC has been shortlisted for the Cancer Grand Challenges programme hosted by Cancer Research UK and the United States National Cancer Institute. This initiative will see them joining hands with international experts in understanding the potential risks and benefits of e-cigarettes.

UMCAS is part of the Multinational Consortium on Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (MCENDS) competing for a share of £80mil (RM465mil) in the Cancer Grand Challenges programme hosted by Cancer Research UK in

the United Kingdom and the National Cancer Institute in the United States.

The sole Malaysian team in the challenge will be working closely with 10 other shortlisted teams from the US, New Zealand, South Africa, the Netherlands, Mexico and Lebanon.

According to Dr. Amer Siddiq, being shortlisted from nearly 170 applicants across 61 countries for the endeavour is a testament to the strength of the team's collaborative networks and the calibre of scientists in Malaysia.

He added that the consortium's proposal focuses on answering fundamental questions about e-cigarettes, which include the short- and long-term health impacts of such use, and whether or not they can help smokers quit.

UM TO IMPROVE QUALITY AND EQUITABLE CANCER CARE FOR ALL



28 June 2021 - The Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaysia (UM); National Cancer Society of Malaysia (NCSM); City Cancer Challenge (C/Can); and the Selangor State Government (the City Councils of Petaling Jaya, Subang Jaya and Shah Alam) teamed up as the second city in Asia to join the growing movement of cities around the world to plan and deliver locally-led, sustainable cancer care solutions.

The collaboration is based on a shared commitment to work together to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals); and also the global target of reducing premature deaths from non-communicable disease (NCDs) including cancer by 25% by 2025.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony was hosted by the State of Selangor virtually on 28 June 2021. The MoU signing represents a significant milestone, marking the official launch of the C/Can city process in Greater Petaling. The agreement sets out a framework for cooperation between the signatories to jointly address the gaps in cancer care services in the three cities of Greater Petaling over the next two years.



UM Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Prof. Dr. Noorsaadah Abd Rahman in her speech during the virtual MoU Signing Ceremony said that through this MoU, UM focuses on contributing to global health research in response to global and national needs, with a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide, especially in low and middle-income countries.

Also present at the signing ceremony were YAB Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari, Selangor Chief Minister; YB Dr. Siti Mariah Mahmu, Chair of City Executive Committee, Greater Petaling; Prof. Sanchia Aranda Am, Board Chair of C/Can; Dr. Susan Henshall, CEO of C/Can; YDH. TPr. Hajah Noraini Haji Roslan, Mayor of the City Council of Subang Jaya; Puan TPr. Hajah Sharipah Marhani Syed Ali, Deputy Mayor of the City Council of Petaling Jaya; and YBhg. Dato' Haji Zamani Ahmad Mansor, Mayor of the City Council of Shah Alam.

CEPI & UM NEW COLLABORATION TO ADVANCE NIPAH VIRUS RESEARCH



The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) has partnered with Universiti Malaya (UM), to further research and scientific understanding of the Nipah virus - one of the deadliest pathogens known to infect humans.

Under the new partnership, CEPI will provide up to US\$188,000 in funding to support UM's work in collecting biological material from Nipah survivors in order to characterize and better understand immune responses generated against the virus. As Nipah outbreaks are typically sporadic with few survivors, the work is set to provide critical new information on Nipah immunology that has not previously been studied, such as looking at the types of immune cells (e.g. T cells and antibody-secreting cells) involved in responding to the virus, with an emphasis on "memory" cells.

To carry out the research, UM will collaborate with physicians and healthcare workers who responded to the first-ever documented Nipah virus outbreak in Malaysia in 1998/1999.

Occurring over two decades after the event, the work is therefore set to play a key role in documenting long-term evidence on Nipah survivor biology, including studying the level of long-term immunity maintained over time.

The biological material collected from survivors will also speed up the development of vaccine tests (known as assays) and reference tools, such as an international antibody standard, which could be used by vaccine developers to assess and compare the performance of future Nipah vaccines, including those funded by CEPI.

This effort will advance one of CEPI's goals, announced as part of its \$3.5bn plan, in March 2021, to bring a Nipah vaccine, or another biological countermeasure, to licensure. It will also support CEPI's aim to enhance and expand global collaboration by working with UM and entities within the region to build a more robust and effective global preparedness and response architecture.

UM EXPERTS APPOINTED AS FELLOWS OF ACADEMY OF SCIENCES MALAYSIA (ASM)



Heartiest congratulations to six (6) outstanding Professors from Universiti Malaya (UM) for their recent appointment as Academy of Sciences Malaysia Fellow (FASc) in Social Sciences & Humanities, Engineering Sciences and Medical & Health Sciences. The ASM fellowship conferment was announced at the 26th Annual General Meeting of the Academy, held on 24 April 2021.

The 6 UM experts are:

Social Sciences & Humanities category

- i) Distinguished Prof. Dato' Dr. Rajah Rasiah (Asia Europe Institute)
- ii) Prof. Dr. Low Wah Yun (Asia Europe Institute)

Engineering Sciences category

- i) Prof. Ir. Dr. Mohd Azlan Hussain (Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering)

Medical & Health Sciences category

- i) Prof. Dr. Fong Mun Yik (Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine)
- ii) Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling (Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine)
- iii) Prof. Dr. Maznah Dahlui (Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine)

An ASM Fellow is an individual who has made outstanding achievements and contributions in the areas of science, engineering, technology, social sciences or humanities and is elected for life based on their scientific and scholarly achievements. Well done to all!

UM SIGNS MOU WITH COVENTRY UNIVERSITY FOR ACADEMIC-INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATION



9 June 2021 - UM and Coventry University have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in a virtual signing ceremony on 9 June 2021 to collaborate in a number of key areas.

The two universities will explore the potential for technology commercialisation, joint collaboration in various knowledge exchange activities, student and staff exchanges, joint study programmes and joint research activities.

Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Mohd Hamdi and Professor John Latham CBE, the vice-chancellors of Universiti Malaya and Coventry University, respectively, marked the new agreement in the virtual signing ceremony.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivy Chung, Director of Universiti Malaya Centre Centre of Innovation and Commercialisation (UMCIC), and Michael Yap, Regional Managing Director for Coventry University's Singapore Hub, will supervise the execution of the agreement and draw up programmes and activities to be implemented under the MoU.

The collaboration, brokered by the Coventry University Singapore Hub, underlines the Coventry University Group's commitment to internationalisation, creating links across the Asia Pacific region.

"This MoU commits us to work together more closely towards our common goals. While the current global pandemic restricts face-to-face interactions, it should not hinder our efforts for collaborations. In fact, the pandemic has opened new modes of collaborations to explore student and staff exchange programs, joint research activities and exchange of best practices in strategies on IP commercialisation. I am confident that through our efforts and commitment, we will be able to achieve more and to continue to develop even stronger relationships and friendships between the two universities."

**Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Mohd Hamdi
Vice-Chancellor, Universiti Malaya**

"I am delighted we are working with Universiti Malaya to promote our mutual interest in advancing academic-industrial collaboration. This Memorandum of Understanding is part of our aim to work with other academic institutions who are innovative, enterprising and entrepreneurial, and share our ambitious international agenda and the same desire to deliver excellence in education."

**Professor John Latham CBE
Vice-Chancellor, Coventry University**

UM RESEARCH WEBINAR SERIES #8 - CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN GLOBAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT/ TRANSITION/ MANAGEMENT POST CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

UM RESEARCH WEBINAR #8



CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES IN GLOBAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT/ TRANSITION/ MANAGEMENT POST CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC



Adjunct Professor Zulkifli Abd Rani
Chairman
EMOG Strategic Group/ EMOG Renewable
Energy Sdn Bhd/ Cakara Maritime Sdn Bhd



Moderated by

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chong Wen Tong
Head
Universiti Malaya Center for Energy Sciences (CES)

10am -11.30am **Time**
16 August 2021 **Date**



Join the Webinar, via:
<https://zoom.us/j/92405005184>

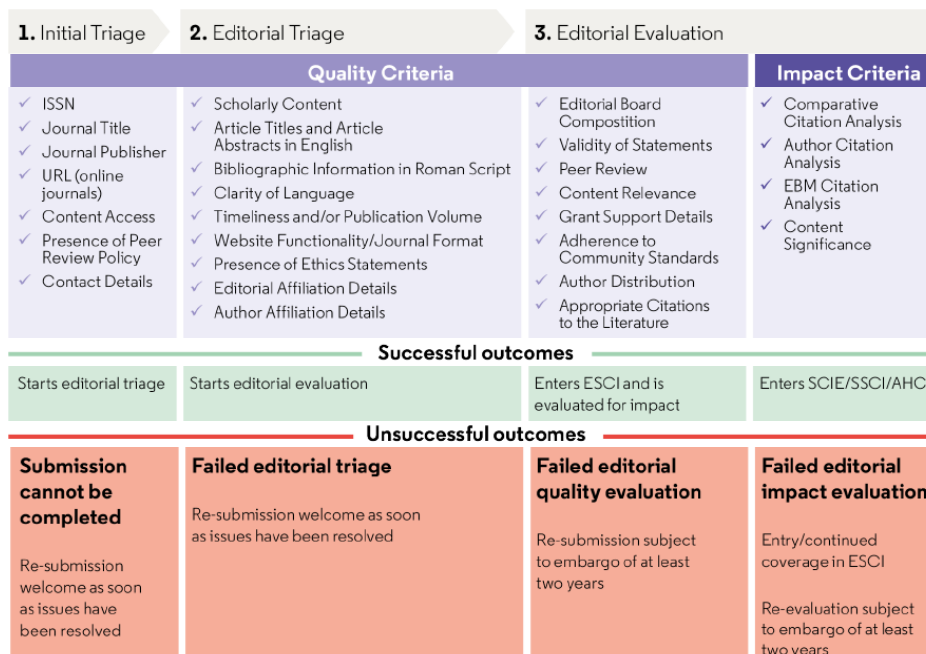


16 August 2021 - The 8th UMR Webinar series was held on 16 August 2021 over Zoom. In this webinar, Adjunct Professor Zulkifli Abd Rani (Chairman, EMOG Strategic Group/EMOG Renewable Energy Sdn Bhd/Cakara Maritime Sdn Bhd) shared his experience on "Challenges And Opportunities In Global Energy Development/Transition/ Management Post Coronavirus Pandemic".

Prof. Zulkifli has 30 years of experience in the Oil & Gas Industry mainly with PETRONAS and public listed GLCs and strategic companies. His professional career path in the Energy industry is very unique indeed as he has gone through the full cycle of the business & industry as an operator, contractor, regulator, consultant, advisor, and adjunct professor. He is well exposed, connected, and experienced in domestic and international Oil & Gas Industry business ventures.

Prof. Zulkifli in the talk moderated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chong Wen Tong (Head of UM Center for Energy Sciences (CES)), shared his viewpoints that the world today is on the brink of an energy threat especially in the Oil & Gas industry with regard to supply and security due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The pandemic has taught the world, especially the Energy industry stakeholders, to reset and expedite the development, transition, and management from the current fossil fuel-based system to the new renewable energy-based system post-pandemic. It is high time for the government to decide where our future energy supply will come from and to put firm policies in place. This is to ensure energy security and sustainability for the country and to encourage the investments needed to successfully achieve the new vision of keeping our energy activities alive and the economy going.

UM RESEARCH WEBINAR SERIES #9 - UNDERSTANDING THE NEW JOURNAL CITATION REPORTS 2021



9 September 2021 - The 9th UMR Webinar series was held on 9 September 2021 over Zoom. In this webinar, we are honoured to be able to invite Ms Dju-Lyn Chng (Regional Solution Consultant, Clarivate) to share some new information on the New Journal Citation Reports 2021 with the campus members. The session was moderated by Prof. Dr. Abrizah Abdullah from the Department of Library Science & Information and attended by more than 270 participants from the campus.

Some of the keynotes shared include:

a) Web of Science Core Collection:

- Science Citation Index Expanded
- Social Science Citation Index
- Arts & Humanities Citation Index
- Emerging Sources Citation Index
- Conference Proceedings Citation Index
- Book Citation Index

With more than 21,000 journals, 200,000+ conference records and 100,000+ books in the collection.

b) Journal Selection Process (as shown in figure)

c) What's new in the 2021 release?



- 70% more content
- New normalized metric
- Inclusion of Early Access content
- Revamped user interface

d) The new Journal Citation Indicator (JCI)

- The JCI harnesses another Clarivate measure: Category Normalized Citation Impact (CNCI), a metric found in InCites.
- The JCI is the mean CNCI, for all articles and reviews published in a journal, in the preceding three years.
- It helps researchers to draw better-informed conclusions about a journal's impact.
- A JCI above 1 shows the journal has performed above the global average and below 1 means it has performed below the global average.

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS



<https://maal.org.my>

www.facebook.com/maal.org.my

21 August 2021 - University of Malaya would like to extend our heartiest congratulations to Professor Dr. Azirah Hashim (Faculty of Languages and Linguistics), who is also the Founding President and Advisor of the Malaysian Association of Applied Linguistics (MAAL) on her appointment as the President for the Association Internationale de Linguistique Appliquée (AILA).

AILA (originally founded in 1964 in France) is an international federation of national and regional associations of Applied Linguistics. AILA has a membership of more than 8,000 individuals worldwide who as researchers, policy makers or practitioners are active in the field of Applied Linguistics.

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