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UNMC School of Biosciences Research Bulletin 2017 Vol 1 Issue 2

Introduction

In the 21st Century, agriculture and food insecurity, health issues, environmental damage and resource insecurity, population growth and resources imbalance are some of the global challenges. Through research, these challenges are addressed by the researchers around the world, including the staffs and students from the School of Biosciences (SoB), University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus (UNMC), to improve the welfare of humanity.

UNMC SoB Research Bulletin 2017 Vol 1 Issue 2 publishes the research activities of the School from April to June 2017 including publication, grant capturing, achievement of staffs and students nationally and internationally as well as research activities involved in and out of the University.

It is hoped that these research activities could promote scientific research knowledge sharing and exchange, develop new research collaborations, strengthen existing networking, train the postgraduate and undergraduate research students to become the competent and independent scientists in the near future as well as encourage novel science and technology development to increase the quality of life of humanity.

We hope that these research achievements could inspire you to continue with your hard work to achieve higher milestones in research in the future. Hope you enjoy reading this issue. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Ngai Siew Ching (Eunice)

Editor

UNMC SoB Research Bulletin 2017 Vol 1 Issue 2

Committee member of SoB Research Committee

On behalf of SoB research committee



April – June 2017...

Publications:

Journals

1. Lim JJ and **Mitra SR** (2017) High salt diets in young university adults and the correlation with blood pressure, protein intake and fat free mass. *Bioscience Horizons* 10: hzx003. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/biohorizons/hzx003>
2. Leong YK, Lan JC-W, **Loh H-S**, Ling TC, Ooi CW, Show PL (2017). Cloud-point extraction of green-polymers from *Cupriavidus necator* lysate using thermoseparating-based aqueous two-phase extraction. *Journal of Bioscience and Bioengineering* 123 (3): 370–375. DOI: 10.1016/j.jbiosc.2016.09.007
3. Sudheer S, **Ali A** and Manikam S. Determination of biological efficiency and antioxidant potential of *ganoderma lucidum* cultivated utilising different agro-wastes. *International Journal of Medicinal Mushroom*, June 2017.
4. Yap CC, Soh KL, Chan YJ, **Supramaniam CV**, Lim DLK, Chong MF (2016) The problem of methane emissions at Malaysia's palm oil mills can be turned on its head – if the industry buy in to biogas. *The Chemical Engineer*, p 42-45.

Conferences

1. Pang EL, Peyret H, Lomonossoff GP, Pong L-Y, Sharifah SH, Fang C-M, Lai K-S, **Loh H-S**. (2017). Evaluation of immunogenicity of a recombinant plant-derived dengue vaccine candidate in BALB/c Mice. *Plant-Based Vaccines, Antibodies and Biologics (PBVAB17)*, Albufeira, Portugal. 5th - 7th June 2017.
2. Chan X-Y, Musiyuchuk K, Shoji Y, Yusibov V, Mohd Lila MA., **Loh H-S**. (2017). Production of recombinant apoptin in planta and preliminary evaluation of plant-made apoptin on human lung adenocarcinoma cells. *Plant-Based Vaccines, Antibodies and Biologics (PBVAB17)*, Albufeira, Portugal. 5th - 7th June 2017.
3. **Mitra SR**, Tan PY and Farahnaz Amini (2017). Obesity and polymorphism in FTO gene in multi-ethnic Malaysian adults. *South East Asian Public Health Nutrition Conference (SEA-PHN)*, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. 14th - 17th May 2017.
4. Al Odeh SAS, Kong WY, Sonia HMW, **Ngai SC**. Effects of epigenetic Drugs Zebularine and Trichostatin A on human breast adenocarcinoma cells. *28th Intervarsity Biochemistry Seminar*, USCI University, Kuala Lumpur. 13th May 2017.



Grants:

1. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chin Chiew Foan was awarded a cascade research grant (€4,275) to implement Green Campus model for recycling food waste for a community garden.
2. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Soma Mitra was awarded a cascade grant (€5,919) to implement “GO GOLD” – A campaign for the elderly to improve their mobility.
3. Prof. Festo Massawe (Principle investigator), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ajit Singh, Dr. Christina Supramaniam and Dr. Chai Hui Hui (Co-researchers) were awarded a total grant of USD100,000 (RM420,000) for a collaborative project between Everris International and UNMC on “Leaching trial with controlled release fertilizers in oil palm.

Research Achievements:

Staffs

1. Dr. Christina Supramaniam was invited as an invited speaker at the 6th International Conference on Microbial Physiology and Genomics, Brussels, Belgium, which will be held on 31st August and 1st September 2017.
2. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chin Chiew Foan was nominated as chair for International Proteomic Conference 2017, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which will be held from 15th to 17th August 2017. More information on International Proteomic Conference 2017 is available at: <http://ipc2017.weebly.com>
3. Dr. Christina Supramaniam was invited as an invited speaker at the 3rd International Conference on Plant Genomics and Genetics (AgriGenomics India 2017), Chandigarh, India, which will be held on 20th and 21st July 2017.
4. Dr. Shi Hui Cheng was awarded Malaysian Dietitians’ Association Postgraduate best thesis award (RM1500 + certificate) for her thesis entitled “Metabolic Effects of *Cosmos caudatus* Kunth (Ulam Raja) Supplementation in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus Patients”. The prize giving ceremony will be held on 10th July 2017 in Mahkota II, Hotel Istana, Kuala Lumpur.
5. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Soma Mitra joined in an interactive forum discussion on emerging issues in eating and diet in contemporary Malaysia. Other experts on the panel were Puan Zalma Abdul Razak (Director of the Nutrition Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia), Professor Winnie Chee (President of the Malaysian Dietitians Association) and Dr Suresh Mohankumar (UNMC). Moderating the forum was Meera Sivasothy from BFM Radio. The forum was held on 17th June 2017 in the University of Nottingham Teaching Centre, Chulan Tower, Kuala Lumpur.
6. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chin Chiew Foan was appointed as a member of topic editor for Frontier in Plant Science (IF: 4.29) journal (Appointed on 8th June 2017).
7. Prof. Asgar Ali was appointed as member for International Scientific Committee for Fourth International Symposium on Postharvest Pathology organised by University of Pretoria and ISHS, Kruger National Park, South Africa, which was held from 28th May to 3rd June 2017.
8. Prof. Asagar Ali was nominated as a reviewer for National Research Foundation of South Africa for rating of scientists (June 2017).
9. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chin Chiew Foan was appointed as guest editor for Proteomes journal (Appointed on 19th May 2017).

10. Dr. Eunice Ngai was invited as one of the judges for poster presentation in the 28th Intervarsity Biochemistry Seminar, UCSI University, which was held on 13th May 2017.
11. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chin Chiew Foan was invited to be a judge at the 28th International Invention, Innovation and Technology Exhibition (ITEX2017), KLCC, Malaysia, which was held from 11th to 13th May 2017.



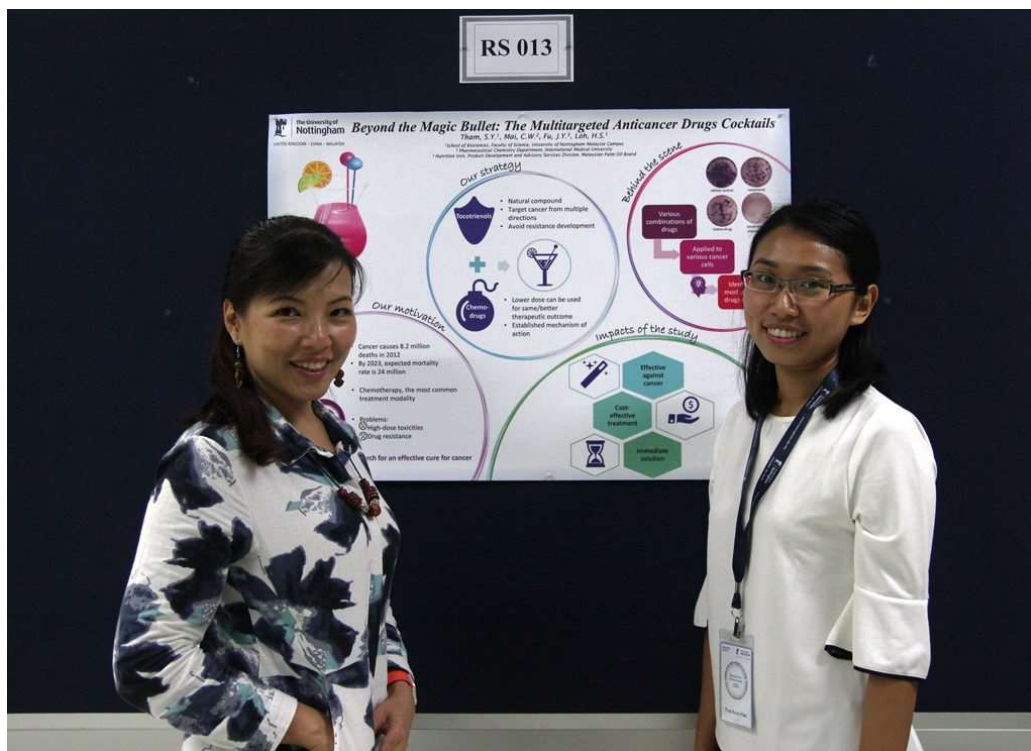
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Soma Mitra [Second from the right] at the interactive forum, discussing on emerging issues in eating and diet in contemporary Malaysia on 17th June 2017 in the University of Nottingham Teaching Centre, Chulan Tower, Kuala Lumpur.

Students

1. Mr. Alberto Stefano Tanzi (PhD student) under supervision of Prof. Festo Massawe won the Postgraduate Prize Award 2017, which was presented to him during a tri-campus awards ceremony held on 17th May 2017.
2. Ms. Tham Shiau Ying (PhD student) under supervision of Prof. Sandy Loh won the “Best Poster” and “Overall Winner” awards in UNMC Research Showcase 2017, which was held on 27th April 2017.



[From left] Mr. Alberto (Winner of Postgraduate Prize Award 2017), Prof. Claire O'Malley and Prof. Festo Massawe during a tri-campus awards ceremony held on 17th May 2017.



[From left] Prof. Sandy Loh and Ms. Tham Shiao Ying (The Best Poster and Overall Winner in UNMC Research Showcase 2017), with her poster entitled “Beyond the Magic Bullet: The Multitargeted Anticancer Drugs Cocktails”.

Research Activities:

Staffs

1. Several colleagues from the School (Prof. Festo Massawe, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chiew Foan, Dr. Christina Vimala Supramaniam), Computer Science (Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tomas Maul), BEIS (Prof. Denny Ng) and CFF (Dr. Aryo Feldman) visited Sime-Darby Technology Centre Sdn. Bhd. on 8th May 2017 for a research seminar aimed at identifying potential areas for research collaboration.
2. Mr. Chew Poh Soon (AAR consultant and former director) and three guests visited Biotechnology Research Centre on 8th May 2017.
3. The School Research Away Day was held on 4th May 2017 in Aman Dusun. The discussion was focused on research activity and collaboration, exploring opportunities to work closely with industry and ways to promote research and scholarly activity. The individual research strength and ways to capitalise on these have been explored.



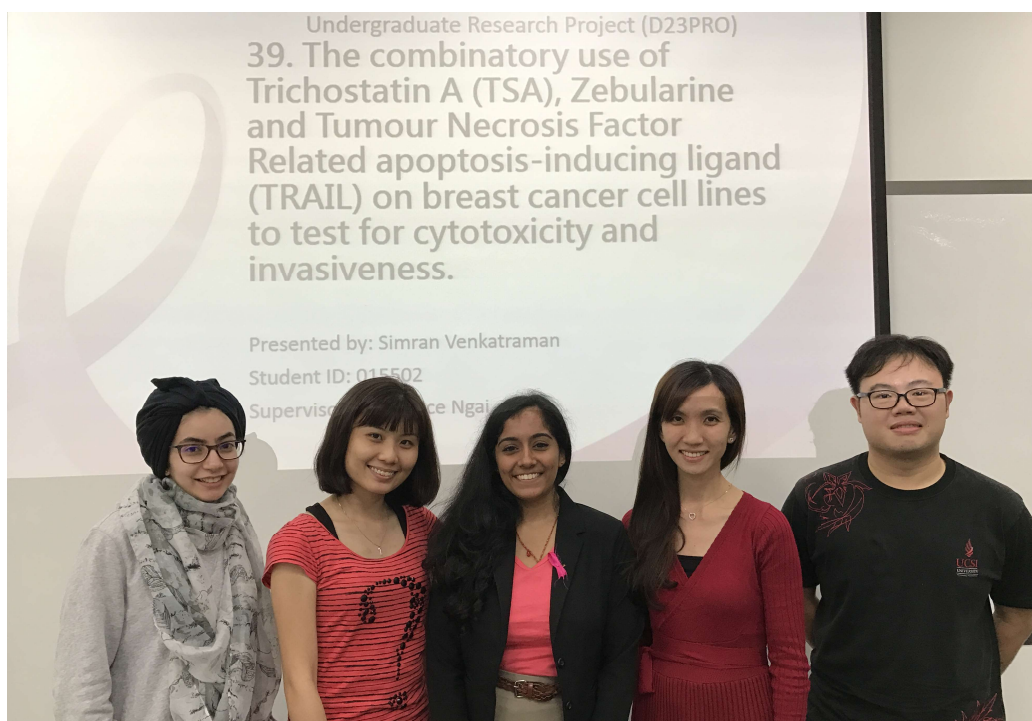
The academic staffs from the School of Biosciences at the School Research Away Day, which was held on 4th May 2017 in Aman Dusun.

Students

1. The School Postgraduate Research Symposium was held on 25th May 2017. Fifteen postgraduate students presented their annual report at the Symposium.
2. Ten undergraduate Biotechnology students participated in the 28th Intersivity Biochemistry Seminar, UCSI University, which was held on 13th May 2017. One of the Biotechnology students, Ms. Shaimaa Ahmed Saleem Al Odeh under supervision of Dr. Eunice Ngai presented orally at the Seminar.
3. The School Final Year Project Symposium was held on 25th and 26th April 2017. Sixty-eight undergraduate students presented at the Symposium.



Dr. Eunice Ngai and ten of the Biotechnology students from School of Biosciences participated in the 28th Intersivity Biochemistry Seminar, UCSI University on 13th May 2017, together with the lecturers and students from the Department of Biomedical Sciences.



One of the presenters, Ms. Simran Venkatraman [Third from left] with her supervisor, seniors and coursemate at the Final Year Project Symposium, which was held on 25th April 2017.

Research aims to address the global challenges to improve the welfare of humanity.