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## **Introduction**

**In continuation to our pursuit of sharing research activities, we have come up with the 3<sup>rd</sup> issue of Research Bulletin highlighting research achievements of our colleagues from July to early October 2017.**

**Thank you for all your co-operation and wish that you have a happy reading.**

**Nabin Rayamajhi**

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## **July – Oct 2017...**

### **Publications:**

1. Goh Kar Mun, Matthew Dickinson, Christina V. Supramaniam (2017) Morphological and transcript changes in the biosynthesis of lignin in oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*) during *Ganoderma boninense* infections in vitro. *Physiologia Plantarum* (In Press)
2. Ng, Z.X., Tan, W.Q. (2017). Impact of optimized cooking on the antioxidant activity in edible mushrooms. *Journal of Food Science and Technology*. In Press. DOI:10.1007/s13197-017-2885-0
3. Loh, H.-S., Green, B.J., Yusibov, V. (2017). Using transgenic plants and modified plant viruses for the development of treatments for human diseases. *Current Opinion in Virology* 26: 81-89. DOI: 10.1016/j.coviro.2017.07.019.
4. Abubakar, I.B., Lim, S.-W., Loh, H.-S. (2017). Synergistic apoptotic effects of tocotrienol isomers and *Acalypha wilkesiana* on A549 and U87MG cancer cells. *Tropical Life Sciences Research* 2017 Online First



## Conference

1. Sonia How Ming Wong, Chee Mun Fang, Sandy Hwei San Loh, Siew Ching Ngai. The potential of epigenetic drugs, Trichostatin A and Zebularine, in sensitizing the triple negative breast cancer cell line, MDA-MB-231, towards TRAIL apoptosis-inducing effect. 2nd Global Insight Conference on Breast Cancer. 4th – 6th September 2017. Rome, Italy.
2. Loh, H.-S., Pua, T.-L., Musiyuchuk, K., Shoji, Y., Chichester, J., Yusibov, V. Production of avian influenza H5N1 vaccine candidate using a modified plant virus-based transient expression strategy. The 42nd Annual Conference of the Malaysian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (MSBMB). 16th-17th August 2017, Kuala Lumpur.
3. Nadiatul Akmar Abd Aziz, Chai Li Chin, Marianne Leong, Chiew Foan Chin. Proteomic Analysis on Root Callus and Protocorm-Like Body of *Vanilla planifolia* Andrews. International Proteomic Conference. 15-17<sup>th</sup> August 2017. Kuala Lumpur
4. Nurshahirah Shuhaimi, Jenn Yang Chee, Marianne Leong, Chiew Foan Chin. Investigation of Differential Proteins in Calli of *Capsicum frutescens* Treated with Different Concentrations of Ferulic Acid. International Proteomic Conference. 15-17th August 2017. Kuala Lumpur

## Grants

1. **Dr Lim Yin Sze (PI); Prof. Festo Massawe and Dr Tan Boon Chin (Co-Investigators):- Ministry of Higher Education – Fundamental Research Grant Scheme 2017 [RM81,200]:** Understanding the mechanism of Weissellicin in reversing antibiotic resistance of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, an opportunistic pathogen.

## Studentship awards

1. Ms Tham Shiau Ying won the second (RM5,000) prize in FOS PGR Student Conference Support Poster Competition with poster entitled “ $\delta$ -Tocotrienol Enhances Cell Death in Colorectal Cancer Cells via Modulation of Chemosensitivity towards 5-Fluorouracil”. Her supervisor is Prof Sandy Loh.
2. Ms Tan Pui Yee won the third (RM3,000) prize in FOS PGR Student Conference Support Poster Competition with poster entitled “Gene Variations in FTO and Interaction with Obesogenic Phenotypes and Diet in Multi-Ethnic Malaysian Adults”. Her supervisor is Dr Soma Mitra.

## Staff News

1. Asgar Ali - Given talk on 11 Sep 2017. Ensuring Food Safety by Combating Antimicrobial Resistance Using Novel Treatments in Fresh fruits and Vegetables. Monash-Nottingham Joint Symposium on Antimicrobial resistance in Malaysia: Impact, characterization and countermeasures. Monash University Malaysia Campus
2. Asgar Ali - Invited talk: 12 July 2017. Measuring Your Impact: The H-Index, Citation and Impact Factor. Research Boot Camp, University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus. Malaysia. .



3. Asgar Ali - Appointed as a member of International Scientific Committee for VII International Conference on Managing Quality in Chains (Mquic) organised by Stellenbosch University and ISHS, 4-7 September 2017, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
4. Soma Mitra was invited to participate at a workshop on 'Obesity in Malaysia' that was jointly organised by the Academy of Medical Sciences, UK (AMS) and the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM). The two-day workshop took place on the 2nd and the 3rd of October 2017 in Kuala Lumpur, at the Majestic Hotel. Approximately 30-40 individuals from Malaysia, the ASEAN region, the UK and other countries participated in the workshop. The workshop programme was guided by a small steering committee of experts, co-chaired by Academician Distinguished Professor Datuk Dr Lai-Meng Looi FASc, for ASM, and Professor Andrew Prentice FMedSci, for the AMS.



5. Sandy Loh - presented a talk in the 42nd Annual Conference of the Malaysian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (MSBMB) as an Invited Speaker which was held on 16th-17th August 2017 in Pullman Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.
6. Sandy Loh - selected as one of the twenty Malaysians to take part in the Delphi study entitled: "Responsible Science, A Policy Study" as an Invited Panel, organized by Health Security Partners (HSP), Washington DC in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on 21st August 2017.
7. Sandy Loh - invited as a Grant Reviewer by UK Research Council (RCUK) for Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)
8. Sandy Loh - invited as a Poster Judge in The 3rd Annual Biomedical Sciences Postgraduate Research Symposium which was held on 21st July 2017 at UNMC.
9. Sandy Loh - invited as a Poster Judge in The 42nd Annual Conference of the MSBMB in conjunction with the 3rd Joint International Symposium on Animal Cell Technology which was held on 16th-17th August 2017 in Pullman Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.
10. Chin Chiew Foan - Invited talk: 12 July 2017. Grant Application. Research Boot Camp, University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus. Malaysia.

11. Chin Chiew Foan – invited as a judge for the UNMC PG Link conference 2017
12. Chin Chiew Foan - invited to be an external assessor for staff promotion to the post of Associate Professor at IIUM, Kuantan (2017)
13. Nabin Rayamajhi, with the support from SOB research committee ( Chiew Foan, Euince and Cheng Foh) was a co-organiser for the UNMC-Monash joint symposium on “Antimicrobial Resistance” which was held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at the Monash University Malaysia campus. Approximately 45-50 professionals, researchers and graduates students attended the symposium. The UNMC Dean of Science, Prof Andrew Morris and Monash Malaysia campus Prof. Mohamed Shajahan Mohamed Yasin, gave welcoming speeches highlighting importance of the symposium and joint research collaboration between UNMC and Monash. There were interesting presentations from colleagues in UNMC (Asgar Ali, Sivakumar Manickam, Nashiru Billa, Nabin Rayamajhi) and Monash (Cheong Yuet Meng, Amreeta Dhanoa, Cheow Yuen Lin, Ken Yeong, Lee Sui Mae). Our invited speakers were - Dr. Noraziah Mohamad Zin from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Dr. Paul Kilgore from Wayne State University, US and Prof. Phil Andrews from Monash University, Australia. The symposium concluded with a panel discussion addressing the need of continue interactions and developing joint research proposals on Antimicrobial resistance related research areas. We also agreed on organising a similar symposium at UNMC next year.



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