

Shaping the future of healthcare

FOR most students in Malaysia, advancing science at Harvard might seem like a far-fetched dream.

But for UCSI University students, it is not an impossible feat.

The university stands out for its high impact research partnerships which provide opportunities for its undergraduate students to pursue research experience at renowned institutions like Harvard Medical School, Imperial College London, University of British Columbia and Tsinghua University.

The research they carry out trains students to be better doctors. They are also grooming them to have analytical minds.

Not only does it give them an advantage when it comes to diagnosing and treating their patients, but it also contributes to the discovery of cause and treatment for various ailments, leading to medical breakthroughs.

UCSI's international research initiative began in 2013 when UCSI sent its top medical student Cherish Chong Chiu Wern for a year-long research programme at Harvard Medical School in Boston.

Since then, more UCSI's Doctor of Medicine programme students have been selected, including Tan Jia Wei and Ting Pei Yee who recently returned from their stints at Harvard.

They were supervised by leading clinician-scientist Prof Dr Gordon Williams of the Hormonal Mechanisms of Cardiometabolic Injury Program at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Between them they have delivered up to 15 peer-reviewed publications after fully exploring the results of their research.

Tan focused on the treatment of cardiovascular diseases via the precision medicine approach.

She has already written six papers on her findings that she hopes will provide novel insights into cardiovascular therapeutic options.

Ting expanded Chong's research at Harvard, which could lead to valuable approaches in preventing or treating hypertension.

UCSI champions the defining intersection of medicine and laboratory research with its latest collaboration with the University of Melbourne.

The university is home to numerous research centres, including the country's oldest medical research institute and the largest brain research group in the southern hemisphere.

This partnership provides UCSI's second-year medical students the option of pursuing Melbourne University's Bachelor of Medical Science programme.

With that, students obtain this additional qualification on top of their medical degree from UCSI.

"This one-year programme is a research training initiative that will allow students to explore evidence-based medicine as well as existing medical knowledge in their area of clinical interest," said UCSI's dean of Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Prof Dr Zulkifli Ahmad.

"Our students will also get to work with a senior clinical mentor at one of Melbourne University's teaching hospitals."

Spots are limited and competition is stiff but being attached to these teaching hospitals will be life-changing for medical students.

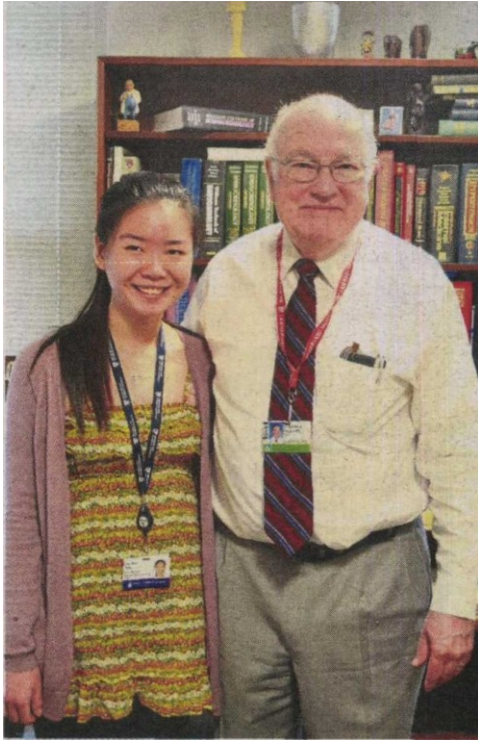
Opportunities abound locally too.

UCSI is also one of the only three recognised centres in Malaysia receiving live training sessions from the Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh, which helps set speciality training standards for UK physicians. These webstream symposiums feature renowned medical international specialists, featuring a range of topics.

UCSI looks towards more world-class opportunities for its students with more international planned collaborations.

■ For more, call 03-9101 8882 or e-mail to www.ucsiuniversity.edu.my/onlineenquiry.

The KL campus is open daily, including weekends and public holidays, for extended counselling sessions.



With the help of her mentor Prof Dr Gordon Williams, Tan Jia Wei was also sponsored to attend the Endocrine Society's annual meeting in Boston and the American Heart Association's Council on Hypertension in Florida during her time at Harvard.



Ting Pei Yee collecting adrenal glands from lab rats, needed for her research at Harvard's animal facility.