

# PHARMACYCONNECT

## NEWSLETTER



March 2021

Volume 2, Issue 2

### DEAN'S MESSAGE



**Associate Professor Dr Mogana Sundari Rajagopal, Dean**

The Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences (FPS) has an established track record of 20 years, with dedicated specialists, empowered educators, and innovative researchers as academic staff. It is one of the pioneers of pharmaceutical education in the private sector and has produced over 1300 pharmacists since inception. The Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons) has been the bedrock of FPS's academic programmes for almost 21 years.

As we pride ourselves with this record, we are now soaring to the skies, having launched the first Formulation Science degree programme in Asia. The Bachelor of Formulation Science programme was officially launched on April 17 in the presence of Yang Berbahagia Dato' Peter Ng, Founder, CEO and acting Deputy Vice Chancellor of UCSI University; David Ho Sue San, Chairman and Managing Director, of HOVID Berhad; and Dr Tan Chor Teck, Co-founder of PROCTAS Sdn Bhd. Representatives from leading pharmaceutical industries such as Medispec and Y.S.P Industries, and medical devices manufacturer Careline Manufacturing were also in attendance.

Formulated products are a staple in our daily lives and they include products in a variety of segments, like cosmetics, nutraceuticals, herbaceuticals, food and beverages and pharmaceuticals. FPS's Bachelor of Formulation Science programme offer an Intensive Praxis hands-on approach with attachments to well-known industries involved in the formulation of consumer and industrial products. It equips the students with entrepreneurship skills, marketing as well as the international and local regulatory and environmental standards.

Perhaps the most obvious question to answer when deciding on a career as a formulation scientist is "Why should I become a formulation scientist?" Statistics have shown formulation scientist careers are projected to have a growth rate described as "faster than average" at eight percent from 2018 to 2028 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

On another note, FPS is proud to be part of this year's National Pharmacists Convention organised by the Malaysian Pharmacists Society. The convention will be held on a fully immersive 3D virtual platform during 8 – 11 July 2021. As Chair of the Scientific Committee, I am proud to present the theme of the convention, "Exploration, Inspiration and Transformation of Pharmacy". 44 dedicated sessions featuring prominent and distinguished local and international speakers are included in the program. To all readers, do not miss the opportunity to be a part of this year's convention, do register by checking out [www.mps.org.my](http://www.mps.org.my).

I am indeed very excited for FPS to take this new direction and journey together. As Johann Wolfgang once said, "The greatest thing in this world is not so much where we stand but in what direction we are moving."

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### Editorial Team:

- Assistant Professor Dr Anand Gaurav
- Osama Helweh



PHARMACYCONNECT newsletter is a bimonthly publication of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences (FPS), UCSI University, Kuala Lumpur.

## FPS RESEARCHERS WIN MTE AWARDS 2021

FPS researchers and BPharm (Hons) final year students bagged multiple awards at the Malaysian Technology Expo (MTE) held in March 2021.

Yap Vi Lien, under the supervision of Associate Professor Dr Mogana Sundari Rajagopal, won the Gold Medal Award under the Asian Youth Innovation category for an innovative new natural bioactive loaded eye cream for dark circles and plumping support. She was simultaneously granted the prestigious Association of British Inventors & Innovators Award.

Ong Khai Kee received a Gold Award under the Youth Category for the invention of a cocoa butter-based medicine tablet, an output of her final year undergraduate research project under the supervision of Assistant Professor Dr Ashok Kumar Janakiraman.

Vivien Ling Wang Ting, under the supervision of Melbha Starlin Chellathurai, won a Silver Award under the International Innovation category for her invention involving transdermal microneedles for recombinant human keratinocyte growth factor.

### GOLD AWARD UNDER THE ASIAN YOUTH INNOVATION AWARDS 2021 (YOUTH CATEGORY) AND THE ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH INVENTORS & INNOVATORS AWARD

#### Team Leader:



Associate Professor  
Dr Mogana Sundari  
Rajagopal

#### Student Researcher:



Yap Vi Lien

#### Team members:

Assistant Professor Dr Sasikala Chinnappan  
Dr Venkatalakshmi Ranganathan  
Assistant Professor Dr Muhammad Junaid Farrukh  
Anabelle Rose Joykin  
Por Choo Shiuan  
Tan Lee Fang

#### Invention Title:

CuberClear - A New Natural Bioactive Loaded  
Microsphere Eye Cream For Dark Circles

### GOLD AWARD UNDER THE ASIAN YOUTH INNOVATION AWARDS 2021 (YOUTH CATEGORY)

#### Team Leader:



Assistant Professor  
Dr Ashok Kumar  
Janakiraman

#### Student Researcher:



Ong Khai Kee

#### Team members:

Assistant Professor Dr Shiek Abdul Kadhar  
Mohamed Ebrahim Habibur Rahman  
Assistant Professor Dr Liew Kai Bin

#### Invention Title:

Fabrication of Cocoa Butter Base Amlodipine  
Besylate Fast Melt Tablets

### SILVER AWARD UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL INNOVATION AWARDS 2021

#### Team Leader:



Melbha Starlin  
Chellathurai

#### Student Researcher:



Vivien Ling Wang Ting

#### Team members:

Associate Professor Dr Palanirajan  
Vijayaraj Kumar

#### Invention Title:

Fabrication And Evaluation Of Transdermal  
Microneedles For A Recombinant Human  
Keratinocyte Growth Factor

## LAUNCHING OF BACHELOR OF FORMULATION SCIENCES



FPS officially launched its Bachelor of Formulation Science programme on the 17 April 2021 with the attendance of UCSI University founder, CEO and acting deputy vice chancellor Yang Berbahagia Dato' Peter Ng, Mr David Ho Sue San, chairman and managing director of HOVID Berhad, and Dr Tan Chor Teck, co-founder of PROCTAS Sdn Bhd. Representatives from leading pharmaceutical industries such as Medispec and Y.S.P Industries and medical devices manufacturer Careline Manufacturing were also in attendance.

As the First Formulation Science degree programme in Asia, this programme offers Intensive Praxis hands-on approach and attachments to industries for enhancement of skills in the formulation of consumer and industrial products. Statistics have shown formulation scientist careers are projected to have a growth rate described as "faster than average" at eight percent from 2018 to 2028 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## PUBLIC FORUM @ FPS

### THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND ITS IMPACT ON THE RISE OF DRUG ADDICTION: A PEEP BEHIND THE CURTAINS

#### SPEAKERS:



**Dr Prem Kumar Shanmugam**  
PhD Psychology (M), MS Psychology (PhD) Singapore,  
PhD Counseling (University of South Australia)  
Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Solace Asia  
One of the founding members and Regional Director  
of the Asia Pacific Collaboration Board (APCB)



**Dr Muhammad Junaid Farrukh**  
Pharm D, MS Clinical Pharmacy, PhD Pharmacology  
Assistant Professor, Dept of Clinical Pharmacy  
Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences,  
UCSI University



**Lakshmy Kumar** ChE, V.S., P.A.  
Registered Counsellor and Certified Hypnotherapist  
Student Development and Counselling Department  
Student Affairs and Alumni Division,  
UCSI University

10 APRIL 2021  
11AM - 12PM  
MICROSOFT TEAMS

#### AIMS:

- To educate the youth about various addictions and the misuse of drugs.
- To empower the youth to combat drug addiction.

#### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Afternoon tea and publication during the break.
- To discuss the triggers of addiction.

#### TARGET AUDIENCE:

- School / University students
- Public

Register at:  
<https://bit.ly/20W9Hed>



Covid-19 has affected almost all sectors globally, be it the travel industry, business, or academia. Indeed, it has also affected drug abuse patterns. According to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), an increasing number of people are getting involved in illicit drugs trade as many have lost their job. To understand this emerging phenomenon, FPS organised a public forum where three experts from different specialties like psychologist, pharmacist, and counsellor, were invited to share their views. The speakers included Dr Prem Kumar Shanmugam (Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Solace Asia), Assistant Professor Dr Muhammad Junaid Farrukh (Lecturer, FPS, UCSI University) and Miss Lakshmy Kumar (Registered Counsellor & Certified Hypnotherapist, UCSI University). Miss Anabelle Rose Joykin (Lecturer, FPS, UCSI University) moderated the forum.

Dr Prem talked about difference between addiction and misuse, rehabilitation of substance abusers and the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on drug addiction. Assistant Professor Dr Junaid explained about the effects of drugs on human body, changes in patterns of drug abuse during the pandemic and the role of pharmacist to make things better. Miss Lakshmy Kumar presented the students point of view, the triggering factors which can lead to substance abuse and how does stigma and discrimination towards mental health can increase the substance abuse.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT: ANAND GAURAV



Dr Anand Gaurav is an Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at FPS, UCSI University, Kuala Lumpur. He received his Bachelor's degree from Sardar Patel University, India, His Masters from Indian Institute of Information Technology-Allahabad and Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda and PhD from Shobhit University, India. Before joining UCSI University, he has taught at various institutions in India.

During his stint at FPS, UCSI University, he has served at several positions like Head of Postgraduate and Research, and Vice Chair of Student Welfare Committee.

He has also served as a Visiting Lecturer at Anton De Kom Universiteit van Suriname.

Dr Anand Gaurav's area of expertise in research is computer aided drug design and synthesis of drugs and small molecules of biological interest. His current research focuses on the design of selective phosphodiesterase 4B inhibitors as anti-inflammatory agents and phosphodiesterase 10A inhibitors as anti-schizophrenia drugs.

He has published over 40 publications in journals of international repute and four book chapters. He is on the editorial board of some international journals and serves as reviewer for many journals of significant reputation including Medicinal Chemistry Research, PLOS ONE, Journal of Molecular Modeling, Future Drugs, Cell Biochemistry and Biophysics etc.

He is also the Editor of PHARMACYCONNECT, the official newsletter of FPS, UCSI University and has served as the editor of "New Dimensions" official newsletter of Shobhit University, India.

He has also conducted several trainings and workshops and has delivered Invited lectures at various institutions.

## ALUMNI SPEAK: YEOH WAN XUAN



I completed my Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons) from the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, UCSI University in 2019. After that, I decided to further my education in UCSI University, and joined the Master of Clinical Pharmacy Practice Programme in 2019. I graduated with the Master of Clinical Pharmacy Practice degree in 2020.

Looking back at my journey as a master's student, especially the early days, I was surprised and overwhelmed by the diversity in the classroom with working professionals from Malaysia and overseas being my peers.

Postgraduate studies provided me with an opportunity to expose myself to research in clinical pharmacy. This helped me develop many skills that I could not during my undergraduate studies.

My journey as a Master's degree student was fulfilling yet challenging. I would like to convey thanks to my family, lecturers, supervisors, and friends for encouraging and supporting me. Overall, FPS proved to be an excellent place for pursuing pharmacy education!

## UPSA COMMITTEE 2021

UCSI Pharmacy Student Association (UPSA) is an association for pharmacy students of UCSI University. It serves as a bridge between pharmacy students and FPS. Besides, UPSA also emphasises building positive connections among pharmacy students from UCSI and other universities. UPSA has organized a variety of events annually to help the students to develop soft skills and teamwork. By engaging in events, students are given excellent opportunities to learn beyond the books.

The vision of UPSA is to create competent, ethical, and compassionate future pharmacists. On the other hand, the missions are:

- To promote awareness among pharmacy students about the benefits of the association.
- To represent the voice of pharmacy students and to bridge the gap between the lecturers and the students.
- To build up Espirit De Corp through the development of professionalism and a sense of pride in the profession.
- To keep students abreast of the current development of healthcare issues.
- To provide service to the community.

The UPSA committee for 2021 has been recently selected and the roadmap for 2021 has been finalised. FPS wishes all the UPSA members best wishes!



## KNOW YOUR MEDICINE TALK SERIES @ FPS

FPS organised a talk titled "Misuse of Prescription and Over-The-Counter Medicine in The Community" by Yoo Keat Jiu, Clinical Pharmacist, KPJ Puteri Specialist Hospital and Alumna FPS, UCSI University.

The talk was organised under the banner of the Know Your Medicine (KYM) Talk Series. Several interesting talks by eminent personalities have been organised under the KYM banner in the past.

This talk was especially interesting for the public and pharmacist and other healthcare professional as it shared eye-opening facts about the malpractices by health care professionals and ignorance by public leading to on the misuse of medicines in the community.

The talk was well attended and appreciated by the attendees as shown by their participation in the question-and-answer session.

**KNOW YOUR MEDICINE TALK SERIES**

**MISUSE OF PRESCRIPTION AND OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICINE IN THE COMMUNITY**

**DATE**  
27 March (Saturday)

**TIME**  
11am - 12pm

**VENUE**  
Microsoft Teams

**SPEAKER:**  
YOO KEAT JIU  
Clinical Pharmacist  
KPJ Puteri Specialist Hospital

**SPEAKER'S PROFILE**  
Yoo Keat Jiu is a registered pharmacist with more than five years of working experience in community and hospital settings. She graduated with a Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons) from UCSI University in 2015. After graduation, she joined a leading community pharmacy where she was trained in handling prescription medicines, over the counter drugs, patient counselling and basic health screening of the patients. In 2017, she decided to advance her education and enrolled in the Master in Clinical Pharmacy Practice at UCSI University graduating in 2019. After serving in community pharmacy for five years, in 2020, she joined KPJ Puteri Specialist Hospital as a clinical pharmacist to plan the development of new clinical services department and become mainly in charge of neurology. She is also involved in clinical ward rounds with doctors, provides patient counselling on medication and medical devices.

Register at:  
<http://bit.ly/2pes1Rh>



## STUDENTS CORNER

### "It's not all about grades!"

By: Truphena Tan Li Ern



Being a first-year pharmacy student was a huge jump from being just a 'science' student. It made me realise

how specific, detailed, and professional the pharmaceutical world wants us to be, it moulds us as a character and into becoming an exemplary figure.

As I am part of UCSI's student council, SWA community, and a Grade 8 piano student, I do find it a challenge at times to balance my friends and my workload with the given time on my hands. Especially when it comes to my own studies and revision time.

Through consistent time management and discipline, I can accomplish my daily and weekly mini goals. Nevertheless, the challenge lies in putting "responsibility" first before our "wants" (shopping, hanging out with friends, etc.)

However, I will not allow the "pharmacy student-study-only" persona to define me. I strive to be an all-rounder in public relations and to be a knowledgeable future pharmacist. Grades land you a job but character brings you further.

### "It is Our Responsibility as a Future Pharmacist!"

By: Audrey Phan Sin Yu



I always had this question in my mind; "Why does everyone say the medicine pathway is 'hard', the pharmacy is super 'hard?'". Before attending any lectures, I believed that, if I worked hard and smart, I would pass my examinations just like how I did in my high school before.

However, the truth is the subjects are unexpectedly challenging! The chapters are detailed and lengthy! Eventually, I noticed that everything was very different compared to my experience in secondary education.

So, I had to adapt like pharmacists do. To cope with the classes, I trained myself to manage my time appropriately and to be more disciplined. Moreover, after getting along with my classmates, I realised that everyone performed well in their own way. Hence, I redefined myself to strive smartly to become a skilled and reliable pharmacist.

*"Nothing in the world is worth having or worth doing unless it means effort, pain, difficulty..."*  
**Theodore Roosevelt**

DID YOU KNOW?

## The History of Coca Cola and Pepsi

### Coca Cola

The syrup of Coca-Cola was invented by a pharmacist named Dr. John Stith Pemberton in May 1886. It had initially been marketed as a medicine but later as a beverage after the addition of carbonated water. Pemberton arranged for it to be sold for five cents a glass!



Dr. John Smith Pemberton,  
Inventor of Coca-Cola

### Pepsi

Pepsi was invented in 1893 in New Bern by a pharmacist named Caleb Bradham. The drink was known as 'Brad's Drink' & made from a mix of sugar, water, caramel, lemon oil, nutmeg, and other natural additives. It was later renamed as Pepsi-Cola in 1888.



Caleb Bradham,  
Inventor of Pepsi

# A SNEAK PEEK INTO FPS



## BACHELOR OF FORMULATION SCIENCE (HONOURS)

(N/5456/0103) (10/2025) (MQA/PA13963)

*Impact the World as a Formulation Scientist.*

QS World University Rankings  
**TOP 400**  
 2021

TOP 1.3% IN THE WORLD  
TOP 10 IN MALAYSIA



**LAUNCHED**

FPS offers both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes with the emphasis on serving the community.

### Doctoral Programme

- Doctor of Philosophy (Pharmaceutical Sciences)

### Masters Programmes

- MSc Pharmaceutical Chemistry
- MSc Pharmaceutical Technology
- Master of Clinical Pharmacy Practice
- MSc (Pharmaceutical Sciences)

### Degree Programmes

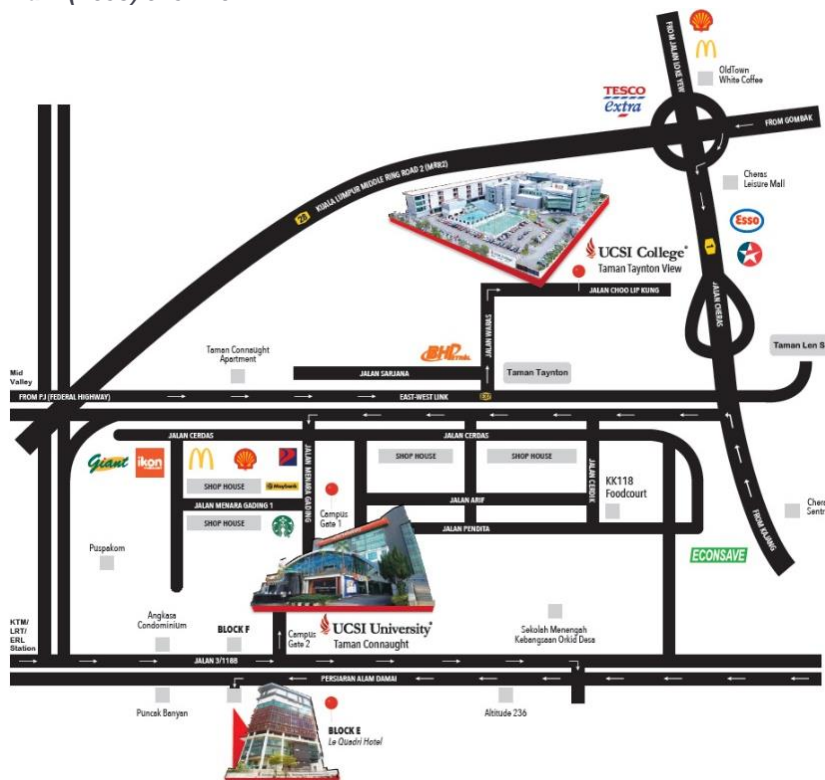
- Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons)
- Bachelor of Formulation Science (Hons)

### Foundation Programme

- Foundation in Science (Pharmacy)

### *We are located at:*

**Level 10, Block G, UCSI University Kuala Lumpur Campus**  
**No. 1, Jalan Menara Gading,**  
**UCSI Heights (Taman Connaught), Cheras**  
**56000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**  
**Phone: (+603) 9101 8880**  
**Fax: (+603) 9102 2614**



### **Contributors:**

- |                                                  |                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
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| • Assistant Professor Dr Muhammad Junaid Farrukh | • Assistant Professor Dr Chew Yik Ling |
| • Assistant Professor Dr Anand Gaurav            | • Truphena Tan Li Ern                  |
|                                                  | • Audrey Phan Sin Yu                   |
|                                                  | • Por Choo Shuan                       |

## UPCOMING EVENTS @ FPS

- Journal Club Presentation by Muhammad Ahsan Iftikhar Baig on the topic "Development and Assessment of Modified Fagerstrom Test for Nicotine Dependence Scale Among Malaysian Single Electronic Cigarettes Users" on 21 May 2021.
- Complementary Competency Programme on the topic "The use of Malaysian Plant Based Ingredients in Skin Disease Management" by Assistant Professor Dr Chew Yik Ling on 29 May 2021.
- 20th UCSI Annual Public Health Campaign (PHC) 2021 June 2021.

