

PHARMACYCONNECT

NEWSLETTER



November 2021

Volume 2, Issue 6

DEAN'S MESSAGE



Associate Professor Dr. Mogana Sundari Rajagopal, Dean

December 2021 saw the worst floods in decades after continuous rainfall. While authorities were rushing to mobilise rescue efforts in many parts of the country, the biggest and immediate aid to those affected by the floods came from the Everyman. Across the country saw many volunteers, NGOs, and the healthcare community rally together to provide relief assistance to those affected.

Healthcare professionals including doctors and pharmacists play a key role in disaster relief management to ensure continuous care is provided to those who are cut off from their supply of medications and to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Doctors are responsible for diagnosis and medication prescribing, while pharmacists, who are medication experts, are responsible for medication dispensing and optimizing patient care.

The faculty together with Professor Dr Habibah Wahab (Dean, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and Bharati Suresh Chand (CEO, Global Edge Pharma) banded together to organise assistance in the form of medical items and over-the-counter items worth over RM25,000 sponsored by Global Edge Pharma, AKATI Security, Hexa-Communications, and various independent individuals to be distributed to different flood-hit areas in Pahang, Negeri Sembilan and Taman Sri Muda. Volunteer camps were also set up where assistance was provided by UCSI pharmacy alumni Vigneswary Suthakaran for the distribution of medicines to the respective volunteer medical camps and alumnus Lim Heui Wen, co-owner of Juzcare Pharmacy for prompt preparation of the medicines.

The collaborative effort between NGOs, medical specialist, and the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences exhibits the capacity of a pharmacy institution to help patients in a time of natural disaster. This prepares and trains students to serve their communities, emphasizing the integral role pharmacists in patients' wellness. Participating in disaster relief efforts is an intense but rewarding opportunity that exemplifies what it means to serve one's community and patients. Such volunteerism effort is warranted for the benefit of patients, communities, students, faculty, and the profession of pharmacy.

Inside this issue:

- Inaugural Talk by Distinguished Visiting Professor Dr Ramesh K Goyal
- FPS @ ITEX 2021, MTE-SDG 2021 & SIIF 2021
- Convocation 2021
- Staff Spotlight: Fazlollah Keshavarzi
- Alumni Speak: Joan Nyanhongo
- Student Achievement: Lim Jia Le
- Postgraduate Final Exam Preparation Workshop
- Fun Pharmacy Facts
 - Dr. Pepper was invented by a pharmacist in Waco, Texas
 - Poisonous substances made into helpful medications
 - Serendipitous discovery of warfarin
- Sneak Peek Into FPS
- Upcoming Events

Editorial Team:

- Assistant Professor Dr Anand Gaurav, Editor
- Anabelle Rose Joykin, Co-Editor



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



FACULTY OF
PHARMACEUTICAL
SCIENCES

INAUGURAL TALK BY DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSOR DR RAMESH K GOYAL

FPS is extremely delighted to welcome on board its first Distinguished Visiting Professor, Dr Ramesh K Goyal, Vice-Chancellor, Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University (DPSRU), New Delhi, India. Prof Goyal is an academician and researcher par excellence as evident from the various roles he has played as an academician and the research output produced by him.

Prof Goyal has over 43 years of experience in Teaching and Research particularly in Cardiovascular Pharmacology & Diabetes. Before his current position as the Vice-Chancellor of DPSRU, he has served as the Executive Director (Research & Strategies), V ClinBio Labs Sri Ramachandra University, Chennai, India. He served as the Vice-Chancellor of Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara, India Director of NMIMS University, Mumbai, India and ISF College of Pharmacy, Moga, India and Professor at L. M. College of Pharmacy, Ahmedabad, India. He has been a visiting scientist at University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada and University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada. He has also served in various councils and panels of government of India.

Professor Goyal delivered his inaugural talk as Distinguished Visiting Professor on the topic "Collaborative Strategies for Research and Innovation Through 21 Revolutions of the 21st Century in Pharmaceutical Sciences" on 20 November 2021. Prof Goyal talked about the innovations that have transformed pharmaceutical sciences in the 21st century, his talk was followed by a meeting with the staff of FPS to deliberate on research and academic collaboration between FPS and DPSRU. The meeting turned out to be extremely fruitful laying the foundation of a long and strong collaboration between the two institutions.



FACULTY OF
PHARMACEUTICAL
SCIENCES




Collaborative Strategies for Research and Innovation through 21 Revolutions of the 21st Century in Pharmaceutical Sciences

20 November 2021 (Saturday)
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Inaugural Talk by Distinguished Visiting Professor Dr Ramesh K Goyal, featured on Stanford University's list of the **World's top 2% scientists in the disciplines of Pharmacology and Pharmacy, Cardiovascular System & Hematology, and Clinical Medicine, for two consecutive years (2020-2021).**



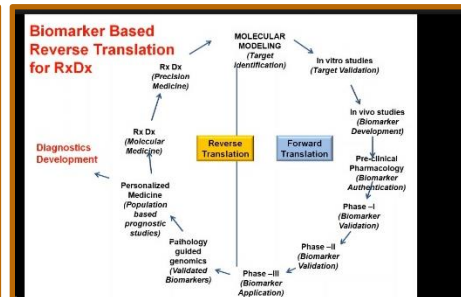
SPEAKER

Professor Dr Ramesh K Goyal

BSc (Hon), MSc (Medical), PhD (Pharmacy)
FIC., FICN, FIPS, FAMS, FIACS, FNAsc, FSCH, FISVP

Vice-Chancellor,
Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences & Research University
New Delhi, India

Distinguished Visiting Professor,
Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, UCSI University,
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



FPS @ ITEX 2021, MTE-SDG 2021 & SIIF 2021

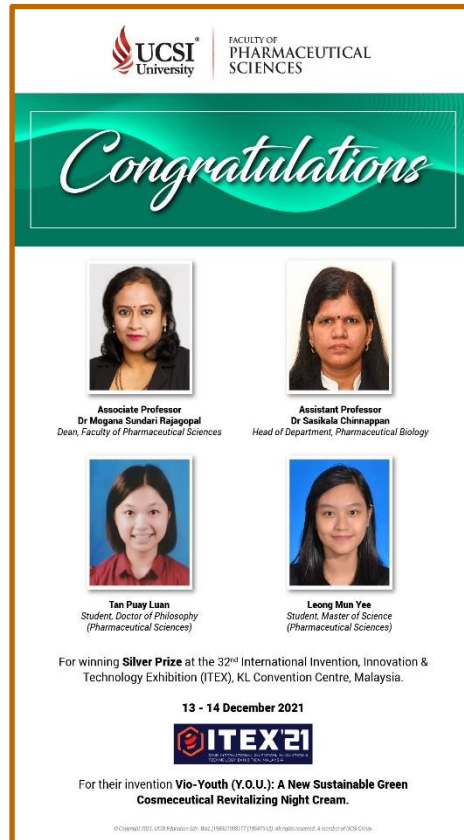
Congratulations to staff and students of FPS for winning several innovation awards recently at International Innovations and Technology Exhibition 2021 (ITEX-2021), Seoul International Innovation Fair 2021 (SIIF-2021) and Malaysia Technology Expo 2021 Sustainable Development Goals International Innovation Awards 2021.

Research team comprising of FPS staff and students won 3 silver prizes at ITEX-2021. Team led by Associate Professor Dr Mogana Sundari Rajagopal won the silver prize for their innovation "Vio-Youth (Y.O.U): A New Sustainable Green Cosmeceutical Revitalising Night Cream", while the team led by Assistant Professor Dr Anand Gaurav won the silver prize for their innovation "Natural Product Dual PDE3/4 Inhibitor: A Potential Therapy for COPD". The team led by Associate Professor Palanirajan Vijayaraj Kumar won the silver prize for their innovation "Cosmetic Gel of *Kappaphycus Alvarezii* Extract in Solid Lipid Nanoparticle: Preparation and Evaluation".

Research team comprising of FPS staff and students won a silver prize and a bronze prize at SIIF-2021. Team led by Assistant Professor Dr Sasikala Chinnappan won the silver prize for their innovation "3D Nanofibres". Team led by Assistant Professor Dr Ashok Kumar Janakiraman and Associate Professor Mogana Sundari Rajagopal won the bronze prize for their innovations "Chocolate-Based Drug Delivery for Tetrahydrocurcumin (Fast Melting Tablets)" and "TL7, A New Bioactive Loaded Microsphere Anti-Pigment Cream" respectively.


At the Malaysia Technology Expo 2021 Sustainable Development Goals International Innovation Awards 2021 a research team led by Assistant Professor Dr Anand Gaurav won Merit Award for their innovation "A Dual Inhibitor of Phosphodiesterase 1B/10A as Lead Compound for Treatment of Schizophrenia"

These awards further strengthened the innovation culture at FPS!




UCSI University FACULTY OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES


Congratulations




Associate Professor
Dr Mogana Sundari Rajagopal
Dean, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences



Assistant Professor
Dr Sasikala Chinnappan
Head of Department, Pharmaceutical Biology




Tan Puay Luan
Student, Doctor of Philosophy
(Pharmaceutical Sciences)



Leong Mun Yee
Student, Master of Science
(Pharmaceutical Sciences)

For winning **Silver Prize** at the 32nd International Invention, Innovation & Technology Exhibition (ITEX), KL Convention Centre, Malaysia.

13 - 14 December 2021



For their invention **Vio-Youth (Y.O.U.): A New Sustainable Green Cosmeceutical Revitalising Night Cream.**

© Copyright 2021. UCSI University Sdn. Bhd. (1980030077) (524713). All rights reserved. A member of UCSI Group.



UCSI University FACULTY OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

Congratulations



Assistant Professor
Dr Sasikala Chinnappan
Head of Department,
Pharmaceutical Biology



Assistant Professor
Dr Shaik Ibrahim Khalivulla
Assistant Professor, Department
of Pharmaceutical Chemistry

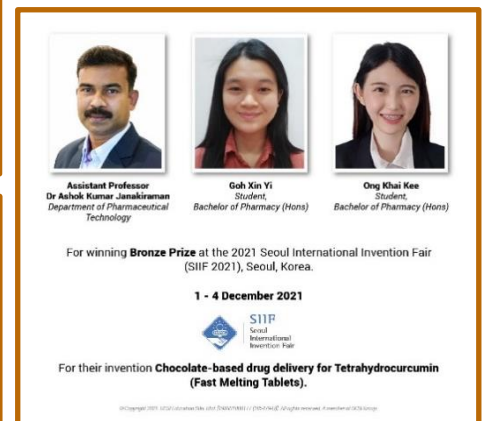
For winning **Silver Prize** at the 2021 Seoul International Invention Fair (SIIF 2021), Seoul, Korea.

1 - 4 December 2021




For their invention **3D Nanofibres.**

© Copyright 2021. UCSI University Sdn. Bhd. (1980030077) (524713). All rights reserved. A member of UCSI Group.




UCSI University FACULTY OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES


Congratulations



Assistant Professor
Dr Ashok Kumar Janakiraman
Department of Pharmaceutical
Technology




Goh Xin Yi
Student,
Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons)



Ong Khai Kee
Student,
Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons)

For winning **Bronze Prize** at the 2021 Seoul International Invention Fair (SIIF 2021), Seoul, Korea.

1 - 4 December 2021



For their invention **Chocolate-based drug delivery for Tetrahydrocurcumin (Fast Melting Tablets).**

© Copyright 2021. UCSI University Sdn. Bhd. (1980030077) (524713). All rights reserved. A member of UCSI Group.



UCSI University FACULTY OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

Congratulations



Associate Professor
Dr Anand Gaurav
Head of Research, Department
of Pharmaceutical Chemistry



Lim Jie Le
Student, Doctor of Philosophy
(Pharmaceutical Sciences)



Tan Xuan Hui
Student,
Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons)

For winning **Silver Prize** at the 32nd International Invention, Innovation & Technology Exhibition (ITEX), KL Convention Centre, Malaysia.

13 - 14 December 2021



For their invention **Natural Product Based Dual PDE3/4 Inhibitor: A Potential Therapy for COPD.**

© Copyright 2021. UCSI University Sdn. Bhd. (1980030077) (524713). All rights reserved. A member of UCSI Group.



UCSI University FACULTY OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

Congratulations



Associate Professor
Dr Mogana Sundari Rajagopal
Dean, Faculty of
Pharmaceutical Sciences



Pir Chen Sthan
Lecturer,
Department of Clinical Pharmacy



Yip Yi Lam
Student, Doctor of Philosophy
(Pharmaceutical Sciences)



Tan Lee Fung
Student, Doctor of Philosophy
(Pharmaceutical Sciences)

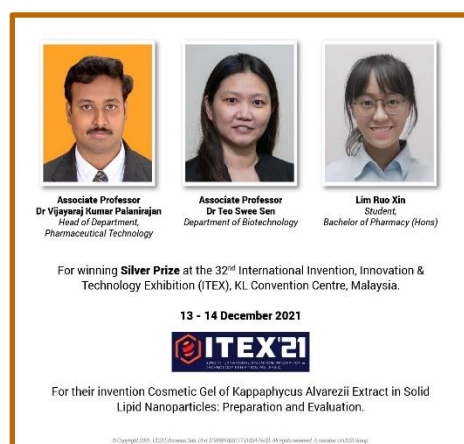
For winning **Bronze Prize** at the 2021 Seoul International Invention Fair (SIIF 2021), Seoul, Korea.

1 - 4 December 2021




For their invention **TL7, A New Natural Bioactive Loaded Microsphere Anti-Pigment Cream.**

© Copyright 2021. UCSI University Sdn. Bhd. (1980030077) (524713). All rights reserved. A member of UCSI Group.




UCSI University FACULTY OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

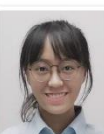
Congratulations



Associate Professor
Dr Vijayaraj Kumar Palanirajan
Head of Department,
Pharmaceutical Technology




Associate Professor
Dr Teo See Sen
Department of Biotechnology



Lim Ruo Xin
Student,
Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons)

For winning **Silver Prize** at the 32nd International Invention, Innovation & Technology Exhibition (ITEX), KL Convention Centre, Malaysia.

13 - 14 December 2021



For their invention **Cosmetic Gel of Kappaphycus Alvarezii Extract in Solid Lipid Nanoparticles: Preparation and Evaluation.**

© Copyright 2021. UCSI University Sdn. Bhd. (1980030077) (524713). All rights reserved. A member of UCSI Group.



UCSI University FACULTY OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

Congratulations



Mayrasah Al-Nuema
Student, Doctor of Philosophy
(Pharmaceutical Sciences),
UCSI University



Assistant Professor
Dr Anand Gaurav
Faculty of Pharmaceutical
Sciences,
UCSI University



Associate Professor
Dr Lee Ming Tait
Faculty of Pharmaceutical
Sciences,
UCSI University



Assistant Professor
Dr Basukaran
Ganasakaran
Faculty of Applied Sciences,
UCSI University



Associate Professor
Dr Patrick Osochukwu
Faculty of Applied Sciences,
UCSI University

For winning the **Merit Award** for their innovation "A Dual inhibitor of Phosphodiesterase 1B/10A as Lead Compound for Treatment of Schizophrenia" at the Malaysia Technology Expo 2021 Sustainable Development Goals International Innovation Awards.

© Copyright 2021. UCSI University Sdn. Bhd. (1980030077) (524713). All rights reserved. A member of UCSI Group.

CONVOCATION 2021

The 33-34th Convocation of UCSI University was held during 26-29 November 2021. Because of the pandemic and to always maintain physical distancing, the 33rd convocation ceremony had to be merged with the 34th ceremony and was held over six sessions.

A total of 7,011 students collected their scroll. Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons), Master of Clinical Pharmacy Practice, MSc Pharmaceutical Chemistry, MSc Pharmaceutical Technology and Doctor of Philosophy (Pharmaceutical Sciences) graduands of FPS from batches of 2020 and 2021 were among those who collected their scrolls. Hearty congratulations and best wishes to all Graduands of FPS!



STAFF SPOTLIGHT: FAZLOLLAH KESHAVARZI

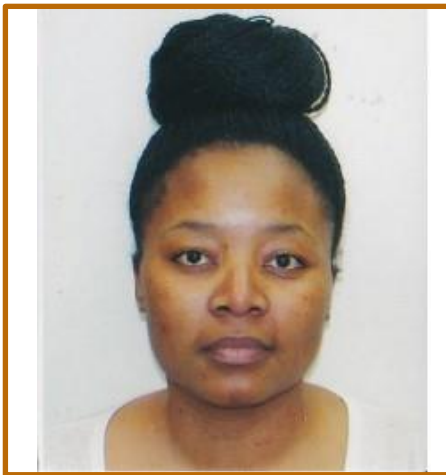


Assistant Professor Dr Fazlollah Keshavarzi completed his professional doctorate at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Iran in 1998. His thesis research was about the immunostimulatory effects of some medicinal herbs of Iran. He established his community pharmacy and served

patients for 10 years. In 2008, he joined USM, Malaysia to pursue his master's in clinical pharmacy. Thereafter he started his academic career as lecturer at UCSI University. Dr Fazlollah has overseen several key responsibilities such as head of clinical pharmacy department, vice-chair of faculty teaching & learning, vice-chair of faculty student welfare committee. He is currently the chairperson for Faculty Examination Board Committee.

Dr Fazlollah has always been rated highly by students for his teaching style. He has supervised several undergraduate and postgraduate research projects and published about 20 articles. He is principal investigator of 2 ongoing funded research projects. His area of research is pharmacy practice, clinical pharmacokinetics and pharmacoepidemiology. He is the editorial board member and reviewer for several medical journals.

STUDENT SPEAK: JOAN NYANHONGO



The study findings were useful in highlighting areas that needed to be improved, and recommendations that can be made to hospital Tunku Azizah administration

What is your favourite memory or highlights of UCSI University?

Since I finished the programme online some of my favourite highlights include the interactions and discussions, we used to have during the lectures for example how the pandemic has affected people's day-to-day activities as well as the how classes or lectures are delivered.

How did your postgraduate studies experience in Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, UCSI University helped you in your career/personal development?

The postgraduate studies triggered interest in research. I applied for a job in research, and I am currently working for Clinical research Institute.

How did the UCSI lecturers and facilities help in your study?

They managed to build interest in various subjects through teaching. This helped me get curious enough to look for opportunities in these fields.

Why did you choose UCSI University?

Since I wanted to study under the best minds in Malaysia, I chose UCSI University. The university also offered the specialization I was seeking, which is clinical pharmacy.

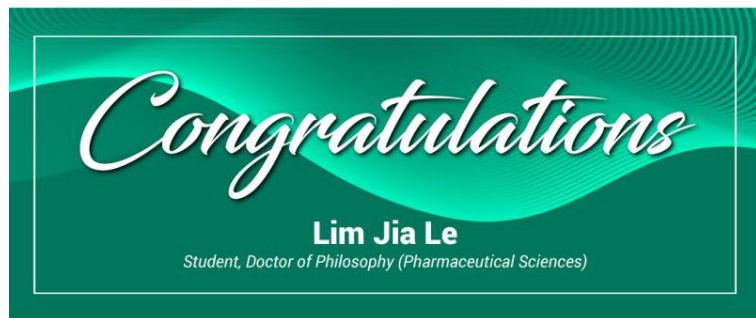
Describe your area of research.

I did research that assessed the obstetrics and gynaecology prescribing patterns at Women and Children Hospital Kuala Lumpur using the WHO prescribing indicator.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: LIM JIA LE



FACULTY OF
PHARMACEUTICAL
SCIENCES



For winning the Best Poster Presentation Award for his research work on "Ligand Based Pharmacophore Modelling and Virtual Screening Studies for the Discovery of Natural Product Based PDE3/4 Dual Inhibitors" at the 5th International Symposium on Bioinformatics (InSyB2021).

The symposium was hosted by Beykoz Institute of Life Sciences and Biotechnology (BILSAB), Bezmialem Vakif University, Istanbul, Turkey from 15 to 17 December 2021.



Supervisor
Assistant Professor Dr Anand Gaurav
Head of Research, Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry
Member, Scientific Committee of InSyB2021

FUN PHARMACY FACTS

Dr. Pepper was invented by a pharmacist in Waco, Texas



Do you know that the formula of famous soft drink Dr. Pepper originated at a pharmacy! It was the Morrison's Old Corner Drug Store where it was invented by a young pharmacist named Charles Alderton. He loved the way the scents of the syrups at the soda fountain mixed and float through the air, captured that scent in a drink. He tried different combinations of syrup, keeping a jour-

nal of his experiments until he landed on a combination that was just right. This invention reminds us of the exceptional product formulation skills and knowledge possessed by pharmacist.

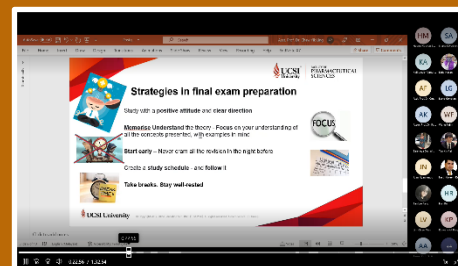
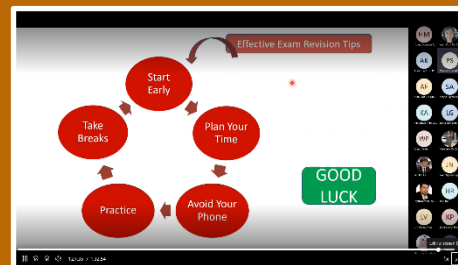
Poisonous substances made into helpful medications

The Pacific yew tree is made into a powerful drug paclitaxel used for cancer treatment. Snake venom was a precursor to ACE inhibitors such as captopril, a class of drugs used to treat blood pressure.

Serendipitous discovery of warfarin

Warfarin is a common blood thinner that was discovered when a U.S. Army inductee tried to commit suicide with rat poison. The effect was reversed with vitamin K and warfarin was approved for use in humans in 1954.

POSTGRADUATE FINAL EXAM PREPARATION WORKSHOP



Final Examination Preparation Workshop for post graduate students was conducted on 9 October 2021 with the objective to introduce international as well as Malaysian students with the examination practice at FPS.

This workshop provided the postgraduate students with an opportunity to look at different strategies in preparing for and writing in the final examination. Four senior academic staff members of FPS shared the tips and experiences regarding preparation for the final examination with the postgraduate students. The workshop included talks by Associate Professor Dr Gabriel Akyirem Akowuah, Associate Professor Dr Palanirajan Vijayaraj Kumar, Assistant Professor Dr Omotayo Oladuntoye Fatokun and Assistant Professor Dr Chew Yik Ling.

Participating students were immensely benefited by this workshop as revealed by their positive feedback.

A SNEAK PEEK INTO FPS

UCSI University

BACHELOR OF FORMULATION SCIENCE (HONOURS)

(N/5456/6/0103) (10/2025) (MQA/PA13963)

Impact the World as a Formulation Scientist.

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

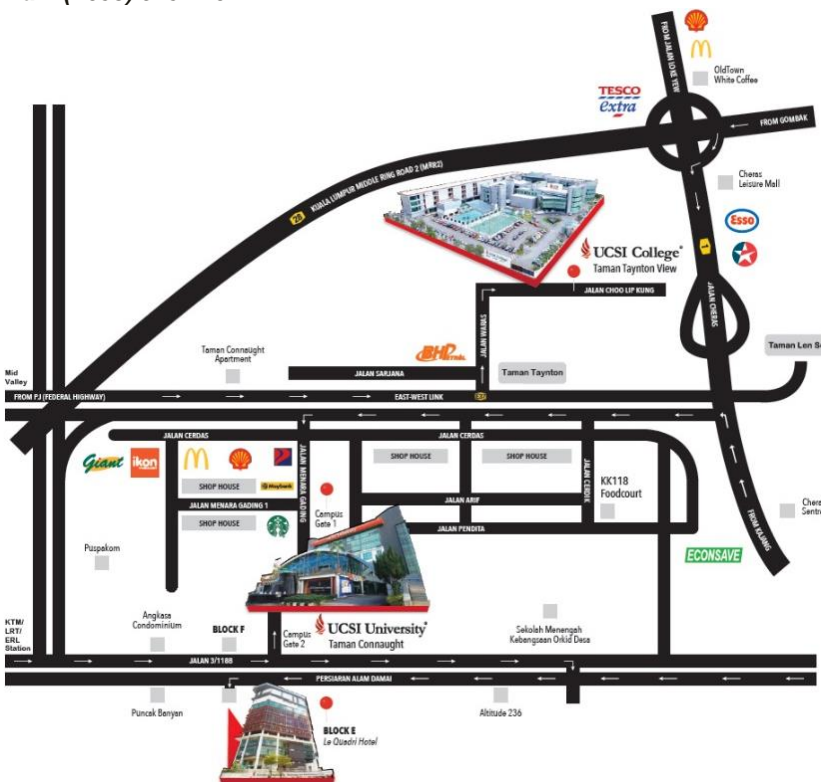
- Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons)
- Bachelor of Formulation Science (Hons)

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:

- Anabelle Rose Joykin
- Asst Prof Dr Anand Gaurav
- Assistant Professor Dr Muhammad Junaid Farrukh
- Assistant Professor Dr Chew Yik Ling
- Assistant Professor Dr Fazlollah Keshavarzi

UPCOMING EVENTS @ FPS

- Talk on "Formulation Scientist - How to become one?" by Assistant Professor Dr Muhammad Junaid Farrukh on 08 January 2022 @MSTeams.
- Talk on "Formulation Scientist - Seed Your Future" by Yap Chuan Sheng on 15 January 2022 @MSTeams.
- Talk on "Pharmacy as a Career Choice - Demand & Prospects" by Assistant Professor Dr Muhammad Junaid Farrukh and Yap Chuan Sheng on 19 February 2022 @MSTeams.
- Postgraduate Preview Day Talk by Assistant Professor Dr Chew Yik Ling and Assistant Professor Dr Omotayo Oladuntoye Fatokun on 26 February 2022 @MSTeams.

