

PHARMACYCONNECT

NEWSLETTER



May 2021

Volume 2, Issue 3

DEAN'S MESSAGE



Associate Professor Dr. Mogana Sundari Rajagopal, Dean

There is no doubt that pharmacists in the country and worldwide have proven to be extremely valuable in their contribution in easing the enormous strain brought upon by this COVID-19 pandemic. Pharmacists from the community, hospital, industry, and research practice have been mobilised in various ways to prevent the spread of the virus, support the additional burdens placed upon medication management systems, supporting and to advise the public on health matters all while carrying out their regular duties at work.

One of the biggest contributions by pharmacists to the pandemic specifically has been to ensure a robust and efficient cold chain supply in the distribution and handling of the vaccines. Stories of pharmacists together with other health care professionals trekking and travelling through rough terrains to bring COVID-19 vaccines to the rural and Orang Asli settlements have emerged on national news, bringing to light how crucial pharm-

cists are as frontliners in vaccine management throughout the community.

The massive advances made during the creation of the many vaccines on the market could also not have been made possible without the contribution of formulation scientists and pharmacists in the field of research. The development of new vaccines especially the mRNA vaccines against COVID-19 has been one of the most important contributions of pharmaceutical sciences. Furthermore, new formulations, treatments and even existing pharmacotherapy are constantly being researched and evaluated for their immunological and anti-viral properties by scientists including formulation scientists and pharmacists. One of the biggest hurdles in the COVID-19 vaccine management system has been the deployment of vaccines in areas that lack adequate refrigeration and freezers. This significant limitation has triggered the search for vaccine formulations that are temperature-stable or completely eliminate the need of cold-chain.

This pandemic has brought about a spark of innovation by pharmacists and formulation scientists to tackle this public health problem swiftly. Our graduates who are now practicing pharmacy in various healthcare sectors nationally and globally as well as our future graduates of pharmacists and formulation scientists can greatly contribute to the frontiers of pharmaceutical science by bringing about change and innovation to the community and the world. #FuturistPharmacist #BPharmUCSI #FormulationScienceUCSI

Inside this issue:

- PHARMACYCONNECT Talk Series @ FPS
- CCP @ FPS
- Journal Club @ FPS
- Media Coverage @ FPS
- Staff Spotlight: Sasikala Chinnappan
- Alumni Speak: Vithyah Nadaraja
- Know Your Medicine Talk Series @ FPS
- FPS @ MPS National Pharmacists Convention 2021
- Students Corner
 - Lifestyle Modifications
 - Book Review: Records of The Three Kingdoms, Biography of Hua Tuo
- A 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.

PHARMACYCONNECT TALK SERIES@ FPS

With the objective to connect students and staff of FPS with eminent professionals from pharmaceutical industries, academic and research institutes, FPS launched its PHARMACYCONNECT talk series.

The inaugural talk of the series titled "International Business Opportunities in the Pharma Industry" was organised on 3 April 2021. Mr Brijesh Patel, General Manager, Sales and Marketing at JB Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited, India was the distinguished speaker for the inaugural talk. Mr Patel shared his rich experience of working in pharmaceutical business with the audience.

He introduced the audience to the nitty gritty of international pharma business especially the impact of different geographical, cultural, and political setups on the business. He also presented various international pharma business models and shared some exciting opportunities existing in international pharma business.

The talk was very successful as indicated by the response of the audience who received the talk extremely well. In the coming months, FPS will continue to host more talks under the banner of PHARMACYCONNECT talk series. Stay tuned!



PHARMACYCONNECT
Lecture Series

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PHARMA INDUSTRY

3 APRIL 2021
11.30AM - 12.30PM
MICROSOFT TEAMS PLATFORM

Fee: RM10

SPEAKER:
BRIJESH PATEL
BPharm., MBA
(Marketing and International Business)
General Manager,
Sales & Marketing,
JB Chemicals and
Pharmaceuticals Limited,
India



AIM:
This talk will introduce budding entrepreneurs with the various international business opportunities that await them in the pharmaceutical sector.

HIGHLIGHTS:
The talk will cover the following aspects of International Pharma Business:

- A brief explanation on the frameworks and models applied by Pharma companies while expanding their business internationally
- Key factors to consider while doing International Business
- Opportunities for individuals in Pharma International Marketing and Sales

TARGET PARTICIPANTS:

- University students (Pharmacy/Medicine/ Health Sciences/Business Studies fields)
- Pharmacists
- Health care professionals

Register here:
<http://bit.ly/3l9njgf>

PAYMENT DETAILS:
CIMB Islamic Bank Berhad
Acc No: **CIMB Bank 86-0213894-3**
(UCSI Education Sdn Bhd)
Swift Code: CTBBMYKL
*Please state in the reference: "PH010" during payment.





CCP @ FPS

Continuing with the mission to impart the community with knowledge and relevant scientific skills during the pandemic, FPS organised Complementary Competency Programmes (CCP) on the topics "Medical Device Pre-Clinical Testing: Regulatory Requirements" and "Herbal Cosmetics: Emerging Trends in Skin Care" by Assistant Professor Dr Ashok Kumar Balaraman and Assistant Professor Dr Ashok Kumar Janakiraman respectively. The CCPs were well attended and saw very healthy and insightful discussion.



COMPLEMENTARY COMPETENCY PROGRAMME (CCP)

MEDICAL DEVICES PRE-CLINICAL TESTING: REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

27 APRIL 2021
11AM - 12 PM
MICROSOFT TEAMS

SPEAKER:

Assistant Professor
Dr Ashok Kumar Balaraman
M.Pharm, PhD, MBA
Assistant Professor
Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences,
UCSI University

AIMS:

- To provide an overview of pre-clinical testing and its role in medical device design and development
- To discuss the objectives of different types of pre-clinical testing
- To provide examples of pre-clinical testing of devices

HIGHLIGHTS:
To understand the regulatory requirements of the US FDA and the EU's in vitro diagnostic medical device clinical testing

TARGET PARTICIPANTS:

- Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Science students
- Medical Device regulatory executives
- Freelance medical device consultants

Register here:
<https://forms.gle/xy7dLnd15wt2997>










HERBAL COSMETICS: EMERGING TRENDS IN SKIN CARE

20 MARCH 2021 **11.00AM - 12.00PM**
MICROSOFT TEAMS

AIM:
This talk covers herbal-based cosmetic formulations along with scientific data and cosmetic importance of herbs that could be utilized in the preparation of skin care formulations.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- To discuss principle compounds and their dermatological and cosmetic uses
- To discuss herbal cosmetic formulations for skin care
- Future use of novel herbs in cosmetics and the growth of the herbal industry

TARGET PARTICIPANTS:

- School or University students
- Research Scholars
- Public

SPEAKER:

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
DR ASHOK KUMAR JANAKIRAMAN
Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences
M.Pharm, PhD, PGDT

Fee: RM10

Register here: <http://bit.ly/3M3b3u5>



PAYMENT DETAILS:
Internet Banking/ Giro Transfer/
Cash Deposit via ATM/ Cash Payment
at Finance Counter, UCSI University
(KL Campus)
Account No: **CIMB Bank 86-0213894-3**
(UCSI Education Sdn Bhd)
*Please state "CCP/FPS" during payment.





JOURNAL CLUB @ FPS



A journal club sharing session was organised by FPS on 19 March 2021. The sharing session included a presentation on the topic "Lifestyle Management of Type II Diabetes Patients" by Muhammad Ahsan Iftikhar Baig, Lecturer, Clinical Pharmacy, FPS. The presentation was followed by an open discussion on the topic whereby staff and postgraduate students shared their views. The session observed an extremely interactive and insightful discussion on the issues faced by type II diabetes patients and how lifestyle changes can bring immense improvement in the overall health status of these patients. Diverse perspectives from staff and students working in different disciplines of pharmaceutical sciences made the discussion even more fruitful!

MEDIA COVERAGE @ FPS



STAFF SPOTLIGHT: SASIKALA CHINNAPPAN



Assistant Professor Dr Sasikala Chinnappan is the Head of Pharmaceutical Biology Department at FPS. She completed her BPharm from Dr MGR University, India, MPharm (Pharmacology) from Sastra University, India, and PhD (Pharmaceutical Sciences) from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, India. She is also a holder of Post Graduate Diploma in Tertiary Teaching (PGDTT) as well as a lifetime

member of Tamil Nadu Pharmacy Council, India, and Malaysian Society of Pharmacology and Physiology (MSPP).

Dr Sasikala is indeed a vibrant academicians cum researcher, who nurtured many successful health care professionals, researchers, entrepreneurs during her career. Her passion towards teaching is her strength and has motivated many students to focus and excel in their career goals. Her constant research thrust, and expertise benefit the students under her supervision at various level of such as, UG, PG and PhD. Moreover, she has regularly published in several international journals, reviewed scientific manuscripts, and obtained grants which add-on to her merits.

Apart from that, she has served at several positions such as Chair of Student Welfare Committee, Vice chair of Examination Committee and Facilitator for student research attachment at Nihon Pharmaceutical Sciences University, Japan.

STUDENT SPEAK: VITHYAH NADARAJA



The syllabus of the programme provided an avenue to truly develop interpersonal skills along with presentation skills in developing pharmaceutical care plans for case studies provided.

Additionally, the lecturers are immensely knowledgeable and very responsive towards any doubts that student may have. During the pandemic whereby, physical lessons were discontinued, the faculty worked very quickly to set up online channels to continue through with the lesson as planned, and they also secured our placements in HKL "with strict SOP". This helped us to get a hands-on experience in handling real world cases and providing for a holistic approach to learning.

The staff of FPS were very supportive and responsive to all doubts and other inquiries that arose considering the pandemic. My choice of UCSI for my tertiary education is one that satisfied my educational needs.

Whilst searching for affordable yet quality education, UCSI University's Master of Clinical Pharmacy Practice was a formidable option. The university offers a huge array of scholarships to deserving students, which to me spoke volumes in that the university believes that education is not merely a business. My journey started prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing me to experience the campus life with an impressive student body that was active in co-curricular activities.




KNOW YOUR MEDICINE TALK SERIES @ FPS

FPS organised a talk titled "HPV and Its Consequences: A Small Virus with A Big Impact" by Associate Professor Dr Mohamad Nasir Shafiee, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynecologist at UKM Medical Centre.

Professor Dr Mohamad Nasir shared his insights gathered through his many years of experience in the field of obstetrics and gynaecology as well as gynaecologic oncology. Associate Professor Dr Mohamad Nasir supplements his clinical expertise with an extensive academic background. He has written multiple publications mainly in the Journal of Gynaecologic Oncology. He is also an editorial board member of several scientific journals. Besides this, Professor Dr Mohamad Nasir is involved in professional medical associations such as the Obstetrical & Gynaecological Society of Malaysia and Malaysian Gynaecologic Oncology Society.

The talk was organised under the banner of Know Your Medicine (KYM) Talk Series. This talk was beneficial for health professionals and public as it shared eye-opening facts about the impact of HPV on global health.

The talk saw a great turnout and was appreciated by the attendees as shown by their participation in the Question and Answer Session.

KNOW YOUR MEDICINE TALK SERIES


HPV AND ITS CONSEQUENCES: A SMALL VIRUS WITH A BIG IMPACT

DATE	TIME	VENUE
5 April 2021	12pm - 1pm	Webex


SPEAKER:
Professor Dr Mohamad Nasir Shafiee
*PhD in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (UK)
Fellowship of International College of Surgeons (USA)
Associate Professor and Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist,
UKM Medical Centre*

SPEAKER'S PROFILE
Currently practising at UKM Medical Centre, Professor Dr Mohamad Nasir Shafiee will share his insights - gathered through his many years of experience in the field of obstetrics and gynaecology as well as gynaecologic oncology.

Professor Nasir supplements his clinical expertise with an extensive academic background. He has written multiple publications mainly in the area of gynaecologic oncology. He is also an editorial board member of several scientific journals. Besides this, Professor Nasir is involved in professional medical associations such as the Obstetrical & Gynaecological Society of Malaysia and Malaysian Gynaecologic Oncology Society.



Register at:
<http://bit.ly/3c1YgSY>



AIMS:

- To understand the prevalence and various types of HPV
- To understand the transmission of HPV infection
- To understand the diseases and cancers which can be caused by HPV
- To understand the precautions against HPV

TARGET AUDIENCE:

- Public
- Students
- Staff

FPS @ MPS NATIONAL PHARMACISTS' CONVENTION 2021

FPS is proud to be a part of the virtual Malaysian Pharmacists Society (MPS) National Pharmacists Convention 2021 from 8 to 11 July 2021.

Associate Professor Dr Mogana Sundari Rajagopal, Dean (FPS) is serving as the Scientific Committee Chairman while Assistant Professor Dr Muhammad Junaid Farrukh, Hee Mei Qi, Anabelle Rose Joykin, Yap Chuan Sheng and other academic staff of FPS are members of the Scientific Committee.




Congratulations

to six staff from the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences who are selected to be part of the prestigious MPS National Pharmacists Convention 2021 Committee organised by the Malaysian Pharmacists Society.



Associate Professor
Dr Mogana Sundari
Rajagopal



Assistant Professor
Dr Muhammad
Junaid Farrukh



Por Choo Shiuan



Anabelle Rose
Joykin



Hee Mei Qi



Yap Chuan Sheng



STUDENTS CORNER

LIFESTYLE MODIFICATIONS

WRITTEN BY QINWEI TAN

I believe that the COVID-19 outbreak has affected everyone by changing the way we live. As a student, we must adapt to the 'new normal' of learning, which is by attending online lectures. I have decided to continue with the mode of online learning due to the spiking COVID-19 cases reported daily since February, even though I am a Year 1 pharmacy student under one of the six categories who are allowed to return to campus since March 2021.

Having online classes can lead to digital stress, hence I tried to think positively and adapted to some lifestyle changes during this period. I took the opportunity to spend more time with my parents, such as going for a morning walk over the weekends at 'Seri Alam Jungle' that is around my residential area. It was great to start my day by listening to birds chirping, inhaling fresh air, enjoying the early morning sunlight while walking among the trees and feeling the morning bre-

eze. It was wonderful! After the walk, I always felt relaxed and easier to focus while doing my assignments or revisions.

Also, during my free time I participated in many webinars organised by UCSI University, driving the current era of webinars. Before this, all seminars are mostly held physically. However, the pandemic has significantly changed the mode of physical seminars into online seminars that are better known as webinars today. The participants of the webinar are from different districts, states, and even different countries. Through my participation in webinars, I have gained extensive knowledge and improved my critical thinking skills.

Therefore, I believe that we should make small lifestyle changes to adapt to the 'new normal'. Sharing some pictures of my walk in the Jungle!



Photos of Jungle Park

There are many different pathways in the Jungle Park for public to explore. One of the famous checkpoints is the Green Tunnel!



Developing a new drug costs on an average 2.6 billion dollars.

BOOK REVIEW: RECORDS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS, BIOGRAPHY OF HUA TUO

WRITTEN BY TIE CHIENG HUI

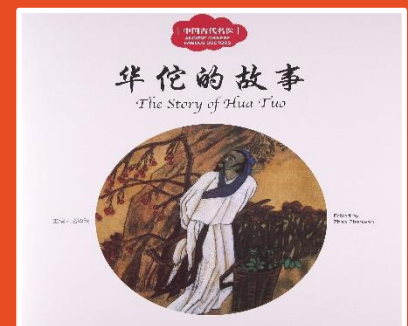
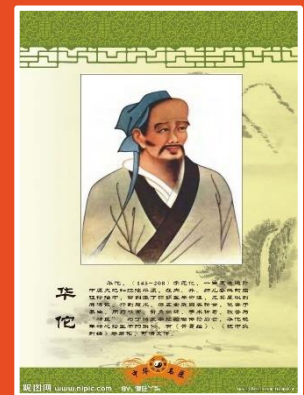
Recently I got the opportunity to read a very interesting book "Records of the Three Kingdoms, Biography of Hua Tuo". Hua Tuo was born during the Han dynasty's late Eastern period and was a brilliant doctor who always helped people to stay healthy. He was admired as a god by the people. The biography highlights his ability to heal illnesses.

There is one reference to Cao Cao in the book. Cao Cao was an emperor and suffered from chronic headaches for many years. He frequently summoned Hua Tuo to visit his palace to provide treatment for his illness. Hua Tuo's acupuncture showed immediate effect on him every single time. On the other hand, Cao Cao's wife always pretended that she was si-

ck so that Hua Tuo would visit more frequently. When Cao Cao found out his wife was not sick, he imprisoned Hua Tuo. The public believed that Hua Tuo should be saved due to his exceptional healing abilities. Nevertheless, Cao Cao did not care about this. Eventually, Hua Tuo died in prison. Cao Cao's illness became more severe after Hua Tuo's death. He then regretted his decision as his son, Cao Chong became critically ill.

Reading this book taught me that Hua Tuo was an amazing medical specialist. He was good at estimating and prescribing herbal medications. In addition, he could heal patients with only one or two needles when it came to acupuncture.

Photos of Hua Tuo



A SNEAK PEEK INTO FPS



BACHELOR OF FORMULATION SCIENCE (HONOURS)

(N/545/6/0103) (10/2025) (MQA/PA13963)

Impact the World as a Formulation Scientist.



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

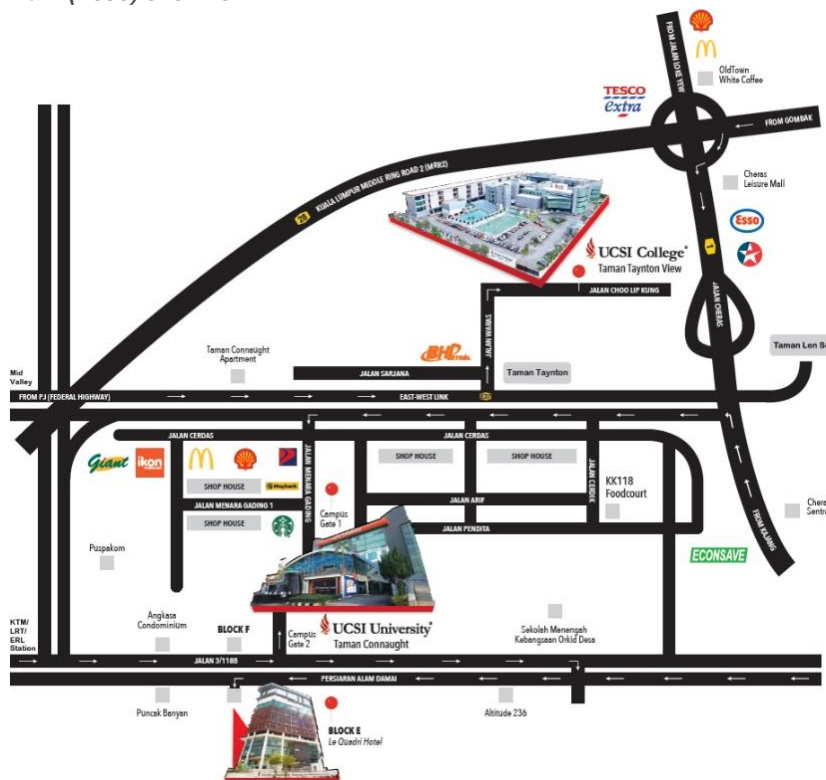
- Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons)
- Bachelor of Formulation Science (Hons)

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 | • Assistant Professor Dr Chew Yik Ling |
| • Assistant Professor Dr Muhammad Junaid Farrukh | • Qinwei Tan |
| • Assistant Professor Dr Sasikala Chinnappan | • Tie Chieng Hui |
| • Assistant Professor Dr Ashok Kumar Janakiraman | • Lok Zixin |
| | • Sam Jie Ying |

UPCOMING EVENTS @ FPS

- “UCSIUPSA Thesis Writing and Publishing Workshop” by Assistant Professor Fazlollah Keshavarzi and Assistant Professor Dr Anand Gaurav on 17 July 2021 @ MICROSOFT TEAMS.
- UCSIUPSA Discover Your Health (DYH) 2021 on 24 July 2021 @ MICROSOFT TEAMS.
- Complementary Competency Programme on “Transdermal and Topical Drug Delivery Systems-Evaluations” by Melbha Starlin on 31 July 2021.
- UCSIUPSA Get Started Right Career Workshop on 9 August 2021 @ MICROSOFT TEAMS.

