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CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH, VALUE INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

OFFICE OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

UCSI University

FROM TAXONOMY TO BIOREMEDIATION: A YOUNG RESEARCHER'S JOURNEY IN UCSI UNIVERSITY KUALA LUMPUR

Assistant Professor Dr Michelle Soo Oi Yoon

Assistant Professor Dr Michelle Soo joined UCSI University in April 2016 as a lecturer with the Faculty of Applied Sciences. She was a student of Universiti Malaya, with a Doctor of Philosophy in Science (Parasitology and Molecular Biology) and a Degree in Biology (Ecology and Biodiversity). Dr Michelle's PhD studies revolved around taxonomy and analytical methods of marine fish parasites. She has described and published in ISI-indexed publications, fourteen marine fish parasites as first name author, with specimens deposited in the Natural History Museum UK and the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, Singapore. Currently she is working on two more new species of catfish parasites and the publication is estimated to be accepted by year end.

Dr Michelle was trained as a taxonomist by Asia's leading female taxonomist, Professor Susan Lim and carrying out taxonomical research came very naturally to her. She specialises in identification using morphology (physical shapes and structures), morphometrics (measurements) and molecular biology (genetic markers for species identification). Her research not only sees her working in the lab but she has also had a fair share of working in the field especially when it comes to collecting fish from the wild.

Content

Dr Michelle (right) and her Diploma students on a water testing field trip to Johor.

Dr Michelle (right) hard at work analysing parasite samples with her lab mates.

Getting sunburnt, bitten by sandflies and experiencing seasickness are part of the job, in her opinion. She relates how she (and her labmates) are used to packing everything that they need to conduct their research in the field and this included equipment as small as fine needles to as large as a dissecting microscope. With all these in tow, her labmates and she would take a bus, and sometimes a ferry too, to their field destination for work.

After joining UCSI as an Aquatic Science lecturer, Dr Michelle realised that she wanted to diversify in her field of specialisation and to be part of something more impactful in the aquatic environment. Bioremediation is one of her interests and she managed to secure a Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS) from the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia for research on marine oil spill remediation using oil-degrading bacteria on a cotton carrier system together with her collaborators, Associate Professor Dr Eric Chan Wei Chiang. Within the research scene of UCSI University, she was also awarded a PSIF research grant working on catalysts to enhance acetylation of cotton fibers for better bacterial immobilisation, for the final purpose of oil remediation. She is contributing to the development of young researchers through supervision of undergraduate and postgraduate students. Currently, Dr Michelle is working closely with her postgraduate students, Joel Ashervin Zachariah and Law Ke Wei on perfecting the carrier abilities to stay physically viable for the next step of bacterial immobilisation. They have developed an interesting bead-like cellulose structure and are next going to observe the exact ultrastructure developed using scanning electron microscopy.

Oil spill remediation is not a new field of research but with the current methods, there are various drawbacks and obstacles faced. One of the issues faced when using bacterial remediation is the viability of bacteria when used for remediation. Bacteria cannot work constantly without a proper structure or carrier for them to immobilise onto due to water or tidal movement and wind action. Bacterial cells are also unable to stay clumped in the environment and in order for them to work efficiently, they need to form colonies (i.e. strength in unity). Therefore, Dr Michelle's FRGS research aims to develop a suitable carrier which not only adsorbs oil but provides a suitable surface for bacteria to permanently adhere onto, to carry out oil-degradation. Testing will be fully conducted in the lab at the moment. Once a suitable carrier system has been developed and tested, the next plan is to create a small-scale prototype filtration system and this rototype will be tested in the field.

Dr Michelle is currently the Head of Programme for the Aquatic Science programme in the Faculty of Applied Science, UCSI University Kuala Lumpur. As she juggles multiple roles (head of programme, lecturer and researcher), she is very enthusiastic about her current research and where it is headed. She has some new ideas forming but is tight-lipped on it. When asked if she has left the world of parasites for good, she replied that she is taking a break from taxonomy for the time being but will return to it when she has done her part for the environment.

NATURE: THE HIDDEN TREASURE FOR HEALTHCARE AND WELLNESS

Associate Professor Dr Mogana Sundari Rajagopal

Associate Professor Dr Mogana Sundari Rajagopal is a pharmacist with a keen interest in the field pharmaceutical sciences focusing on natural products drug discovery. She has been involved in the field of pharmacy practice over two decades after graduating with a Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons) from Universiti Malaya. Her vast pharmacy practice experience ranges from hospital pharmacy, industry pharmacy with community pharmacy. Dr Mogana has contributed extensively in training numerous pharmacists in ethical practices for the past two decades. Dr Mogana obtained her PhD from the University of Nottingham. Her particular passion is in natural product drug discovery specialising in pharmacology, phytochemistry, pharmacognosy, polyherbal formulations and cosmeceuticals.

Associate Professor Dr Mogana Sundari Rajagopal PhD, BPharm (Hons), PgDtt, RPh MMPS

Dr Mogana had the opportunity to be sponsored for a research placement in Pfizer Laboratory University of Nottingham UK in 2012 for research on bioactive molecule discovery involving molecule isolation and characterisation with Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR), mass spectrometry (MS-MS and LC-MS) amongst other techniques. She asserts that natural products possess enormous structural and chemical diversity that cannot be matched by any synthetic libraries of small molecules. Since prehistoric times, humans have used natural products, such as plants, microorganisms, and marine organisms, in medicines to alleviate and treat diseases. The human use of plants as medicines may be traced back at least 60,000 years. The unprecedented scaffolds of the natural products have served as great inspiration for the next generation of therapeutics, as exemplified by the many analogues, with designer properties, derived from avermectins and artemisinin. The global medicine market is about 1.1 trillion US dollars where 35 percent of medicines have originated from natural products.

Since the late 20th century, however, many pharmaceutical companies have significantly scaled back or abandoned their natural product programmes, in part because of the phenomenal advances in both High Throughput Screening (HTS) and combinatorial synthesis, thereby creating enormous synthetic libraries of small molecules. This de-emphasis in natural product drug discovery unfortunately correlated with the overall reduction in new leads in the drug development pipeline and the substantial decline in new drug approval. Due to this decline, recently, there has been a renewed interest in natural product research where it is now termed as the "new golden age" of natural products drug discovery. Vast opportunities in these areas exist for Malaysia since Malaysia has one of the oldest rainforests in the world and one of 12 countries with mega bio-diversity. Dr Mogana works with a team of researchers that focuses on Malaysian tropical rainforest plants. In April 2015, Dr Mogana was invited as a panel guest for the thought-provoking documentary show HBO Vice on ‘Antibiotic Research from Tropical Plants’. She shared her team's work on novel bioactive compounds and potentiators from tropical forest plants against clinically resistant bacterial isolates.

Dr Mogana with Thomas Horton, the host of HBO-Vice series on 'Antibiotic Research from Tropical Plants'

As a pharmacist and a medication expert, she is fully aware of the intricacies of drugs, and has great interest in polyherbal formulations as an efficacious complementary care. Traditional and complementary medicine are invaluable treasures and have been developed over the course of thousands of years in the quest for human well-being. Eastern medicine, whether it is Traditional Malay medicine, Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) or Ayurvedic medicine, often displays a similar trend or philosophy in the formulation consisting of four major components, the principal, adjuvants, auxiliary and conductor. In an endeavour to explore this age old time-tested science she was granted an FRGS research grant in 2019 for her research on a unique polyherbal formulation for treatment of primary dysmenorrhoea, which is prevalent in over 80% of women globally.

In her journey as a pharmacist she has been incorporating complementary and integrative medicine in her pharmacy practice with emphasis on holistic wellness for over two decades. In recent times she has been involved in cosmeceuticals. Cosmeceuticals refers to products that is a cross between a cosmetic and pharmaceutical especially in the world of natural organic skincare. A cosmeceutical is essentially a skincare product that contains a biologically active compound that has pharmaceutical effects on the skin. She currently oversees her cosmeceutical team for the on-going development of over 20 products with pharmacological and clinical evaluation. One of her products was recently awarded a silver award in the ITEX 2020 (31st International Invention, Innovation and Technology, 20-23rd November 2020) for her innovation, 'Tomaclear' which is a new natural bioactive loaded microsphere cream with anti-pigment effect on the skin.

Dr Mogana is also involved in international and national research collaborations with University of Nottingham UK, Institute Pasteur in Saint-Petersburg Russia, University of Wailalak Thailand, University Malaya, UITM, UPM focusing on research of antimicrobial resistance and anti-inflammatory mechanisms involving medicinal plants. She has been the guest speaker for international workshops, conferences on medicinal plant drug research, drug development and various Malaysian forums discussing the impact of pharmacy in global healthcare.

Dr Mogana is also on the Board of Directors for the Asian Society of Pharmacognosy. She is also an active member of the Malaysian Pharmaceutical Society (MPS) and the Malaysian Academy of Pharmacy responsible for national certifications and continuous pharmacy development. She is also on the Malaysian Pharmacy Board technical committee for academic entry qualifications standards and part of the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Chapter of the Malaysian Pharmaceutical Society 2019/2020. She serves as a deputy chairperson of the UCSI Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) and member of the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC). Community engagement is an inevitable part of a pharmacist responsibilities. In line with this, Dr Mogana is the advisor for the Know Your Medicine campaign and UCSI PharmCare projects by the faculty which focuses on public awareness on pharmacotherapy, medicine review, disease and drug correlations.

Dr Mogana endeavours to contributely effectively to the nation as a professional pharmacist, a medication expert and as a scientist to global knowledge.

Dr Mogana and team won the silver medal at ITEX 2020 for their innovation

THE CRAFTMANSHIP OF AUTHENTIC KAIYUAN COMPOSITE HORN BOW

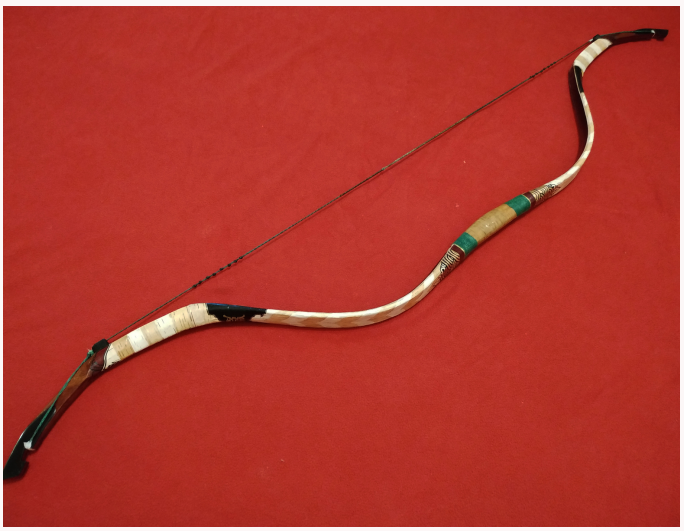
Assistant Professor Dennis Wong Chee De

This authentic Kaiyuan composite horn bow was crafted by Assistant Professor Dennis Wong Chee De. It is made of 100% organic materials: buffalo horn, timber, birch bark and sinew (tendons of cattle). This traditional weapon design is based from renowned archers of the ancient Ming Dynasty (China) from (1368 to 1644 CE).

There is no physical archaeological evidence that has survived to this day but there are paintings and illustrations of bows. The Ming dynasty military texts: Wu Bei Zhi is the most comprehensive military book in Chinese history containing 240 volumes, 10405 pages, and more than 200,000 Chinese characters, which makes it the longest book in Chinese history regarding military affairs. Chapter 102 of Wu Bei Zhi describes several popular bow styles during the Ming dynasty. One of it was the Kaiyuan bow (Chinese: 开元弓), a small-to-medium size bow preferred by the high-ranking officers which featured long siyahs (tips of the bow).

In this modern reconstruction, the shaped is inspired by historical design as depicted in many early paintings featuring hunting on horseback archery and in warfare. One of the best examples is from the painting called Departure of Herald, which shows the emperor's large procession heading towards the imperial tombs of the Ming emperors. In this painting, many elites are equipped with horn bows. The shape of the bow is clearly visible in this painting. It is short and deeply reflexed, a common characteristic of the Ming horn bows.

Shorter bows give the advantage of mobility on horseback or from chariots. Therefore, such a bow is preferred by the elites since horn bows can be short in design. Such designs won't break and they are very bendable due to the backing of the sinew and compression of the horn. However, a horn bow takes typically a year to complete due to the complicated technique involved. Different types of common bows were also used in the military as well but mainly by the infantry. However, these bows adopt different designs and were made to be longer and larger in comparison to horn bows. This is to avoid breakage since by using wood itself, it will not be able to stand the tension and compression; especially if the shape is as short as the Kaiyuan horn bow.



1.Reproduction of a Ming dynasty Kaiyuan bow by Malaysian bowyer Dennis Wong. This is a horn, bamboo, and sinew composite bow.

2. Showing the bow profile in an unstrung position.

4. Arrow pass is decorated with green dyed stingray skin, similar to Chinese antique bows.

3. Cut out of birch bark painted with stylised Chinese aesthetics.

5. The bow tip is made to be very narrow and it's reinforced with buffalo horn plates.

6. Narrow arrow pass (18mm wide) for better arrow paradox.

THE DOCTORATE WITHOUT PHILOSOPHY

Professor Dr Mohd Tajuddin Mohd Rasdi

One of the saddest things to me as an examiner of PhD thesis is when my 'so what' question comes unanswered by the candidates who are supposed to don the mantle of scholarship and mark their entry into being a 'learned academic'. There have been so many times when a mosque issue was investigated but the candidate has no idea about the future of mosques and Muslims in a modern society. There was a research on a leprasorium for infectious disease with no idea how to fight the Covid-19 in hospital designs and quarantine centres. There were several studies on children and play environment without an iota of idea on how to design or conceptualise a meaningful playground in public schools. I would say all of those I have examined, both the supervisors and the students fail completely to consider the relevance of their research questions to society at large.

This is what I mean by a Doctorate without Philosophy. Great attention is given to researching the 'gap' of knowledge. I liken this gap to a hole in the wall where the candidates find this gap of knowledge and proceed to fill in this gap. They do not ask what the wall was for and thus what the hole in the wall was meant to be. They assume it is just a hole to be filled. I said, maybe the hole is a window for view, light and ventilation. Closing it would end those three important elements.

Or the hole is a doorway to another room. Closing it would negate the possibility of going to another place. Or the hole in the wall was the beginning of a demolition process to combine one space with another. Filling it would frustrate the workmen who created the hole in the first place. Thus, research upon research are done without philosophising the issues and the big picture of societal impact. We are creating hole pluggers and not house or home builders. What we want is people who would ask ten questions ahead of anyone concerning the future of our ephemeral lifestyle. If our lifestyle changes, then so must be the questions.

At the moment, we are asking questions about issues that would no longer exist in the future and produce tons of papers towards going nowhere in society and nation building. In order to imagine a different future and thus a host of different questions of the big picture, reading books by scholars who took 30 or 40 years to think of the problem that would transcend our time is an essential endeavour. But candidates only read journals to find their little gaps and holes. These candidates have absolutely no conception of the vastness of their issues and choose the fill-in-the-gap left by others template and receive their PhD. Therein lies the malady of our country. Too many PhDs but too little sense about the larger contexts as well as the possibility of alternate futures. Both the supervisors and candidates, to my mind neither has the vision nor the constructs of knowledge to be rightfully called ' a scholar'.

CURRENT AND POST INITIATIVES AMONG HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS IN HANDLING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Assistant Professor Hanafi Bin Hamzah

The once fast growing industry faces a massive and tough tasks ahead, however, tourism and hospitality operators like hotel establishments could take steps to mitigate the impact of current scenarios and position themselves for a strong comeback for a better future of the industry. The Covid-19 pandemic is clearly wreaking havoc around the world and posed unprecedented situations and impacts on the hotel industry. The full fallout is unknown as the ultimate scale of the outbreak is yet to be determined. It seems like every other plan is out of the window and establishments have to start afresh. Consequently, travel restrictions, physical distancing, as well as new protocols have had a dramatic effect on the industry itself from every single angles.

The occupancy rate of hotels in Malaysia took the center stage in July 2020 after various media misquoted the Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture's (MOTAC) parliamentary that hotel occupancy was reported between 75% to 100% as cited by MOTAC's data received from the Malaysian Association of Hotels (MAH) and others. The media reports caused much anxiety among industry stakeholders especially the hotel industry that had been badly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic since March 2020. These reports were clarified to be inaccurate by its minister, Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Hajah Nancy Shukri in a video recording in Parliament which stated: "*adanya 75%, adanya 100%*", in her references rates of certain hotels and not on average occupancy of hotels in the country. However, MAH had in fact earlier, submitted hotel occupancy reports compiled from its thirteen chapters across the country to MOTAC, with an average occupancy of 21.5%.

MAH chief executive officer, Yap Lip Seng quoted that higher occupancy recorded at some destinations is temporary and seasonal, with locals taking advantage of the weekend before school reopens. Main cities and states such as Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Johor, Sabah as well as Kedah and Perlis are still low, with average occupancy between 12% to 20% at best. In fact, some of the states that had experienced high average occupancy in July, signaling the return of domestic tourism were Terengganu and Kelantan at 70% and 75% respectively.

Given the uncertainty of the pandemic, hotel establishments have started taking actions in the form of hotel closures, changes of operations, staff reductions and new norm adaption. Concurrently, majority of them are implementing flexible cancellation and rebooking policies, changing loyalty programme requirements, discounts and reschedule terms, shout-out the company's compliances to the local health policies, protocols and instituting other measures to help them be more responsive to customer needs and wants. As a result, the industry has a massive task ahead than what we expected. During this hard time, government assistance is much needed and will be a big help to the industry.

LeQuadri Hotel Kuala Lumpur Ballroom

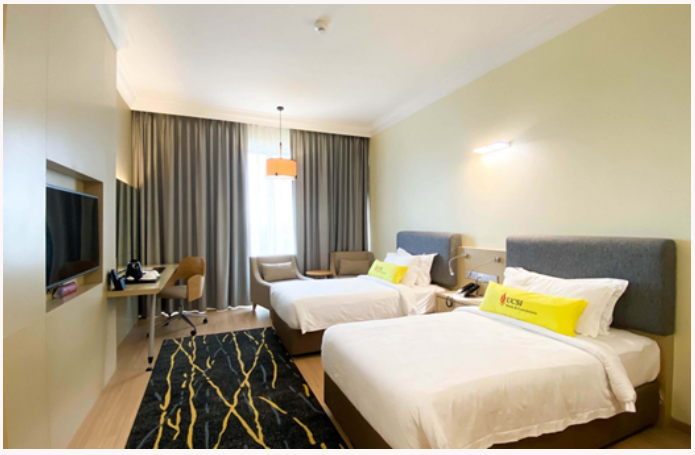
Current forecasts projected a deep economic contraction in the first half of the year, followed by a bounce-back in the latter half. However, there is a concern that there could be prolonged economic uncertainty that would prevent a sharp bounce-back to the original state. Hitherto, hotel establishments respond to this economic reality saying that they will need to think through the key issues for the short, medium and long terms.

On top of that, hotel establishments need to have plans in place to quickly recover post Covid-19 pandemic. In the face of potential hotel closures, companies will have to assess their employee retention and operational policies. Hitherto, it is critical for companies to carefully think through their revenue and strategic management. The worst case scenarios that we could predict are the impact of this Covid-19 pandemic which could trigger a recession right after the recovering period. Hence, hotel establishments alike need to be prepared for these scenarios and take effective steps such as by building swift and responsive communications with stakeholders, investors and develop trusted assessments of short-term consequences; reallocate capital to affected parts of the business and secure short-term credit and create contingencies for defaults across owners and operators alike; to name a few.

Nonetheless, the biggest question of all is once hotel companies react and recover from this pandemic, what would be the attention of these hotel establishments in order for them to grow and rebound?

Unlike before, strategic options will exist and companies probably should start thinking these major questions: Would there be any permanent changes to hotel operations that need to be taken into consideration? Is hygiene and sanitisation a key priority? How will the hospitality environment look like post-pandemic? Would the demand patterns affect the consumers and how to assist affect people to recover? Would this new norm change the establishment's operations and strategies? If so, would there be any possibilities arise due to these changes? How can you prepare yourself to take advantage of any opportunities that arise? How can you build resiliency into your operations to protect against similar future shocks and the resulting disruption?

Given the expected new norms, new legal requirements and hygiene regulations for the travel and tourism industry, hotels will need to develop new operational solutions to position themselves optimally for a restart. This is also supported by MAH after launching the "Clean & Safe Malaysia" hygiene and safety certification programme for hotels. Currently, it is the only certification programme that is supported by MOTAC so far, and it is the benchmark of the hygiene and safety standards of the hotel industry in Malaysia. Now both tourist, local and international can look forward to staying at these hotels in peace of mind. Conclusively, it is clear that the Covid-19 pandemic posed key short-term and long-term issues and effects towards the industry. The rebound might be affected by the economic performance, hence, these hotel establishments have to be prepared for any worst case scenarios.



UCSI Hotel Kuching Room

The Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS)

Recipients Year 2020

Assistant Professor Dr Pui Liew Phing

Faculty of Applied Sciences

Project Title

Elucidation of the Inhibition Mechanism and Release Kinetics of Nanoemulsified Polygonum Minus Huds. Essential Oil for Functional Food Packaging.

Funding Approved (RM) 172,800.00

Co-researchers

- Associate Professor Dr Nyam Kar Lin (Co-PI,UCSI)
- Professor Dr Lai Oi Ming (Universiti Putra Malaysia)
- Assistant Professor Dr Yam Hok Chai (UCSI)
- Professor Dr Degraeve Pascal (Universite Claude Bernard Lyon 1)

Assistant Professor Dr Serene Tung En Hui

Faculty of Applied Sciences

Project Title

Food Insecurity, Malnutrition and Climate/Weather Variability among Urban Poor Adolescents living in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Funding Approved (RM) 131,650.00

Co-researchers

- Assistant Professor Dr Satvinder Kaur A/P Nachatar Singh (CO-PI, UCSI)
- Associate Professor Dr Gan Wan Ying (Universiti Putra Malaysia)
- Dr Nik Norasma Binti Che'Ya (Universiti Putra Malaysia)

Dr Vaidehi Ulaganathan

Faculty of Applied Sciences

Project Title

Psychometric Properties of Salt@home and Salt@shopping Approaches for Investigating Dietary Salt Consumption and Sources in the Diets of Urban-Poor Malaysia Population.

Funding Approved (RM) 127,000.00

Co-researchers

- Dr Shashikala Sivapathy (Co-PI,UCSI)
- Professor Dr Zalilah Mohd Sharif (Universiti Putra Malaysia)
- Associate Professor Dr Lailatul Muniroh (Airlangga University)
- Adibah Zakaria (Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah Hulu Langat)

Associate Professor Dr Ng Hui Suan

Faculty of Applied Sciences

Project Title

Evaluation of Electric Fields Incorporated Aqueous Two-Phase System for Keratinase System Separation and Bioconversion.

Funding Approved (RM) 121,200.00

Co-researchers

- Associate Professor Dr Yim Hip Seng (Co-PI,UCSI)
- Assistant Professor Stephanie Wong Yoke Wei (UCSI)
- Professor Dr John Chiwei Lan (Yuan Ze University)
- Professor Dr Akihiko Kondo (Kobe University)

Assistant Professor Dr Yeap Swee Pin

Faculty of Engineering, Technology and Built Environment

Project Title

Evaluation of Hetero-Interfacial Interactions in Graphene/Conductive Polymer System Towards Sensitivity of a Flexible Sensor

Funding Approved (RM) 108,812.00

Co-researchers

- Assistant Professor Dr Lee Kiat Moon (Co-PI, UCSI)
- Dr Leong Hung Yang (UCSI)
- Professor Dr Abdul Latif Ahmad (Universiti Sains Malaysia)
- Professor Dr Lim Jit Kang (Universiti Sains Malaysia)
- Assistant Professor Dr Toh Pey Yi (Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman)

Assistant Professor Dr Ang Chun Kit

Faculty of Engineering, Technology and Built Environment

Project Title

Robust Deep Learning-Based Calibration for Data-Driven Spectroscopy.

Funding Approved (RM) 67,200.00

Co-researchers

- Assistant Professor Dr Mahmud Iwan Solihin (Co-PI, UCSI)
- Professor Dato' Ir Ts Dr Mohd Rizon Bin Mohamed Juhari (UCSI)
- Assistant Professor Dr Lim Wei Hong (UCSI)
- Assistant Professor Dr Pui Liew Phing (UCSI)
- Professor Dr Nor Ashidi Mat Isa (Universiti Sains Malaysia)

Associate Professor Dr Ganeshsree A/P Selvachandran

Funding Approved (RM) 96,000.00

Faculty of Business and Management

Project Title

An Artificial Intelligence System for the Automated Detection of Diabetic Retinopathy using Machine Learning Algorithms and Complex Fuzzy Logic.

Co-researchers

- Assistant Professor Dr Quek Shio Gai (CO-PI,UCSI)
- Professor Raveendran Paramesran (UCSI)
- Dr Wong Pui Jan (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia)

Associate Professor Dr Abdullah Al Mamun

Funding Approved (RM) 114,000.00

Faculty of Business and Management

Project Title

Expediting the Mass Adoption of Green Practices for Environmental and Economics Sustainability of Malaysian Agro-Entrepreneurs using Machine Learning Algorithms

Co-researchers

- Associate Professor Dr Ganeshsree A/P Selvachandran (Co-PI, UCSI)
- Professor Dr Ramayah Thurasamy (Universiti Sains Malaysia)
- Professor Dr Sumaini Binti Yusoff (Universiti Malaya)
- Dr Mohammad Mehedi Masud (Universiti Malaya)

Assistant Professor Dr Ganesh A/L Ramasamy

Funding Approved (RM) 91,250.00

Faculty of Business and Management

Project Title

A Mix-Method Instrument for Sustainable Water Conservation Effort among Generation Y in Malaysia: An Approach of Social Cognitive Theory.

Co-researchers

- Assistant Professor Rajat Subhra Chatterje (Co-PI, UCSI)
- Professor Dr Haslinda Abdullah@ Betsy Bennet (Universiti Pertahanan Nasional Malaysia)

Associate Professor Dr Cheah Shiau Chuen

Funding Approved (RM) 244,800.00

Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences

Project Title

Identifying the Signature Biomarker(s) of Early Metastasis Event in Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma using Heterotypic Multicellular Tumour Spheroid

Co-researchers

- Associate Professor Dr Lionel In Lian Aun (Co-PI, UCSI)
- Professor Dr Hoh Boon Peng (UCSI)
- Associate Professor Dr Wong Pooi Fong (Universiti Malaya)
- Heng Win Sen (University Medical Centre Groningen)

Assistant Professor Dr Normina Binti Ahmad Bustami

Funding Approved (RM) 130,900.00

Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences

Project Title

Prenatal Exposure to Heavy Metals and Its Association with Fetal Growth, Telomere Length and DNA Damage in Newborns.

Co-researchers

- Assistant Professor Dr Eugenie Tan Sin Sing (Co-PI, UCSI)
- Assistant Professor Dr Tan Chung Keat (UCSI)
- Associate Professor Dr Farahnaz Amini (UCSI)
- Assistant Professor Dr Marjan Sadat Seghayat (UCSI)
- Dr Vinodhini Bhaskaran (Sri Kota Medical Specialist Centre)

Dr Zhooriyati Binti Sehu Mohamad

Funding Approved (RM) 69,400.00

Faculty of Social Sciences and Liberal Arts

Project Title

Meaning in Life and Optimism as Intervention for Happiness of Adolescent Delinquents in Juvenile Detention Center

Co-researchers

- Dr Tan Yen Teng (Co-PI, UCSI)
- Professor Dr Intan Hashimah Mohd Hashim (Universiti Sains Malaysia)

Assistant Professor Dr Siau Ching Sin

Funding Approved (RM) 63,900.00

Faculty of Social Sciences and Liberal Arts

Project Title

Establishing A Novel Family-Healthcare Stress Model: Does Strength-Based Parenting Mediate Between Caregiver Mental Health and Adolescent Psychiatric Patient Outcomes?

Co-researchers

- Dr Amira Najiha Binti Yahya (Co-PI,UCSI)
- Professor Dr Samsilah Rozilah (Universiti Putra Malaysia)
- Associate Professor Dr Norhayati Binti Ibrahim (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia)
- Professor Dr Lee E. Waters (University of Melbourne)
- Dr Uma Visvalingam (Hospital Putrajaya)

CURRENT RESEARCH GRANT CALL

National Energy Awards (NEA) 2021

Objective:
To promote innovation in local technology, research and development (R&D) in line with the country's aspiration to spur the energy sector as the new area for economic growth.

Priority Areas:
- Special Awards
  - Energy Performance Contracting (EPC)
  - Institute of Higher Education
  - Sustainable Energy Financing

Submission Date:
1 November 2020 - 26 February 2021

Closing date:
26 February 2021

Website:
https://www.nationalenergyaward.com.my/about-us/

Health Systems Research Initiative by MRC

Objective:
To provide funding for the best proposals to generate new knowledge to strengthen and improve health systems in LMICs.

Priority Areas:
- Demonstrate an understanding of broader health system linkages
- How and why the research findings will improve the health of people living in the study country.

Closing date:
19 January 2021 - 16:00 (UK time)

Website:
https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/health-systems-research-initiative-call-8/

The Editorial Board would like to extend its gratitude to all the article contributors for the Research@UCSI Newsletter since its inception in December 2020. The Editorial Board hope to feature more exciting and interesting research articles in the coming issues. We would also like to take this opportunity to wish you a very HAPPY NEW YEAR and STAY HEALTHY!

CONTACT

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