



**RUMC** *Alumni*



**RCSI + UCD**  
**MALAYSIA CAMPUS**

RCSI & UCD  
Malaysia Campus

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alumni  
e-Newsletter

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## A Message from the President



**Professor Dr David L Whitford**

MD (Cantab), MA, MB BS, FRCGP, DRCOG

President, CEO and Registrar.

I trust you are well and coping through the continuing  
COVID-19 pandemic.

Reflecting back on medical school is usually pleasant. Having new experiences, making new friends, travelling to new places and lots of studying followed by more exams than you can imagine! What could be better? You are saturated with new knowledge, experiences and skills that are intended to equip you to be a great doctor.

But how often have you thought back on all your time in Penang Medical College (now RUMC) and made a list of all the things that you were not taught? The dread of something happening to a patient when you were responsible? The anxiety of being asked to do something by a senior doctor that they assumed you should be able to do? The first time relatives asked you questions that either you couldn't answer or had never been asked before? The screaming or scolding from medical officers or nurses? Missing meals? Or the feeling of exhaustion that would hit you after an on-call? House jobs can be a stressful time!

RUMC is planning to establish those areas of training that could be improved in order to better prepare our alumni for medical house jobs.

We plan to run a questionnaire to identify some of these areas and

I would encourage those of you who receive the questionnaire to respond to it. We aim to improve the future training of our students. In the meantime, I would be delighted to hear from you as to any area of medical school training that you feel would have better equipped you to practice after graduation.

Best wishes and keep safe.

# MInTFM Induction for 2020 Intake



On the 2nd of October 2020, RCSI & UCD Malaysia Campus (RUMC) hosted trainees of the Malaysia-Ireland Training for Family Medicine (MInTFM) programme for an on-campus induction day.

The session gathered MInTFM trainees from the intake of 2020 to provide a briefing on the specialist training programme and was conducted with strict adherence to the COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

The programme began with welcome addresses from Dr John Latham, MInTFM's National Clinical Director and Professor David Whitford, President & CEO of RUMC.

Also present at the session were MInTFM Scheme Directors and Assistant Scheme Directors who provided insights on the delivery of the specialist training programme at RUMC.



Representatives from the Ministry of Health graced the session as they shared their vision for Family Medicine Specialist training in Malaysia.



The establishment of MInTFM by RUMC, Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP) and iheed in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, supports the need for 8000 more Family Medicine Specialists to reach Malaysia's national target ratio of one specialist for every 4000 population.

MInTFM is now welcoming applications for its third intake in 2021.

Should you be interested to pursue specialisation in Family Medicine, please visit our website at [www.rcsiucd.edu.my/mintfm](http://www.rcsiucd.edu.my/mintfm) for more information.



## RUMC Happenings

*An addition of 92 members to RUMC Alumni Network*



92 medical doctors from the Class of 2020 after taking their oaths were conferred with medical degrees at the virtual conferring ceremony, on 5th of September 2020.



# ALUMNI: A MATCH MADE IN RUMC

We got hitched during our Obstetrics and Gynaecology posting. Then, fast forward to 6 years down the road, we are a happy family with 2 adorable kids.

Hello everyone!  
This is Dr Izzat and Dr Shahirah, and we are currently based in Kedah.

We graduated from RUMC in 2013 and did our housemanship at the Penang General Hospital in September, the same year.

So now, we are both practicing medical professionals in Kedah.

Izzat is now pursuing his career in O&G at Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah, Alor Setar.

While Shahirah is in a small suburban Maternity and Child Clinic in Kuala Nerang, still trying to figure things out but enjoying it all at the same time.

Where do we even start? There are just too many memorable moments as we look back to our days as medical students at RUMC.

Public Health was one of our favourite postings. We gained invaluable experience by doing the Health and Morbidity Survey among indigenous people at Kg Kenang, Sg Siput, Perak.





## ALUMNI: A MATCH MADE IN RUMC



Above all, it is the syllabus that drew us towards the programme – it is holistic and emphasises well on applied clinical knowledge. It helped to build our foundation in Medicine and taught us that solid medical knowledge is crucial to make the right judgement in treating patients.

We were both actively involved in extra curricular activities. One of which we dearly cherish is the Islamic Society (ISOC) of RCSI and RUMC. We both held positions in ISOC since our years in Ireland and continued till RUMC days. One of our proudest achievements was being involved in the Islamic Awareness Dinner which the President of Ireland attended as the honourable guest. (pic on left)

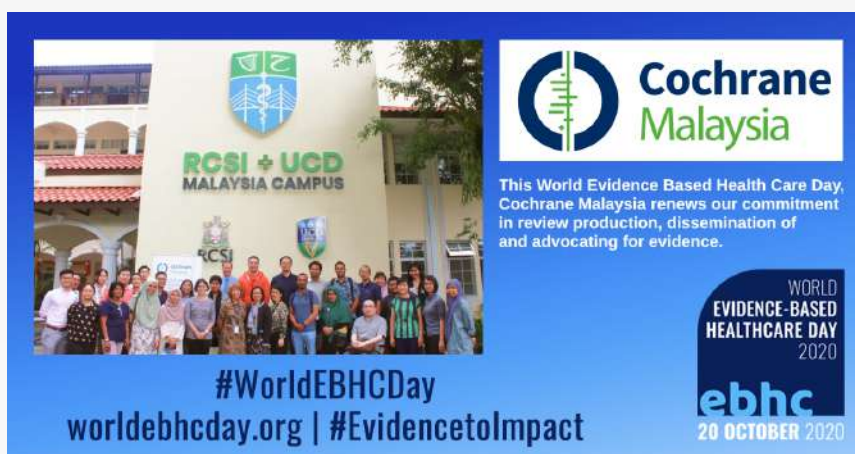


The two years of experience in Ireland and studying in a multiracial class enabled us to be more open-minded towards the diversity in working world and more proficient in the English language.

Our experiences gained from the roles and positions held during medical school helped us in acquiring qualities such as leadership and resilience, which are helpful in our journey now.



## Cochrane Malaysia Celebrated the First World Evidence-Based Healthcare Day



*World EBHC day shines the spotlight on the importance of evidence-based healthcare and the need for better evidence to inform healthcare policy & practice, and to encourage debate and discussion amongst the global evidence community.*

RUMC, along with Cochrane Malaysia celebrated World EBHC day with a story-writing competition for our students in Dublin and Penang. They were invited to share stories on how research evidence has impacted on them or a family member in a personal way.

"We were delighted with the entries received and thank those who participated and helped make it happen," said Prof David Whitford, President & CEO of RUMC as he congratulated the winners.

### A) Overall Winner: Lim Chia Yin.

Chia Yin was in our Foundation in Science programme last year and is currently at RCSI.

Her story is entitled: *"The First Step Against Depression"*.

### B) Runner-up: Wan Ain Sharmimi Sofia Binti Wan Mohd Razani

Sofia is a second year student at UCD. Her story is entitled: *"Tonsils - to be kept or removed"*.

Read the winning stories on Cochrane Malaysia's website.

Prof David also acknowledged the participation of the two judges in the competition – Prof Richard Loh, one of RUMC lecturers in evidence-based medicine and Ms Shauna Hurley from Cochrane Australia.

We are delighted to announce that the Cochrane Library is now available for free to health decision-makers across Malaysia. Thanks to the successful partnership between Cochrane Malaysia and researchers from the National Institutes of Health within the Malaysian Ministry of Health, the world-renowned Cochrane Library is now accessible online across the country. You may access Cochrane Library via Cochrane Malaysia's website.





## alumni SPOTLIGHT

### *A Look into Medicine Practice Abroad*



Dr Jasimah Jamir  
Class of 2009



Dr Teoh Chia Wei  
Class of 2006



Dr Dhssraj Singh  
Class of 2007

The RUMC Alumni Webinar series started as a student recruitment initiative to engage prospective RUMC students. Each webinar session features presentations by our inspiring alumni who share their experiences with the audience.

Recent alumni webinars highlighted the journey of our alumni in their current practices in Ireland and Canada.

In our September session, Dr Jasimah Jihan shared about the pathway she took to practise Medicine in Ireland.

During the October session, we were privileged to host Dr Teoh Chia Wei and Dr Dhssraj Singh in a panel discussion about their current medical practice in Canada and the different pathways available for students wishing to practise in Canada.

Be in touch with your alma mater & fellow alumni. Email us at [alumni@rcsiucd.edu.my](mailto:alumni@rcsiucd.edu.my) to update your contact details.

## alumni NETWORK



Dr George Choo Eang Leng  
(Class of 2002)  
Consultant Urologist at  
Hospital Raja Perempuan  
Zainab II, Kota Bharu.



Dr Thiagu Chidambaram  
(Class of 2004)  
Consultant Obstetrician  
& Gynaecologist at  
Columbia Asia Hospital -  
Klang.



Dr Zainal Adwin  
(Class of 2007)  
Clinical Specialist in  
Urology at Faculty of  
Medicine, University  
Teknologi MARA  
& Consulting Editor for  
British Journal of Urology  
International Compass.



Dr Mark Tan Kiak Min  
(Class of 2011)  
Lecturer in Medical Ethics  
and Law & Coordinator of  
Clinical Ethics  
Consultation Service at  
UiTM Faculty of Medicine &  
UiTM Medical Specialist  
Centre, Sungai Buloh.



# PROGRAMMES@RUMC



Begin the first step towards  
your career in Medicine with  
**our Foundation programme**

**#RUMC**

A unique Pre-University programme, offering students an early introduction to medical and clinical fields in a hospital setting. Upon conclusion of the programme, with a CGPA of 3.5–4.00, students are eligible to apply for the 5-Year Medical Degree Programme at RUMC.

**Next Intake: May 2021**



The University's flagship programme, the MB BCH BAO, is awarded by the National University of Ireland (NUI). Receive the best of both worlds with our transnationally delivered medical degree. RUMC is well-known for offering high-value tuition and exceptional quality in clinical training, as it continues to graduate high performing, industry-ready doctors.

**Next Intake: Sept 2021**

Malaysian doctors can now pursue the Family Medicine specialist training using the ICGP curriculum and assessment. Managed and delivered by RUMC, the curriculum of the programme is specifically adapted for the Malaysian healthcare scenario.

**Next Intake: July 2021**

For more information, visit [rcsiucd.edu.my/programme/mintfm](http://rcsiucd.edu.my/programme/mintfm) or email: [mintfm@rcsiucd.edu.my](mailto:mintfm@rcsiucd.edu.my)



## Career Opportunities @ RUMC

### Available Academic Positions

Head of Department in:  
o Medicine

Lecturers:

- o Psychiatry
- o Medicine
- o Surgery
- o Obstetrics & Gynaecology

To apply & for more info  
email [hr@rcsiucd.edu.my](mailto:hr@rcsiucd.edu.my)

OR

contact 04-217 1999

## Masters of Science (Health Research)

Health Research is an area brimming with possibilities to advance the quality of healthcare systems and services. This 2-year, part-time postgraduate degree is aimed at medical, health, and social science graduates with interest in Health Research. Fully accredited by MQA and MoHE, awarded Level 9 on the NFQ Ireland, and is compliant with ECTS.

**Next Intake: February 2021**

## Master in Science Public Health

Public health problems are now increasing and require global solutions. This 1-year, full-time postgraduate degree is aimed at those planning to pursue careers locally or internationally and contains modules and research projects focused particularly on public health issues. The programme is fully accredited by MQA and MoHE, awarded Level 9 on the NFQ Ireland, and is compliant with ECTS.

**Next Intake: September 2021**