



RUMC *Alumni**



RCSI + UCD
MALAYSIA CAMPUS

RCSI & UCD
Malaysia Campus

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.

One of the thrills of becoming a doctor is the awareness that medical knowledge is constantly evolving. Involvement in research as a doctor is not compulsory, but on a personal level I do not believe you can be a great doctor without being research involved. The most fundamental level of research involvement is the application of evidence into daily practice – an area which is a challenge but helped so much by initiatives such as the Cochrane Collaboration (now freely available in Malaysia). The next level is measuring whether we are adhering to evidence-based practice through clinical audit.

I sometimes hear of doctors doubting whether they can be research active. I was in full time specialist clinical practice for 16 years before entering academia and managed to carry out some interesting research studies. Prof John Howie was the first Professor of General Practice in the UK and in 1979 stated “25,000 general practitioners and their aggregate of unanswered questions remains one of the most significant sources of research potential available to contemporary medicine”.

I believe this is still true today – each time you see a patient and reflect on the best course of action for that person, and search the established databases and find no clarity, throws up a new research question. Next time, instead of dismissing your thoughts, write them down, formulate a research question and share it with colleagues or with RUMC. Several of my best pieces of research arose in this way!

RUMC is now able to supervise PhD candidates, registering them with RCSI or UCD. We are also developing a MSc by research. Feel free to enquire further.

In the meantime, keep safe.

2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR
Trust the magic of new beginnings

RUMC Battles COVID-19



Dr Amir Yassin bin Abdul Malik
(Class of 2016)

District Medical Officer
Hospital Saratok, Sarawak

Dr Amir Yassin is currently serving as a District Medical Officer at Hospital Saratok, a non-specialist district hospital in Sarawak upon completion of his housemanship.

He had the opportunity to serve as a COVID-19 frontliner in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. Dr Amir also gained experience as a COVID-19 Supervisor overseeing the administrative and clinical aspects of the hospital while working with various governmental agencies to curb the outbreak.

Alumni Success Story



Dr. Fiona Chew Lee Min
(RUMC Class of 2002)

Consultant Ophthalmologist, Paediatric
Ophthalmologist & Strabismologist,
Sunway Velocity Medical Center (SVMC),
Kuala Lumpur

About Dr Fiona

I was born and bred in Kuala Lumpur and now happily married with two children. In my free time, I like to read, swim and make educational videos on Ophthalmology at my YouTube channel - Dr. Fiona Chew Lee Min. Teaching is also my passion and I conduct regular online teaching sessions for post-graduate Ophthalmology students all over Malaysia.



Dr Fiona was awarded with the
**Paediatric Ophthalmology
Service Provider of the year in
Asia Pacific (2020).**

* Other Award:

**Anugerah Perkhidmatan
Cemerlang JKNS (2011)**

Alumni Success Story

Dr Fiona's Qualifications

- MB BCH BAO(Ireland)
- MS Ophthal(Malaya)
- Fellowship in Paediatric Ophthalmology (Singapore)
- CFFT(Paediatric Ophthalmology) (KKM)
- CMIA(NIOSH)



Memories at RUMC

My most memorable moment was being taught anatomy by Professor Stanley Monkhouse. He humanised Medicine and made it fun and easy to learn. I remember looking for the long saphenous vein for about half an hour, and he came up to the cadaver, popped his hand in and within seconds, had the vein in his hand. Simply amazing!



Current Practice / Attachment

I am a certified medical impairment assessor (CMIA) registered with the National Specialist Registry (NSR). I am part of the group of doctors forming the Sunway Eye Center.

I also contribute free service to Hospital Selayang, as a visiting Consultant Paediatric Ophthalmologist.

I plan to expand the paediatric ophthalmology service in SVMC hoping that it will one day become a training center for budding paediatric ophthalmologists.



From Alumni to Academic

Dr. Leong Foo Weng
(RUMC Class of 2009)

Current Attachment:

*Lecturer of Psychiatry,
RCSI & UCD Malaysia Campus.*



How do you feel about returning to RUMC?



As an alumnus of Penang Medical College (now known as RCSI & UCD Malaysia Campus), I am happy to return to the campus as a psychiatry lecturer. It has allowed me to continue pursuing my research interest in mental health resilience that I believe is important and relevant, especially in times like this.

Could you share some of your unforgettable memories as a medical student?

One of them was during a Christmas celebration with friends in Dublin. With each of us bringing home-cooked food to share, we had proven that we were capable of cooking. All the food were delicious because they were gone the moment dinner started. Another memorable event that I could never forget – no matter how hard I try, was when I became one of the leads for a traditional Indian dance during the UCD Malaysian Night.



From Alumni to Academic

Dr Leong's Qualifications

- MB BCH BAO (UCD/RUMC)
- MSc in Criminal Justice (Saint Joseph's University, USA)
- MMed (Psychiatry) (Universiti Sains Malaysia)

Why did you choose RUMC to study Medicine?

After finishing high school, I was contemplating going into the field of psychology. As I was offered a full scholarship to do medicine, I took that chance instead. I chose RUMC as my for its high-quality teaching standards. The opportunity to learn from the best of both worlds further compelled me to pursue my medical studies here.



What sparked your interest in Psychiatry?

I have always been interested in human thinking and behavior. The exposure to the field of psychiatry back in the days of UCD/RUMC allowed me to rekindle my interest again in human cognition and behaviour. With that, I pursued my studies further in psychiatry and graduated with a Masters in Psychiatry in 2019.

What is your future plan?

As of now, I plan to do further academic research on resilience in mental health. I hope the research findings will help shed some new light on the field of mental health.



Cochrane Malaysia Featured in the Malaysian Medical Association's Newsletter

General

**Cochrane
Library**

Now available to everyone in Malaysia

Cochrane: Who Are We?

Many of you will know that Cochrane's main work is producing high quality systematic reviews aimed at helping people, (healthcare professionals, policy makers and patients), make healthcare decisions based on the best available research evidence. Cochrane originally started in Oxford UK in 1993, and is now a global collaboration involving over 50,000 people.

Cochrane got its name from Archie Cochrane, an epidemiologist best known for his book, "Effectiveness and Efficiency: Random Reflections on Health Services". In this book he advocated for randomised-controlled trials as a means of improving effectiveness and efficiency in healthcare. In 1979 he said, "It is surely a great criticism of our profession that we have not organised a critical summary, by specialty or subspecialty, adapted periodically, of all relevant randomised controlled trials."

This challenge was accepted in the 1980s, initially as the Oxford Database of Perinatal Trials, eventually becoming the Cochrane Collaboration, now consisting of 33

specialty groups, methods groups, 43 geographic centres and other collaborators in 130 countries. The critical summary referred to by Archie Cochrane is now the systematic review. An important feature of Cochrane is its culture of being free from commercial interest, counterbalancing the research done in the pharmaceutical and medical device industries by creating an independent assessment of what the research tells us.

Cochrane in Malaysia

Back in 2003 there were three Cochrane authors in Malaysia but today, we have more than 320 active authors and over 160 review documents on the Cochrane Library. Many other Malaysians are involved in Cochrane in various other ways and we currently now have over 1,000 Malaysian Cochrane members. This massive growth reflects Malaysia's interest in contributing to and using the best available evidence.

In mid-October 2020 we reached another important milestone. We obtained free full-text access to the Cochrane Library right across Malaysia from any computer with a Malaysian IP address. This access is provided by the National Institutes of Health, MOH. Tan Sri Datuk

Seri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, Director-General of Health said, "I am extremely happy that we are able to provide The Cochrane Library across the nation. As one of Cochrane Malaysia's affiliate sites, MOH is extremely proud that we are progressing in providing the best research evidence for the best healthcare decision making. This provision comes at a very apt timing for use in our health care. I would like to congratulate NIH, Malaysia and all researchers for their dedication towards providing evidence from the Cochrane Library and continuous training for MOH, especially, and Malaysia generally."

What's in the Cochrane Library?

1. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)
2. Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL)
3. Cochrane Clinical Answers
4. Featured content: Special Collections (including eight COVID-19 collections) and more.

The CDSR, the flagship of the Cochrane Library currently contains over 8000 full reviews and over 2000 protocols. All reviews are preceded by a published protocol. CENTRAL is

Cochrane Malaysia was featured in the December issue of Berita MMA (Malaysian Medical Association's newsletter).

This is an important step in getting Cochrane news to all medical practitioners in the country. The article introduced Cochrane, specifically Cochrane Malaysia and Cochrane Library.

The full article is accessible here for MMA members:

<https://mma.org.my/mma-december-berita-2020/>.

Berita MMA has also requested for a regular Cochrane section in the newsletter.

**Cochrane
Library**

Cochrane Library is 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 at www.cochranelibrary.com

Want to be a part of us? 

Visit us at Cochrane.org or
drop us an email at cochrane@rcsiucd.edu.my

alumni SPOTLIGHT

A Look into Medicine Practice Abroad



Dr Yvette D'Oliveiro
Class of 2002

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

In January 2021, Dr Yvette D'Oliveiro joined us and shared about the pathway that led to her current private practice as a Consultant Anaesthetist in Australia.

Sessions like this are indeed helpful for aspiring doctors as they have the opportunity to learn about the various pathways taken by RUMC Alumni to practise medicine overseas.

Be in touch with your alma mater & fellow alumni. Email us at alumni@rcsiucd.edu.my to update your contact details.

alumni NETWORK



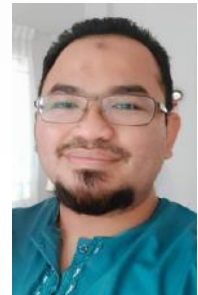
Dr Geetha Gokul Naidu
(Class of 2001)
Emergency Physician &
Director of Emergency
Medicine Training at
Tamworth Rural Referral
Hospital, NSW, Australia.



Dr Manharpreet Singh Sandhu
(Class of 2010)
Orthopaedic Registrar at
Hospital University Sains
Malaysia.



Dr Mior Faiq bin Mior Abu Tahrin
(Class of 2011)
Plastic & Reconstructive
Surgery Registrar at
Hospital Universiti Sains
Malaysia & Final year of
Masters in Plastic &
Reconstructive Surgery.



Dr Izzat Hafifie bin Hazmi
(Class of 2013)
Medical Officer, Obstetrics
& Gynaecology Dept at
Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah,
Alor Setar, Kedah.

PROGRAMMES@RUMC



MAY 2021 INTAKE Foundation in Science

Up to 50% Scholarship

Your Future In Medicine
Begins with Us. >



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.

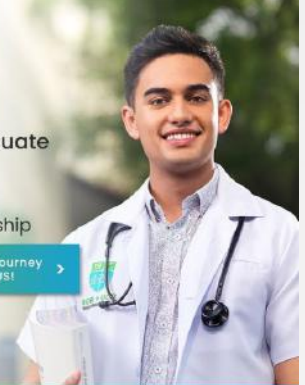
Next Intake: May 2021



SEPT 2021 INTAKE Undergraduate Medicine

Early Bird
20% Scholarship

Embark on Your Journey
In Medicine with Us! >



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
or email: 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

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