



RCSI & UCD
Malaysia Campus

alumni
e-Newsletter

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RUMC Alumni

International Medical Practice Bulletin

Uplifting International
Student Services

Alumni Stories

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Cochrane

Alumni Contribution

Aspiring Doctors 21' featuring
Dr Naren Selva

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A Message from the President



President & CEO
Professor David Whitford

We continue in our 25th year since Penang Medical College was established and three years since it became the first Irish Foreign University Branch Campus in Malaysia as RCSI & UCD Malaysia Campus. We have just witnessed another group of young hopeful students travel to Dublin to start their medical training. Bring back memories?

Memories are very important in our lives because they allow us to grow and learn to be a better person. Our recollections can teach us very important life lessons, demonstrate skills and abilities and can make us feel happy and entertained. By having memories, we discover what is right and what is wrong. Most people I meet have very fond memories of their student years – years that are particularly important in our learning.

I was recently contacted after a gap of nearly 40 years by one of my early mentors. It was a delight to hear from him and we were arranging to see each other on my next trip to the UK when I received a message from him advising me he was seriously ill in hospital with COVID. The memories of the past flooded into the present and made me grateful that I was able to establish contact with him just before he passed away and thank him for his influence on my life.

Why am I sharing this story? Too often we fail to let those who have most influenced our lives know and thank them for this. Thankfulness in our lives is shown to help in our resilience and increase happiness. But the other side of this story is that those memories make me aware of how much influence I can have on others following in my path. The moral is to be thankful for those who have influenced us, but also to seek to be mentors in life for others.

Uplifting International Student Services

Every year, RUMC attracts a number of students from all over the world, and these international students have unique needs and challenges. To take our student care to the next level, Prof. Andrew Law has recently been appointed as the Vice Dean (International Student Services) to oversee the transformation of services for international students.

Prof. Andrew has been an “international student” for most of his life. Born in Hong Kong, he went to a British boarding school for secondary education, then travelled between Canada, UK, and the USA for higher education and early medical career. He returned to Hong Kong and then came to Malaysia to continue his clinical, pedagogical, and scientific pursuits. Prof. Andrew’s diverse background allows him to fully appreciate the professional and personal stressors of studying overseas. He is eager to optimize the “international student journey” at RUMC.



The proposed agenda for improving “the journey” include: -

- 1 identify individual overseas student’s professional endeavor
- 2 ensure smooth settling and transitioning of students in Dublin and Penang
- 3 work with RCSI and UCD in Dublin to kickstart student career planning
- 4 expand final year elective offerings, especially in North America
- 5 improve and update data on postgraduate medical training – including internship and licensing requirements of international students’ home countries and other highly-sought destinations;
- 6 enhance student support on medical licensing examinations
- 7 strengthen ties with our local and overseas alumni.

From now on, a column on international medical practice will be featured in each issue of the newsletter. This column will provide information and discuss pertinent issues in relation to medical careers overseas. We hope that our alumni would find it insightful and beneficial.

Prof. Andrew welcomes your thoughts, ideas, and contributions to make this a success. Feel free to email your suggestions to andrew.law@rcsiucd.edu.my



Conferring Ceremony 2002

About Dr Nadia Hanom Ishak

My journey in RUMC began with pre-clinical studies at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) in 1997.

After graduating in 2002, I went on to complete my housemanship at Hospital Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). I obtained Master in Medicine (Anaesthesiology) from UKM in 2011 and completed a 2-year

Fellowship training in Cardiothoracic Anaesthesia & Critical Care at the Oxford Heart Centre, John Radcliffe Hospital (Oxford University Hospital, NHS Trust) in 2018. Besides that, I've also obtained certification in Transoesophageal Echocardiography (TOE) from the European Association of Cardiothoracic Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care (EACTAIC)/ European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging (EACVI).

Current Attachment

I'm a **medical lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine (Anaesthesiology & Critical Care), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Sungai Buloh Campus and Consultant Anaesthetist & Head of Unit for Cardiothoracic Anaesthesia & Critical Care Unit at Hospital UiTM.**

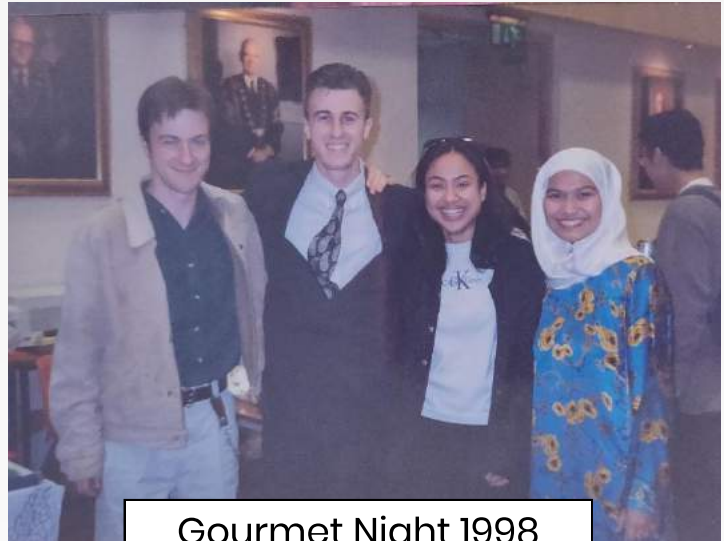




Unforgettable Dublin Moment

There were many social activities and events organised by the university in Dublin in which I was part of such as the International Night, Gourmet Night & Halloween Parade. It became a channel for me to share interests, understanding multi-cultural values and develop lasting friendships across the globe.

Travelling was also an escape for me during medical school and this has continued until present.



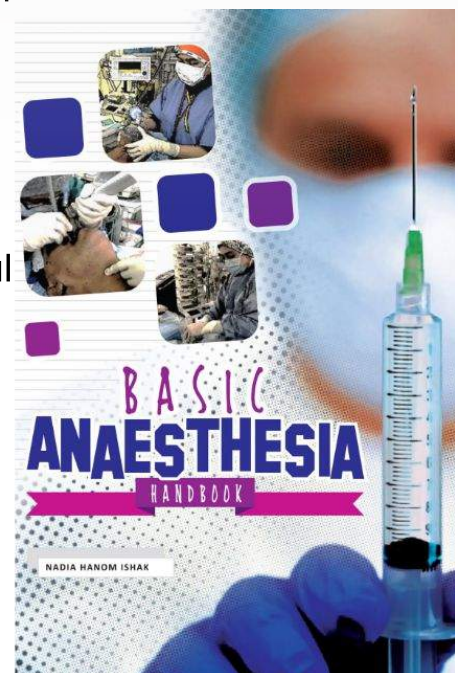
Gourmet Night 1998

Career Aspiration

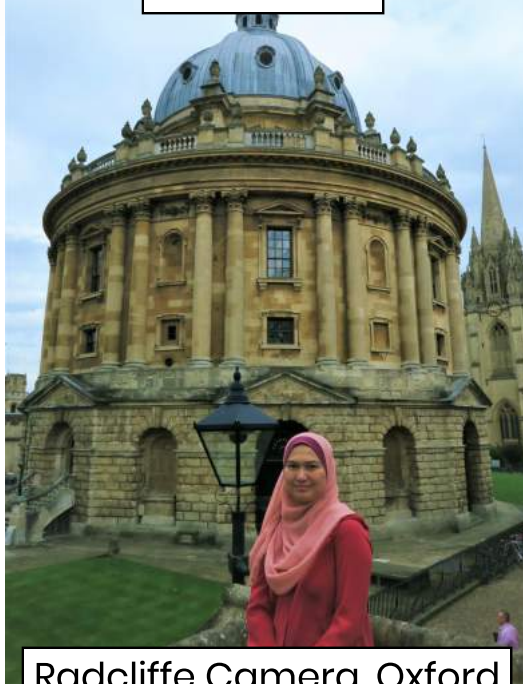
I aspire to further build the Cardiothoracic Anaesthesia & Critical Care Unit for the upcoming Heart and Lung Centre at UiTM.

Publication

I am the main author for 'Basic Anaesthesia Handbook', which was published in 2015. It is targeted for undergraduate medical students, houseman & medical officers and nurses in Ministry of Health and Ministry of Higher Education. Over 6000 copies (including e-Book) had been sold in Malaysia.



Athens



Radcliffe Camera, Oxford



About Dr Nur Shahida Muhamad Fauzi – “RUMC tetap di hati”

I joined RUMC in 2011 and flew to Dublin in September that year for my pre-clinical years at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. I graduated in June 2016 and started Housemanship at Hospital Putrajaya in December 2016.

I was also among the first batch of Contract House Officers, but eventually managed to secure a permanent spot – thanks to the training provided during my clinical years at the Penang General Hospital.

I’m currently, in my 5th year of service with KKM and will be joining RUMC again in Sept 2021 as MINTFM trainee.



Conferring Ceremony
2016

with Paediatrics team at
Hosp. Putrajaya



As frontliner during Covid-19

A few words on the programme

RUMC provides the best of both worlds – pre-clinical training based on the Irish curriculum, and clinical training in local setting. Less adaptation needed to start working as HO as I was already familiar with the Malaysian healthcare setting.

Career Aspiration

I’m hoping to complete my Postgraduate study on-time in the next 4 years, and be a Family Medicine Specialist. I chose Family Medicine primarily because I get to have the work-life balance, no oncalls, and able to treat patient holistically. I look forward to knowing a little about everything.

Cochrane Specialty Webinars

As part of an awareness drive, Cochrane Malaysia has been working with several specialties to organize webinars on how to put Cochrane evidence into practice. These webinars were supported by Wiley, the publishers of the Cochrane Library. Each webinar was conducted in two sessions.

The first of these webinars was a collaboration with the Malaysian Paediatric Association (MPA) and held in April 2021. Prof Jackie Ho and Dr Hung Liang Choo (MPA President) moderated the webinar. The first session of the webinar covered the following:

1. **“What’s on the Cochrane Library”**, presented by Deborah Pentesco-Murphy, Editorial Director at Wiley
2. **“How to read and understand a Cochrane Review”**, presented by Dr Tan May Loong, Co-Director, Cochrane Malaysia and Vice-Dean for Research at RUMC

In the second session, **“Hands-on clinical cases in Paediatrics”**, teams mainly made up of Paediatric trainees were allocated case scenarios with instructions to find a relevant Cochrane Review and apply it to the case.

The second specialty webinar was a collaboration with Malaysia-Ireland International Family Medicine Training programme (MInTFM). The webinar has the same structure as the previous. The first session of the webinar “Using Cochrane evidence in the practice of Family Medicine” was held 9 June 2021 and covered the following:

1. **“What’s on the Cochrane Library”**, presented by Alejandra Barciela, Associate Director, Wiley
2. **“How to read and understand a Cochrane Review”**, presented by Prof David Whitford, President & CEO of RUMC in his role as a Cochrane author.

This was followed by 2 separate sessions on **“Hands-on clinical cases in Family Medicine”** on 16 & 23 June 2021 by Family Medicine trainees in the Ministry of Health and the MInTFM programme.



At the initiative of our alumni, Dr Jasmine Lee (pic) (Class of 2016), who is now working at Hospital Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and participated in the first series of specialty webinars, Cochrane Malaysia was invited to run another webinar for UKM.

Want to be a part of us? Visit us at [Cochrane.org](https://www.cochrane.org) or drop us an email at cochrane@rcsiucd.edu.my

Alumni Contribution

The poster is titled "aspiring DOCTORS '21" in a green and blue header. Below the title, it says "Life as a Doctor". The event is a "Virtual Event" on "June 20, 2021 (Sunday)" from "10.00am - 12.30pm". A green button says "REGISTER NOW!" with a hand cursor icon. On the right is a circular portrait of Dr. Narentharen Selvarajah, a man in a light blue RCSI scrub top. Below his photo, his name and details are listed: "Dr Narentharen Selvarajah", "RUMC Class of 2010", "Senior Medical Officer, Klinik Kesihatan Lukut, Port Dickson.", and "Final Year Family Medicine specialization trainee". At the bottom left are logos for "RCSI + UCD MALAYSIAN CAMPUS" and "25th". At the bottom right is the hashtag "#RUMCturns25".

The Aspiring Doctors virtual event was held on June 20, 2021 to provide current and prospective students and parents with substantial information about RUMC and the programmes it offer.

Representing our vast alumni network, Dr Naren Selva from the Class of 2010, took us through his experience of studying Medicine at RUMC.

He also shared with the audience about the 'Donate a Mask' initiative – a brainchild of his, to support the constant need for face masks and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) among healthcare workers.

Dr Naren is currently attached to Klinik Kesihatan Lukut, Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan. He is also actively involved as a frontliner managing the COVID-19 outbreak in that area.

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



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 2022



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 2022

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 2022

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
- o Obstetrics & Gynaecology

Lecturers in:

- o Psychiatry
- o Medicine
- o Surgery
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