

Faculty of Medicine, Bioscience and Nursing
MAHSA University, BSP, Selangor
Phone: +603-7965 2555

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Message from Dean
2. Student Achievements
3. FOMBN School Activities
4. New FOMBN Staffs

Message from Dean

WELCOME to 2023! We have had a very challenging 2022 and we certainly look forward to the challenges of 2023.

Education, and specifically higher education, has always been a very controversial issue in Malaysia. We are all aware that the education system has an enormous impact on the nation's cultural evolution, sustenance of the nation's working communities and the nation's critical thinking skills. Education *per se* has a major influence on the national unity.

There are a number of factors that will pose great challenges to higher education in Malaysia in 2023.

Declining birth rate means that Malaysia's university places will lead to surplus capacity over the next generation. The sudden loss of international students at private universities at the beginning of the Covid-19 restrictions showed how devastating this can be to the industry. This coming surplus in capacity, unless met with an influx of foreign students, will require a rationalisation within the public and private university system. This will mean fewer and/or smaller public and private universities in Malaysia within the next decade.



Similarly, Malaysia's high graduate unemployment points to some mismatch in what courses are offered in universities and what is required within the marketplace. This requires an agile reappraisal of what courses are run by universities over the next decade. These basic structural issues are supplemented with a number of systemic issues.

Industries have long complained about the poor command of English and soft skills by local graduates. Others complain about poor critical thinking and problem-solving skills. From the student side, public and private universities are experiencing high dropout rates, while pass standards are kept low as a perceived university management solution. Graduate students are having difficulty with PTPTN student loans, indicating issues with the funding system.

Thus, in a post Covid-19 pandemic environment, where the world will once again reopen, and the economy requires new drivers, higher education should have an important role to play. It's now time for us to reimagine what the Malaysian higher education system should be especially private higher education such as MAHSA University.

The first issue involves preparing young people to enter university. This is a primary and secondary education responsibility. Malaysia must head towards multilingual education, where all students should be able to speak at least two languages fluently upon completion of secondary school. **The development of soft skills and critical thinking must also be focused upon.** There must be a return to classical education to primary and secondary schools. This needs to be followed up in higher education. **Leadership must be nurtured.** Now that the voting age is 18, students have a constitutional right to participate in politics, and should be encouraged to while at university. Bans on political activity within university campuses should be immediately lifted. Both political and apolitical club activity on campuses will assist in developing argument articulation and become a good incubator for future leaders.

Funding should be provided to institutions on programme-based budget criteria in order to make these organisations run much leaner and more efficiently. Universities should make use of short and other postgraduate courses to raise faculty funds. Research with industry should be encouraged where university-industry consortiums bid for research funds.

The future of Malaysian higher education will heavily involve vocational and community colleges. These should become the education and skill support of Malaysia's SME sector. According to the Malaysian Department of Statistics, SMEs contribute 38.2% to national GDP, 13.6% of export revenue, and employ 48% of Malaysia's workforce. This is the sector set to play a major role in national recovery and needs educational support. **Vocational education will be critical for national recovery and nurturing innovation at the SME level.** As the scope of SME-based activities are wide, the private sector must jump in to assist in developing this revamped vocational sector. Qualification regulations must be changed where those with trade-based experience can teach part-time under supervision as practical instructors.

Changing the emphasis from university to vocational education could be a real game changer in national economic revival. Consider the hugely popular GIG ECONOMY that has changed the landscape of student aspirations for university education in 2022 and possibly 2023. Vocational education can be introduced into community centres all around the country, where lifelong skill development is encouraged. In this way rural and urban kampongs can be redeveloped into value-based business communities that develop vibrant local economies. This is very much the sustainable-circular economy highlighted within the 12th Malaysia Plan.

Such changes will require massive political will. It will require a completely different corporate culture within the ministry of higher education. These changes will assist Malaysian education realign to the needs of tomorrow's society. This is also an imperative strategy if Malaysia wants to lessen the need for foreign workers in the country.

The post-Covid-19 economic boom will require skills rather than classroom-based qualifications. MAHSA University is already aggressively promoting MICRO CREDENTIALS, TVET and MASTER CLASSES as the new learning opportunities for working adults to engage in lifelong learning. Open and Distance Learning (ODL) is also another opportunity to engage working adults and international students working in foreign lands.

Let us, then, celebrate 2023 with this new understanding of the educational landscape and opportunities so that we can sustain our capacities and leapfrog to the new demands in education from both local and international student

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rusli Bin Nordin', with a horizontal line underneath.

Prof Dr Rusli Bin Nordin

MMC NO. 23591

STAFF NO.: R00143

MBBS (Monash); MPH (Malaya); DrMedSc (Tokyo); GCHE (Monash); HonFFOM (Ireland);
FAOEM (Malaysia); FPHM (Malaysia); FRSPH (UK); FAPA-PFAW (Australia); AM (Malaysia)

Dean

Faculty of Medicine, Bioscience and Nursing

MAHSA University

Level 7, Main Building, Bandar Saujana Putra, 42610 Jenjarom, Selangor, Malaysia

M +6012-721 1994 | **O** +603-5102 2200 **Ext:** 2298

E rusli@mahsa.edu.my | **W** www.mahsa.edu.my

Students Achievements

Medical Intervarsity Games (MIVG) 2022 by Asian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) UKM

Students from MAHSA had the opportunity to be involved in the MIVG (2022) recently. The games were divided into 2 components, virtual & physical games. The virtual games were held on 8-15th October 2022, while the physical games were held on 5-6th November 2022 at several sports centres provided by the host.

MAHSA sent 2 teams to MIVG for the virtual games, consisting of 5 students each, for participation in Mobile Legends & Valorant. For the physical games, 9 students were involved in Futsal (male category), 7 students in Volleyball (female category), and 2 students in Track games. For badminton, 1 student played in the women's singles category, 2 students in mixed doubles & 2 students in men's doubles. Hence, a total of 29 students represented MAHSA for MIVG 2022.

MIVG was founded in 2009 with the aim of promoting a healthy lifestyle and producing ideal medical students who excel in both physical and academic activities. Besides that, MIVG aims to promote and foster good inter-varsity relations across medical schools in Malaysia. With this, MIVG hopes to instil a sense of camaraderie among future healthcare practitioners, thus creating a conducive environment for better healthcare practices in the future. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was a pity that the event had to be done in a hybrid mode and not completely face-to-face. However, MIVG 2022 was an exciting journey that included games never before organised as well as the classic sports enjoyed by everyone!

There were a total of 32 medical universities participating in this year's MIVG, in which only 16 out of 32 universities competed for each games. MIVG 2022 took place in the month of October & November 2022 with the theme of "One team, One heart, One legacy". Overall, one of our students, Hor Jia Yee from Year 4 MBBS Batch 11, made MAHSA proud by attaining 1 bronze medal for track games (1500m female category).

MIVG 2022 has given our students the chance to form bonds with other medical students from universities in Malaysia hence broadening our networking and sharing experiences with one another.



Hor Jia Yee, Year 4 MBBS, won the bronze medal for track games, 1500m female category



MAHSA MBBS students Volleyball Team



MAHSA MBBS students Futsal Team

Prepared by Hany Ameera Ahmad

FOMBN School Activities

Conduct of Professional Exams (2021-2022)

The Faculty of Medicine, Bioscience and Nursing at MAHSA University has successfully conducted three Professional Examinations for the academic session 2021-2022.

The First Professional Examination Part A (PRO-1 PART A) targeted for 135 students of MBBS Year 1 took place at the Saujana Putra Campus from 22nd to 26th August 2022. The appointed external examiner was Associate Professor Dr Amudha Kadirvelu from Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Monash University, Malaysia. Following that, the First Professional Examination Part B (PRO-1 PART B) targeted for 139 students of MBBS Year 2 also took place at our Saujana Putra Campus from 29th August to 5th September 2022. The appointed external examiners were Associate Professor Dr. Venkatesh R. Naik and Lead (HOD) from the Department of Pathology, Perdana University, as the chief examiner, Professor Dr Nor Ashikin Mohamed Noor Khan from the Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia and Associate Professor Dr Leslie Than Thian Lung, from the Department of Medical Microbiology and Parasitology, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Malaysia. The final Professional Exam (FINAL PRO) targeted 184 students of MBBS Year 5 was held in Saujana Putra Campus from 26th October to 7th November 2022. The appointed external examiners were Associate Professor Dr Somanathan A/L M.N.Menon from the Department of Surgery, Faculty of Health and Medicine Sciences, Taylors University, Malaysia, as the chief examiner, Associate Professor Dr Ani Amelia Dato' Zainuddin, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Medical Centre, Malaysia and Associate Professor Dr Noor Shafina Binti Mohd Nor, Department of Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Teknologi Mara, Malaysia.

All our professional exams consist of both theory and clinical components. In the theory exams, students' understanding on clinical knowledge and terms was tested via different types of questions, which includes Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) for PRO-1 and FINAL PRO, Case Base Questions (CBQs) and Objective Structured Practical Examination (OSPE) for PRO-1, Modified Essay Questions (MEQs) and Short Essay Questions (SEQs) for FINAL PRO. The clinical components consist of interactive-Objective Structured Clinical Examination (i-OSCE) for PRO-1 and FINAL PRO, digital-Objective Structured Clinical Examination (d-OSCE) and modified long cases for FINAL PRO. The academic and

administrative staffs of School of Medicine and the IT team played significant roles in ensuring the smooth conduct of both theory and clinical exams.

All three professional exams were conducted successfully with positive feedback from all external examiners. Their suggestions were taken into considerations for improvement of future exams.



Conduct of Theory Exams via Learning Management System (LMS)



Conduct of i-OSCE in Clinical Skills Lab, SPC, MAHSA University

Prepared by Dr Menega Ganasen

Medical Outreach Camp 2022

The second Medical Outreach Camp was conducted from the 25th-27th of November 2022. This time, MedSoc members chose Kampung Beswok & Kampung Kotai, Perak, as the places to travel to and hold their camp. Those who were involved included 32 MAHSA preclinical and clinical MBBS students, plus 1 volunteer doctor (Dr. Samene).

The MedSoc committee organised this medical camp to provide basic health screening for the local and indigenous people of these kampungs who were unable to readily access healthcare services.

The health screening included anthropometric measurements, visual acuity test, blood pressure monitoring, blood glucose test and basic consultation by the volunteer doctor.

Many bonding and character-building activities between the locals and volunteers were conducted. These included a traditional blow-dart competition, games with the local children, and bathing and water games by the riverside.

As mentioned earlier, this was our second Medical Outreach program in recent years. This was in collaboration with a local NGO (Team KAFA Kotai) led by a former MRA Perak member, and this effort was highly celebrated by the locals of Kampung Beswok and Kampung Kotai, as we garnered a participation of nearly 300 residents as well as had the chance to enjoy a prepared 'kenduri' style feast for both the locals and the volunteers.

The clinical and preclinical students alike definitely learned invaluable and priceless knowledge and skills, to apply in their future urban healthcare settings, as well as for rural areas with limited resources and equipment should they be sent there. This was a crucial step for the MAHSA medical students as they would not only gain lifelong memories and experience. They could also prove the point that medical students are not only bound to their curriculum and syllabus, but are able to give back and do good for the community, which is an integral characteristic for a future doctor to develop.

MedSoc would definitely like to make the medical outreach camp an annual event to further benefit the hundreds of future students that may come in. In addition, we hope to be able to further improve the organising for such events in every aspect (e.g. transportation, equipment, funding, etc.) to obtain the maximum benefit from such events.



Second Medical Outreach Camp at Kampung Beswok & Kampung Kotai, Perak

Prepared by Yoga Nanta Kumar A/L Mogana Kumar

MBBS Homecoming Event 2022

The School of Medicine (SOM) homecoming event in 2022 was organised on the 24th of November 2022 at the auditorium, level 9, Empathy Building, MAHSA University, from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm.



Photo Booth Set Up at the Homecoming Event

A welcome address by Prof. Dr Hussain Habil kicked off the event. Prof. Dato' Dr Ikram Shah Bin Ismail, the vice chancellor of MAHSA University delivered the opening address. The two hours event comprised a plethora of talks – such as MMC guidelines and housemanship by Prof Datuk Dr Ahmad Ridwan Bin Arshad and a Continuous Education talk by Assoc. Prof. Dr Chin Jin Han, Dr Aiza and the team, SOM alumni of the year 2021, shared their experiences working as a houseman. The sharing session by Dr Aiza and the team, which was interactive, was of particular value to the alumni. The attendees were interested in learning about the personal experiences and working environment of the respective hospitals where the alumni were posted. Prof Datuk Dr Ahmad Ridwan also shared his experiences as a houseman, helping the alumni to understand that angst of the life as a houseman is universal. Assoc. Prof. Dr Chin has provided an overview of MAHSA University's postgraduate course offerings. About five students were considering going to graduate school. The staff members from SOM have put together their creativity by making a fun photo booth for the alumni. The alumni thoroughly enjoyed themselves, which made the photo booth a great success. Seventy-five alumni attended the occasion, and the anticipated attendance was sixty students. The robe collection and the

homecoming function were regrettably planned for the same time. The alumni had to collect their robes within the allotted time, which caused a delay in the event for approximately 30 minutes. However, everything went without a hitch.



Prof. Datuk Dr. Ahmad Ridwan Bin Arshad delivering his presentation on MMC guidelines & housemanship



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chin Jin Han delivering his presentation Continuous Education

In addition to enjoying the refreshments, the alumni had a fantastic time catching up with old friends and snapping pictures in the well-decorated photo booth. The event was successful all around.

Prepared by Sri Raja Rajeswari Mahalingam

Welcome to our New FOMBN Staffs!

School of Medicine



**Dr Melkeet Singh A/L
Chingara Singh**

Department of Obstetrics &
Gynaecology, SOM

UNDERGRADUATE

MBBS, Prince of Wales Medical College (Patna
Medical College)
Patna University, Bihar, India.

POSTGRADUATE

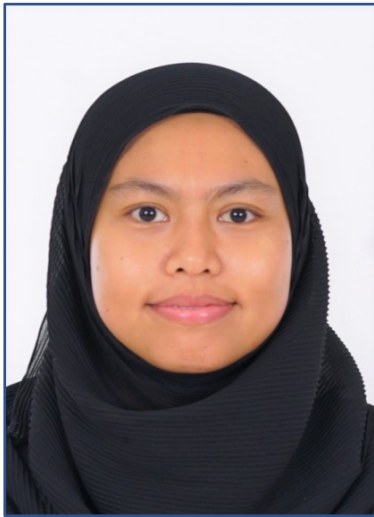
Masters Obstetrics & Gynaecology,
University Kebangsaan Malaysia.

SUBSPECIALITY TRAINING

Gazetted Gynaecological Oncologist
KK Women's and Children Hospital, Singapore &
Kuala Lumpur Hospital, Malaysia.

IMMEDIATE PAST AFFILIATIONS

- 1) Head Of Gynaecological Oncology Unit,
Hospital Kuala Lumpur (2013- 2021)
- 2) Post Retirement-KKM contract,
Gynaecological Oncologist, Hospital Kuala
Lumpur (2021- 2022)



Ms Nur Illyna

Admin Staff, SOM

Graduated from Universiti Kuala Lumpur (British Malaysian Institute) in Bachelor of Engineering Technology (Hons.) in Medical Electronics. Before MAHSA, I was a Design Quality Engineer/Trainer in 3D printing company for patient specific implant (CMF/Knee).



**Ms Nor Fazila Binti Mohd
Thamidzi**

Administrative Assistant,
SOM

Ms Nor Fazila went to school at SMK Gerik, Perak and completed her studies in 2001. Previously, she used to work in the manufacturing sector in Western Digital Malaysia as a production assistant. In 2019, she also worked as a statistics assistant (contract staff) in Jabatan Perangkaan Negeri Selangor.



Mr Mahazan Muhammad

Admin Staff, SOM

Mahazan received his Bachelor from Universiti Malaysia Terengganu. Before joining MAHSA, his was work at Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Management and Science University, Malaysian Nuclear Agency and Fisheries Research Institute.

1. Continuous Medical Education Jan-March 2023
2. Opening Ceremony of a New Floor in MTC, 27th Jan 2023
3. Re-election of MedSoc Committee Jan 2023
4. Journal Club Meeting, Feb 2023
5. Signing of MoU with Passionate Lifecare Sdn Bhd
6. Micro Open Day, Jan 28th 2023

Editorial Team

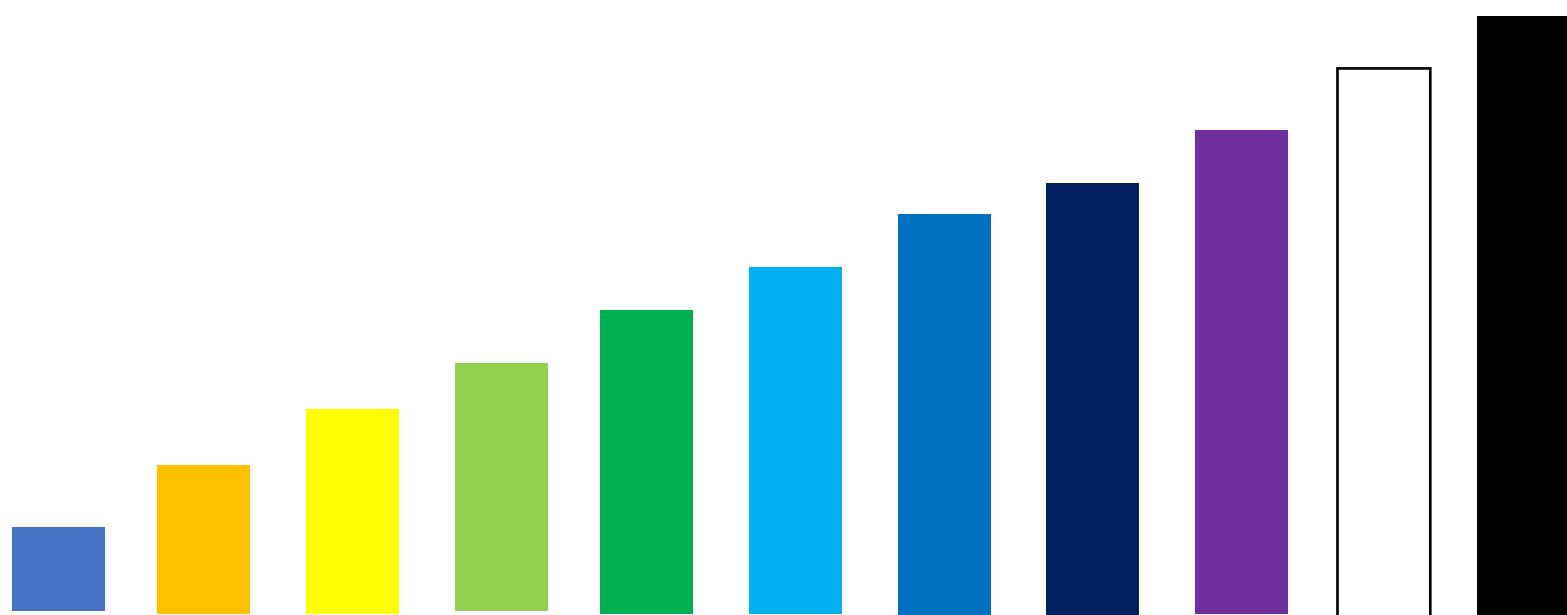
Dr Shalini Vellasamy
(Chief Editor)

Dr Soon Siew Choo
Dr Ardita Dewi Roslani
Dr Sri Raja Rajeswari
Dr Rosfayati
Dr Menega



MAHSA
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Medicine, Bioscience and Nursing
MAHSA University, BSP, Selangor
Phone: +603-7965 2555



P R O G R E S S