

PURP

Vice-Chancellor's Report 2023

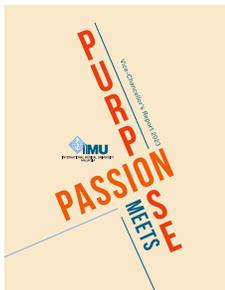


INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL UNIVERSITY
MALAYSIA

PASSION
MEETS
LE

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When passion meets purpose, the convergence ignites a sense of fulfillment that propels us to excellence. At the IMU, our commitment lies in guiding our students and faculty to discover their unique blend of passion and purpose so that they can achieve their full potential and make meaningful contributions to the communities they serve.

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



Dear readers,

It has been an exciting year for the IMU. We continued to fortify our collective wisdom and learnings ensuring steady growth for 2023; and together with new colleagues, we have collated a wealth of knowledge, talent and energy for the year ahead.

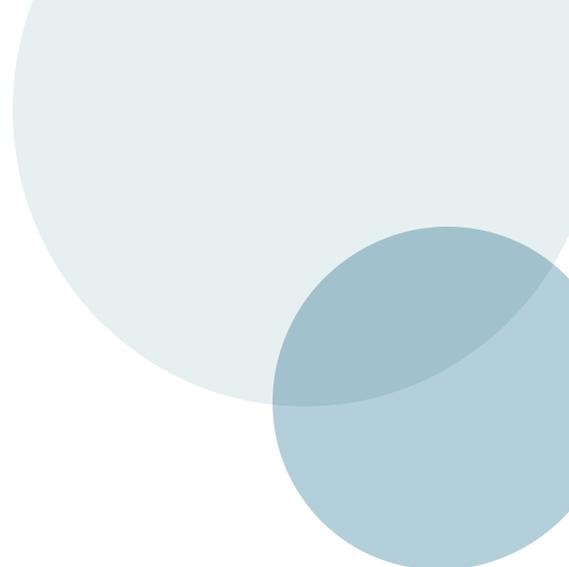
In May, IMU Health welcomed Prof Gerard (Gerry) George as Group Managing Director. While fully embracing the IMU's commitment to the three 'I's – Innovation, Imagination and Insight – Prof Gerry will draw on his extensive global experience to help shape the IMU culture to be one in which we collaborate, create and care.

Our main priority remains, as always, our students and providing them with the optimal journey as they make their way through our halls. We are committed to developing them not just into skilled and able health professionals but into globally aware citizens of the world, who will bring positive impact to the communities they serve.

Here are some of this year's efforts to enhance the student experience at the IMU.

Teaching and learning: technology and innovation

The use of technology and analytics continued to grow and we leveraged this to help students take charge of their learning through personalised on-demand tools and modules. Data gained through



“Our main priority remains, as always, our students and providing them with the optimal journey as they make their way through our halls. We are committed to developing them not just into skilled and able health professionals but into globally aware citizens of the world, who will bring positive impact to the communities they serve.”

these analytics gave us insights into individual learning styles, strengths and weaknesses, allowing us to provide appropriate remediation. We have done this through platforms such as the newly-launched alumni coaching initiative, where alumni assist current students in the areas that they need help in.

We have expanded our open and distance learning (ODL) offerings with new courses including the Bachelor of Nursing (Hons) ODL for registered nurses with diplomas looking to upgrade themselves. We also launched the country’s first ever standalone Fundamentals of Telehealth micro-credential course, which we developed together with health technology company Angsana Health. These efforts have been in line with the Government’s drive to transform healthcare through innovative health technologies.

Augmented and virtual reality as well as artificial intelligence have made learning more immersive and engaging for us in 2023. For example, the School of Dentistry now has state-of-the-art dental simulators

based on virtual reality technology to support students in their skills and learning experience.

Alongside this, the School rolled out a new teaching concept called “Entrustable Professional Activities” (EPAs). This system reinforces students’ skills and provides a structured way to assess their progress. The initiative was awarded the prestigious Patil Teaching Innovation Award from the Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE) – a clear reflection of the dedication and commitment of our faculty in creating impact through innovations in teaching and learning.

Graduating into the world

While our focus is on academic content, it is just as important that we prepare students for what comes next.

In August, we launched the Graduate Trainee Programme (GTP). The GTP enables students to pursue positions with well-established companies

while they are still on campus. Notable industry partners have come forward in support and to be a part of this practical career advancement and internship initiative. The GTP will open doors for mentorship, and opportunities for students to observe hands-on research and other ongoing projects in a company. Our students also get rights of first choice for employment with their mentor companies upon graduation.

In addition, we have introduced the element of entrepreneurship in our programmes. Entrepreneurship encourages invention and innovation. It pushes us to see opportunities instead of obstacles. These as well as interpersonal, analytical and leadership skills are important elements for our students wherever they go. The School of Health Sciences in particular has rolled out focused entrepreneurship programmes – which you can read more about in this report.

The IMU has also focused on solidifying its position on the international stage. This year, we have laid the groundwork to welcome medical students from Indonesia's Universitas Ciputra in Surabaya to complete a year-long research-based attachment at the IMU. It is a great step forward in enhancing the IMU as a destination for quality health professions education, providing a regional platform for driving growth in our programmes.

Research that changes lives

At the IMU, we believe that the University is not just about teaching and learning but bringing tangible impact to communities.

This is why we are proud to be part of the 12-year longitudinal open observational Seremban Diabetes (SeDia) Cohort study which was officially launched in July with the drafting of the first batch of participants. This was made possible with the Ministry of Health's collaboration and with an initial financial impetus of RM2 million donated by IHH Healthcare Berhad (IHH).

The knowledge gained will be transformative for the diabetic population, not just in Malaysia, but in the world.

We are also proud to report that eight of our faculty members have been listed among the top two percent of world researchers in an annual evaluation of all researchers and scientists who submitted their publications in 2022.

The healthcare ecosystem

We continued to build the Academic Health Centre (AHC) ecosystem – a cohesive healthcare ecosystem that integrates research, education and healthcare. We have many collaborative partners including hospitals under the Ministry of Health and several



private medical hospitals, including Columbia Asia hospitals. Our first step has been to secure attachments for our allied health students at the hospital in Bukit Jalil as well as practising rights for our faculty where they are able to offer their services at the hospital. This will give us ongoing exposure for both our students and faculty.

At IMU Healthcare, we carried on improving our medical, dental, chiropractic, Chinese medicine and dialysis facilities while putting in place plans to expand these services to include children's developmental health – both physical and mental. This will see the setting up of a group of paediatric specialists including neurologists, psychologists and psychiatrists. Our healthcare services will give us the scope to advance the elements of research and education within these fields.

Road to 500: The future will be bigger, better and bolder

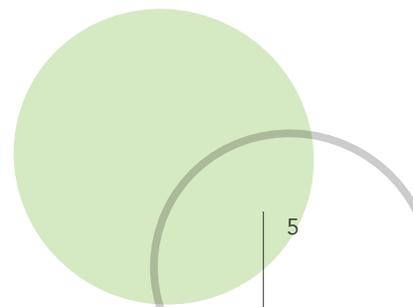
Our achievements this year have set the stage for the coming years. We are driving towards being a global 500 QS ranked university in the next five years. One of our first steps on our "Road to 500" is to embrace the One Health concept – that we not only live alongside nature and the animal kingdom but are affected by these elements of the world just as we affect them.

We are evolving towards a university ecosystem where we offer programmes, services and research that go beyond the sciences – we have introduced digital health, business management and communications in healthcare courses as well as elements of environmental health. Next, we will be looking at expanding beyond human health – with new lines of study and faculties under our umbrella that will incorporate animal health and further expand our environmental offerings.

At the same time, our second campus in the Klang Valley is due to be launched in 2024 which will enhance the facilities offered to students. It will indeed be an exciting time at the IMU as we grow as an institution and with the community around us.

I end this on a note of appreciation for all those who played a part in making 2023 a success. Looking ahead, we anticipate a year in which we will embrace bigger, newer challenges and reach greater heights – and I hope you will continue to journey with us.

Prof Abdul Aziz Baba
Vice-Chancellor
International Medical University



UNIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS 2023



The IMU honours its Senior Advisor and graduates the first cohort of the Master of Counselling programme

During its convocation ceremony, the IMU celebrated the achievements of its Senior Advisor, Tan Sri Dato' Dr Abu Bakar Suleiman, who was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Medicine for his significant contributions in the areas of medicine and education. Additionally, the event marked the graduation of the first cohort of Master of Counselling students at the IMU.

20
February

Pioneer cohort joins the Bachelor of Nursing (Hons) open and distance learning (ODL) programme

The IMU welcomed its pioneer cohort of students into the Bachelor of Nursing (Hons) programme offered in ODL mode.



24
June

5
July

Launch of the Graduate Training Programme (GTP)

The IMU introduced its groundbreaking Graduate Training Programme (GTP), designed to enhance student career prospects. Developed in collaboration with industry partners, the GTP immerses students in the real world, offering deep insights into sectors, companies and diverse career opportunities. Through early engagement, mentorship and hands-on research experiences, the programme fosters exploration and empowers students to shape their future from Year 1 onwards.





Launch of the SeDia Cohort, a major study on diabetes

The Seremban Diabetes (SeDia) Cohort Study was officially launched by His Royal Highness Tuanku Muhriz Ibni Almarhum Tuanku Munawir, the Yang Di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan. The SeDia Cohort Study aims to uncover the reasons behind the rise of diabetes in Malaysia and find solutions to the problem.

8
July

The IMU is awarded the highest accolade by the Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education

The IMU was placed under the Competitive (Berdaya Saing) category under SETARA 2022 for the third consecutive year.



1
September

The IMU is rewarded the prestigious Five-Star QS Star Rating

This global recognition of excellence in education and research reflects the IMU's commitment to providing a top-notch learning environment and contributing to knowledge advancement. It also strengthens our position as a leading institution in medical and health sciences.



11
September

The Master of Clinical Psychology kicks off with its pioneer cohort of students

The IMU welcomed its pioneer cohort of students into the Master of Clinical Psychology programme.

5
December



VISION

The IMU shall be an innovative global centre of excellence in learning and research, supporting a community of scholars and professionals committed to serving society, promoting the development of students to reach their true potential in becoming competent, ethical, caring and inquiring citizens and visionary leaders. The IMU is committed to academic freedom and the principles of equal opportunity in the pursuit and application of knowledge, the highest standards of intellectual, educational and research productivity; and the establishment of a learning organisation that respects the individual.



EDUCATIONAL MISSION

As an educational institution, our mission is:

- To further strengthen the IMU as a centre of excellence for undergraduate programmes in medicine, dental, pharmacy, health sciences and complementary and alternative medicine programmes
- To establish the IMU as a centre for higher education providing training through multidisciplinary programmes
- To establish the IMU as a centre for postgraduate training and Continuing Professional Education
- To train knowledgeable and skilful professionals with high ethical standards who will be dedicated to serve and improve the quality of life of the community
- To train competent professionals with the use of innovative technologies of knowledge especially ICT in the teaching-learning process



CORE VALUES

Our organisational culture is to be based on our value system: We will be an organisation driven by its values. These core values, encapsulated in the acronym TRUST, are:

Trustworthy

We are trustworthy and stand for integrity, reliability and commitment

Responsive

To change, and to the needs of individuals and communities

Unity

Of vision and in working towards the achievement of common goals

Service

A commitment to providing outstanding service

Tenacity

In the pursuit of excellence

We expect staff and students to embrace, live and demonstrate these values, so that they may become role models. These values are integral to our culture; they underpin our work, communication and interaction, and explain why we do business in the way that we do. Our culture and its embedded values will help us realise our vision of becoming a great organisation, and of producing graduates capable of being leaders.



QUALITY POLICY

We aim to be an innovative centre of excellence in learning and research, producing competent, caring and ethical professionals who are lifelong learners. We are committed to achieving the highest standards of intellectual, educational and research productivity.

CHANCELLOR & PRO-CHANCELLOR



CHANCELLOR

YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Dr Yahya Awang

MBBS (Monash), FRCS (Glasgow), SMJ, KMN, DPMJ, DMPN, DSAP, PSM, Hon Doct (UKM)



PRO-CHANCELLOR

YBhg Academician Datin Paduka Setia Dato' Dr Aini Ideris

DVM (UPM), MVSc (Liverpool), PhD (UPM), FASc, FIAS, FMCVS, FMSA, SSIS, DPMK, DSIS, PSK, KMN

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Dr Yahya Awang

Chairman

MBBS (Monash), FRCS (Glasgow), SMJ, KMN, DPMJ, DMPN, DSAP, PSM, Hon Doct (UKM)

YBhg Academician Datin Paduka Setia Dato' Dr Aini Ideris

DVM (UPM), MVSc (Liverpool), PhD (UPM), FASc, FIAS, FMCVS, FMSA, SSIS, DPMK, DSIS, PSK, KMN

YBhg Prof Dato' Dr Abu Bakar Abdul Majeed

BPharm (Egypt), MBA (USM), PhD (Neurophysiology) (Sheffield)

YBhg Prof Dato' Mafauzy Mohamed

MBBS (Adelaide), MMedSc (Sheffield), MRCP (UK), FRCP (Edin), HonDoc (IMU)

YBhg Prof Dato' Dr N.Sivalingam A/L Nalliah

MBBS, MCGP, MRCOG (Lond), FRCOG (Lond), MEd, MIDT, KMN, PMP, DPM

Prof Jeyakumar Henry

BSc (FoodTech) (Mumbai), MSc (Human Nutrition) (Lond), PhD (Human Nutrition) (Lond), AfN (UK), FIFST (UK), FIUFoST

Prof Abdul Aziz Baba

MBBS (Melbourne); MRCP (UK), MRCP (Dublin); FRCP UK (Edinburgh); Member, Academy of Medicine Malaysia

Prof Gerard George

MMS (India), MSc (Hons), PhD (USA)

Ex-officio members

YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Dr Abu Bakar Suleiman

MBBS (Monash), MMed (S'pore), MRACP, FRACP, AMP (Harvard), FAMM, FAMS, FRCP, FRCPE, FRCP (Glasgow), FRCPI, Hon FACP, Hon FRCSI, Hon FRCSE, FAFPM, FASc, Hon MD (Monash), Hon DMed Sc (UKM), Hon DSc (UPM), Hon PhD (UMS), Hon MD (Qld), DSC (HON) (SOTON)

Prof Dr Ian Martin Symonds

BMBS (Nottingham); MMedSci (Nottingham); DM (Nottingham); FRCOG (UK); FRANZCOG (Australia)

SENATE

Prof Abdul Aziz Baba

Vice-Chancellor & CEO, IMU Education

Prof Dr Ian Martin Symonds

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic

Prof Datuk Lokman Hakim Sulaiman

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research & Director, Institute for Research, Development and Innovation (IRDI)

Prof Winnie Chee Siew Swee

Pro Vice-Chancellor, Academic

Prof Er Hui Meng

Pro Vice-Chancellor, Education & Director, IMU Centre for Education (ICE)

Prof Dr Tan Eng Lai

Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies

Prof Dr Sharifah Sulaiha Hj Syed Aznal

Dean, School of Medicine

Prof Dr Seow Liang Lin

Dean, School of Dentistry

Prof Ong Chin Eng

Dean, School of Pharmacy

Prof Ts Anna Ling Pick Kiong

Dean, School of Health Sciences

Janice Chan Vey Lian

Director, Centre for Complementary & Alternative Medicine

Professors

Prof Dr Chandramani Thuraisingham

Prof Chin Beek Yoke

Prof Hoh Boon Peng

Prof Dr James Koh Kwee Choy

Prof Dr Khoo Suan Phaik

Prof Dr Lim Kean Ghee

Prof Mallikarjuna Rao Pichika

Prof Mohd Zulkefeli Mat Jusoh

Prof Dr Muneer Gohar Babar

Prof Dato' Dr N.Sivalingam A/L Nalliah

Prof Dr Nazimah Idris

Prof Dr Nilesh Kumar Mitra

Prof Ts Shar Mariam Binti Mohamed

Prof Dr Toh Chooi Gait

Prof Zhou Wenxin

Ex-officio members

Christy Chiu Lai Heng

Chief Operating Officer & Chief Financial Officer

Zuhanariah Mohd Nordin

Chief Librarian

Noor Azlinda Aripin

Legal Counsel, Legal & Secretarial

Secretary

Noraidah Yusoff

Registrar

**as of 7 October 2023*



EDUCATION

With seven Schools and Centres offering 43 programmes from pre-University level to PhD, the IMU is a place where academic life never stops. It was a year of exciting developments, with several initiatives to ensure that while students acquire the requisite clinical skills in their chosen fields, they also develop an understanding of the humanities (and humanity) as well as an entrepreneurial mindset and digital literacy – aspects which we believe are essential to the education of any healthcare professional today. To ensure our graduates stay relevant in the ever-evolving workplace that awaits them, we continued to strengthen ties with industry, while also equipping students with the outlook required to consistently thrive amid uncertainty.



EDUCATION: QUICK STATS 2023

Programmes offered in 2023

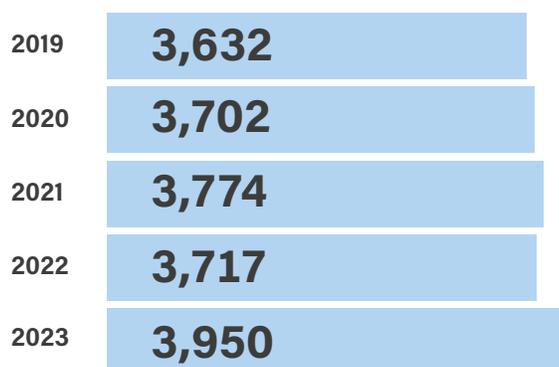
43

- 1** pre-university programme
- 15** undergraduate programmes
- 27** postgraduate programmes

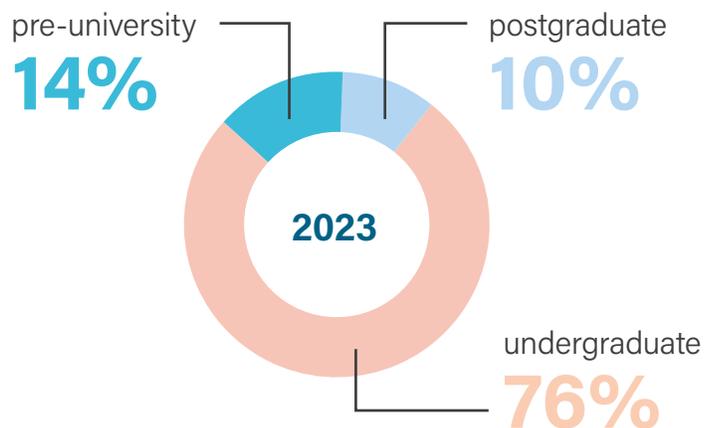
New programmes launched in 2023

2

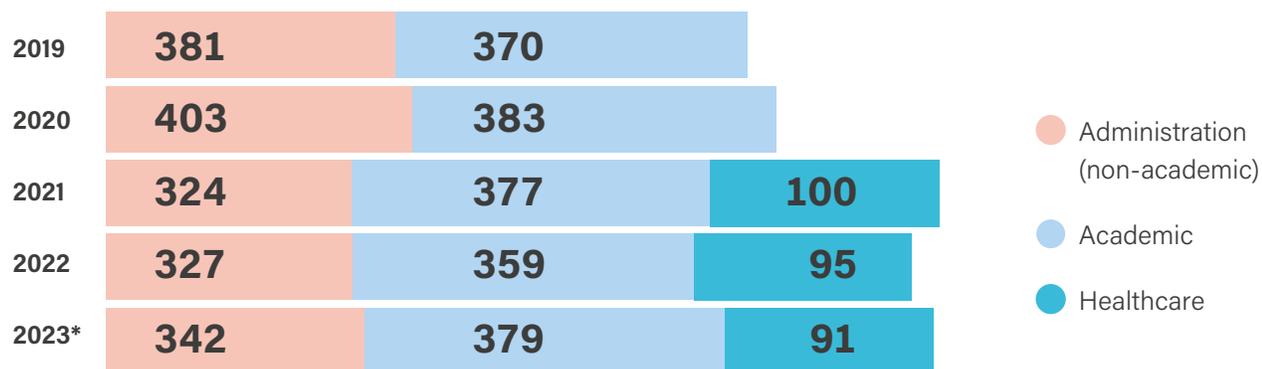
IMU student population (active students)



Students enrolled at various levels



IMU staff population



* as of Nov 2023

PROGRAMMES AND PATHWAYS

New in 2023

Programmes: Two new programmes were launched.

- Bachelor of Nursing (Hons) open and distance learning (ODL)
- Master of Clinical Psychology

Pathways: New developments this year with other universities included dual Master's degree pathways, an articulation arrangement from a postgraduate diploma to a Master's, and vertical transfers with credit exemptions arranged by the IMU's International Office. Students can look forward to more similar options in the near future.

- Dual Master's degree pathway: MSc in Public Health (IMU) and Master in Public Health (University of Arizona)
- Dual Master's degree pathway: Master in Health Informatics & Analytics (IMU) and MSc Digital Health Systems (University of Strathclyde)
- Graduates of the Postgraduate Diploma of Health Professions Education (PGDHPE) (IMU) can now articulate into the Master of Clinical Education at Flinders University
- Graduates of the Bachelor of Digital Health (IMU) who are admitted into the Master of Health Informatics (MHI) programme at Rutgers University will now receive nine credits for the MHI programme
- Graduates of the Master of Health Informatics & Analytics (IMU) who are admitted into the Doctor of Health Informatics (DHI) programme at Rutgers University will now receive nine credits for the DHI programme

Upcoming for 2024

Programmes

- Doctor of Philosophy in Health Professions Education
- Doctor of Philosophy in Healthcare Management

Chiropractic and Chinese Medicine: more to learn, more time to learn it

In March, the Centre for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CCAM) rolled out a new curriculum for its **Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Chiropractic**. The five-year curriculum replaces the previous four-year model, in line with the mandates of the Traditional and Complementary Medicine Act 2016 and the 2021 Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) Programme Standards. Clinical training has been strengthened, and new components covering sports chiropractic, technology integration, digital proficiencies and entrepreneurial facets have been added. The year also saw the CCAM launching a new five-year curriculum for the **Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Chinese Medicine**, with basic sciences content streamlined, increased credit hours for disciplinary core to allow sufficient time for discussion, improved robustness of assessment, and early clinical attachment.

IMU Bachelor in Medical Sciences to form part of Indonesian medical degree programme

Alongside our pioneering credit transfer programmes with universities around the world, our homegrown degrees have more than held their own, consistently garnering strong interest among students and employers. This year, in a first for us, we collaborated with a fellow university to enhance its students' academic experience through one of our programmes. The result: beginning in 2026, third-year medical students from Indonesia's **Universitas Ciputra in Surabaya** (already enrolled in 2023) who meet prerequisites will get to embark on a unique educational journey, spending a transformative year at the IMU's School of Medicine to pursue an **intercalated Bachelor in Medical Sciences (BMedSc)** programme.

After three intensive semesters at the IMU, students will earn the prestigious IMU BMedSc degree, and return to Indonesia to integrate their newly acquired knowledge into their local medical degree programme. Curriculum mapping for this arrangement reached its final stages in 2023, with timelines and logistical arrangements meticulously fine-tuned to ensure a seamless academic progression. Welcome, Universitas Ciputra!



Reverse credit transfer for AMRAK Sri Lanka's biomedical science students

Under our credit transfer arrangements with Partner Schools, students typically start out at the IMU, then conclude their academic journeys abroad. A new reverse credit transfer initiative mooted in 2023 will soon see movements in the opposite direction, with students from **AMRAK Institute of Medical Sciences** in Sri Lanka arriving in Bukit Jalil to conclude their studies.

Students from the 2024 intake of AMRAK's Higher Diploma in Biomedical Science programme will be able to articulate to the IMU in 2026 with a one-year exemption, and be awarded the IMU's **BSc (Hons) in Biomedical Science** degree upon completion of their studies at the IMU. Following a rigorous curriculum mapping exercise this year, a visit to AMRAK will take place in January 2024 to ensure that students are well-prepared and facilities at AMRAK are on par with the training conducted at the IMU.

Foundation in Science: student numbers

Number of students
registered in 2023

576

Increase in new enrolment
compared to 2022

13%

Over the past decade, the Foundation in Science (FiS) has equipped thousands of post-secondary school students for our science-related undergraduate programmes.

Pre-U preview: charting a new course in 2024

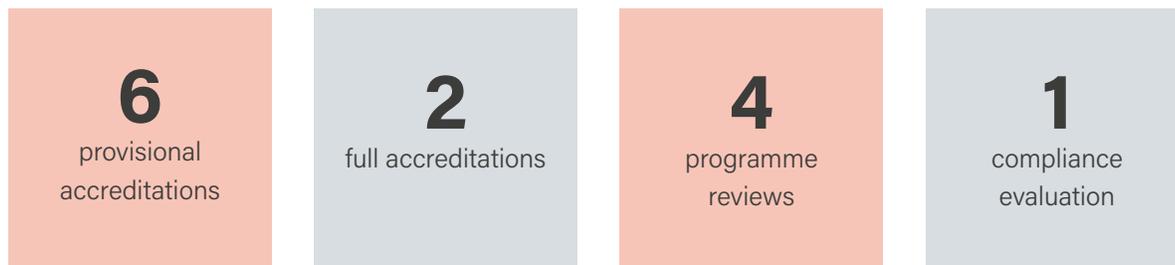
Since its establishment in 2014, the Centre for Pre-University Studies (CPU) has focused exclusively on delivering the Foundation in Science pre-university programme. Beginning September 2024, the CPU will be offering a second foundation course, designed for pre-university students intending to pursue non-science degrees and multi-disciplinary programmes. The one-year course will provide pathways into bachelor's programmes in business administration, language, communication and behaviour, economics, sociology, mathematics and data science, among others. The CPU's new offering is an exciting milestone that mirrors the evolving character of the IMU as the University prepares to welcome more undergraduate students in areas beyond the healthcare professions.

**“The launch of our new foundation course in arts in 2024
will open up exciting new frontiers for the
Centre for Pre-University Studies and the IMU.”**

– Dr James Edward Walsh, Director, Centre for Pre-University Studies

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Quality improvement at the IMU: accreditation exercises in 2023



New ISOs attained

- ISO 21001:2018 Educational Organisations Management System
- ISO 45001:2018 Occupational Health and Safety Management System
- ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Research Lab

Staying at the top of the game

This year, the IMU was awarded a QS 5 Stars (Excellent) rating for its second consecutive term. The QS Stars rating system is operated by the QS Intelligence Unit, the independent compiler of the QS World University Rankings®.

The IMU was also classified under the **Competitive (Berdaya Saing) category** in the **SETARA 2022** assessment. This honour demonstrates IMU's unwavering dedication to academic excellence and the delivery of high-quality education. The IMU is recognised in this category not only for its ability to compete at a higher level, but also as an institution that meets all assessment criteria utilised in the Malaysian University Rating exercise.

The IMU also maintained its 3-star rating from the Malaysia Research Assessment (MyRA) – an assessment system that measures the quality and impact of research and innovation in higher education institutions in Malaysia.



TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT



Boosting academic support at the School of Medicine

A medical programme is fast-paced and intensive, and even strong students may encounter difficulties now and then – but providing the right support at the right time, pre-emptively and remedially, goes a long way towards ensuring students remain (or quickly get back) on track. In 2023, the School of Medicine continued to arrange peer mentoring activities and other ongoing support, supplementing these with new measures including:

- **Lectures** on the fundamentals of Basic Medical Sciences with formative assessments in the introductory week of Semester 1
- An **Alumni Coaching Programme**, with alumni helping students in need of academic support
- **Augmented- and virtual-reality-assisted clinical simulation** for the Basic Life Support Course as supplementary learning prior to practical skills.

Dentistry's initiative on Entrustable Professional Activities wins prestigious AMEE award

When the School of Dentistry revised its Bachelor of Dental Surgery curriculum in 2021, one of the innovative features introduced was the use of **Entrustable Professional Activities (EPA)** to evaluate students' competencies in their daily clinical practice. Developed by a team led by Dr Sivakumar Arunachalam, this initiative won the prestigious Patil Teaching Innovation Award at the 2023 Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE) conference in Glasgow from 26-30 August. EPAs, according to Dr Siva, "are like a step-by-step guide for students, helping them learn the practical workplace-based skills they need for their future jobs." Students also receive targeted feedback and support based on their performance in specific EPAs.

"It has been a fruitful year for the School of Dentistry, with the staff working synergistically towards one common goal: to elevate the status of the School, thus contributing to the aspiration of the University to be ranked among the world's best universities. We are grateful for support from industry partners in enhancing students' learning experience."

– Prof Dr Seow Liang Lin, Dean, School of Dentistry

Get real: VR haptic dental simulators to enhance learning

This year the School of Dentistry acquired two units of the **Virtual Reality Haptic Dental Simulator**. Haptic technology creates an experience of touch for the user, thereby giving students a virtual learning experience that is close to the real thing. With this equipment, students can practise various dental procedures prior to performing them on patients. Timetabled sessions have been implemented to enable all cohorts of students to benefit from this advanced technology.



The new Virtual Reality Haptic Dental Simulator.

Final-year students launch country's first student-led dietetics clinic

Most final-year students cannot wait for a taste of the real world. If you are studying dietetics at the IMU, you won't have to. On 19 September, the **BSc (Hons) in Dietetics with Nutrition** programme under the School of Health Sciences launched the nation's first **Student Dietetics Clinic**, offering free dietetics services. Final-year students manage and run the clinic, supervised by clinical educators who are registered dietitians. The clinic was conceptualised by the faculty, but it is the students who are in charge of the planning, resources, programmes, and marketing of services, as well as the day-to-day operations. In doing so, they get hands-on exposure to the dietetics profession, setting up and managing a diet clinic, and developing an entrepreneurial mindset. The clinic will focus on serving communities in Bukit Jalil and beyond.

Lights! Camera! Education! (Just another day in eLearning)

The eLearning Department plays a crucial role at the IMU. This year saw the completion of the **Clinical Skills and Simulation Centre (CSSC) 360 Degree Video**, with the 14-video playlist uploaded on YouTube allowing viewers to explore the CSSC's amenities and offerings in an interactive and immersive manner. Meanwhile, work is progressing on the **Interactive 360 Degree Crime Scene** – an initiative to enhance criminology and forensic studies through an immersive 360-degree crime scene.

To support faculty needs, the **eLearn and Open and Distance Learning (ODL)** portals were upgraded in August. At the eLearning Bukit Jalil Studio, the new **PTZ Camera System's** ability to pan, tilt, zoom, and follow motion remotely using Internet protocol significantly streamlines the recording process and enables users to capture dynamic video footage with ease.

This year, the chosen theme for the **International Learning Resources Festival (iLRF2023)** was "AI Changes Education: Education Changes Human." The coveted Tan Sri Abu Bakar Trophy once again went to the School of Dentistry. Meanwhile, at the International University Carnival on E-Learning (IUCEL) 2023, Marliana Omar Bakhi and Piriyaadharshini A/P Maniam representing the IMU's eLearning Team took home the Bronze Award for Teaching Technology Toolkit (3T).



Library and Medical Museum

One key initiative at the IMU **Library** this year involved the upgrading of the **Central Digital Repository (CDR)** from DSpace version 6 to version 7. The CDR is a digital collection of the University's intellectual output. All data has been migrated. Also in 2023, nine librarians designed nine **interactive Information Literacy modules** to support students' and faculty members' needs.

Over at the **Medical Museum**, the team in collaboration with faculty and eLearning are developing a **video that will showcase the Museum's facilities in an immersive 360-degree view**.

In collaboration with Elsevier, the Medical Museum and Library organised a Complete Anatomy (CA) workshop on 3 February that was attended by both IMU faculty and external educators from various local universities and colleges. The Museum also hosted a **demo session** to introduce faculty and corporate staff to mixed reality technology which included using the HoloLens software and headsets. A 3D scanning and printing demonstration was also conducted.



Clinical Skills and Simulation Centre (CSSC) and Multidisciplinary Lab (MDL)

The **Clinical Skills and Simulation Centre (CSSC)** – at the Clinical Campus in Seremban as well as at the Bukit Jalil campus – provided year-round **support for students** in the form of guided self-directed learning (GSDL) sessions (with a new paging system installed to improve students' experience); guidance from CSSC lecturers and tutors; and teaching and learning videos in collaboration with eLearning.

Meanwhile, **support for faculty** included conducting the Basic Life Support provider course to certify faculty, and the objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) Examiners Training Workshop to train new examiners. This year, four CSSC staff participated in a staff mobility programme to the Adelaide Health Simulation Centre to improve their expertise in simulation-based education

for health professionals. The CSSC also supported **research** at the IMU, with the Centre in Seremban playing a vital role in the recruitment of patients for the Seremban Diabetes (SeDia) Cohort Project.

The **Multidisciplinary Labs (MDL)** offer facilities and services for students, faculty, and healthcare practitioners and the public. MDL staff conduct self-directed learning (SDL) sessions to enable students to refresh their laboratory skills before practical exams such as the objective structured laboratory examination (OSLE). This year, to support faculty needs, the MDL upgraded the e-demo and uploaded it to the e-learning portal under MDL resources. An MDL Helpdesk was also introduced to record all events requiring MDL support.





At the Multidisciplinary Lab, inbound mobility students from China working on an activity facilitated by a Biomedical Science lecturer.



Children from the RUTH Learning Center participating in a blood typing activity at the Multidisciplinary Lab, under the Hopeful Mind Project.

Assessments: how best to evaluate our students?

The way we assess students has changed over the years and will continue to advance in the future. On 9 February, renowned international experts in assessment came together at the webinar **“Synthesis and Perspectives from the Ottawa 2022 Conference”** organised by the IMU Centre for Education to highlight vital changes and updates in assessment. These included designing systems of assessment, feedback conversations, outcomes-based assessment, the best use of portfolios, technology in assessment, tensions between high-stakes testing, and programmatic assessment. The speakers were from Singapore, Finland, Australia, Sweden, Canada and Malaysia.

“The year 2023 has been both exciting and challenging at the School of Medicine. Our sense of ‘oneness’ has helped us grow not just in terms of student and faculty numbers, new programmes, and new partners, but also in terms of collegiality at the workplace, productivity, and loyalty to the institution.”

– Prof Dr Sharifah Sulaiha Syed Aznal,
Dean, School of Medicine

Assessments: School of Medicine explores new strategies

From June to October 2023, the School of Medicine (SOM) conducted a pilot study of apps for **workplace-based assessment (WPBA)** to facilitate more efficient capture, delivery, and aggregation of formative assessment data for the **Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS)**. The objectives of the study were to determine the feasibility and usefulness of using a WPBA digital application, the usability of the application, and its acceptability to tutors and students. SOM faculty members, Ministry of Health staff, and Semester 8 and 9 students were involved in the project, for which the IMU procured H.Prime, an electronic WPBA solution that allows assessors and students to easily manage their WPBA responsibilities. The results showed that 81.9 percent of the trainers and 71.6 percent of the trainees perceived the app as offering an acceptable usability experience. Analysis revealed a need to improve the digital interface and effective communication in scheduling assessments at the right time in the clinical posting. As to acceptability, the face-to-face feedback discussions were valued highly by students, and are expected to facilitate reflective learning and close learning gaps. Training of faculty and staff, provision of additional time in timetables, and student knowledge and sensitisation are also paramount to the success of WPBAs.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Everyone benefits when everyone learns

It is not just students who learn at the IMU. Our faculty and staff are also dedicated to continuous learning to empower themselves and thrive in an ever-evolving professional landscape. Development initiatives rolled out by the Human Resource Department included **high-performance leadership programmes** that assisted heads of schools and departments to manage change and acquire new skills such as the agile scrum methodology.

LinkedIn Learning was also introduced to all faculty and non-academic staff. The vast library of online courses covering a wide range of subjects – from technical and business skills to personal development and creative pursuits – will help ensure that our workforce can access courses tailored to their specific roles and personal interests.

This year also saw 18 managers taking up their **certification as coaches**. Armed with coaching competencies such as communication skills and active listening, they will now provide coaching to peers and will be catalysts for personal development and performance improvement.

The IMU Centre for Education also organised a series of **Health Professions Education (HPE) journal clubs** to bring together a community of health professions practitioners to reflect, share ideas and bring about positive change in the IMU learning environment. The gatherings were held in January, March, May and June.



Recognising teaching excellence

The IMU **Teaching Excellence Awards (TEA)** have been established to acknowledge faculty who have demonstrated a particularly high standard of teaching. This is not limited to the lecture theatre, but includes any activity that has a positive impact upon students' learning experience. The 2023 TEA was awarded to Dr Sagineedu Sreenivasa Rao (Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry), Dr Teoh Gaik Kin (Department of Psychology), Dr Kirti Saxena (School of Dentistry) and Dr Chen Seong Ting (Department of Nutrition and Dietetics).

“We at the School of Postgraduate Studies would like to thank all our students for their trust in us, and we look forward to an even more exciting journey together in 2024.”

– Prof Dr Tan Eng Lai, Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Narrative medicine: the human side to the story

Medical students undergoing clerkship have many stories of patient encounters to share. This year, some of these stories were compiled by the School of Medicine in a publication titled ***Celebrating the Human Touch***. The book was edited by faculty editors Prof Dr Lim Kean Ghee and Prof Vishna Devi Nadarajah, and alumni editors Dr Tee Chen Giap and Dr Brenda Chin. The editors hope it will help to highlight the growing field of **narrative medicine**. “All our patients have a human side to their story,” notes Prof Dr Lim. “They have joys and regrets, worries and fears. I believe if we read examples, we are more likely to remember to connect with patients at that level.” Complemented by works of art from IMU students, the stories cover aspects such as first encounters with young patients, navigating illness in adulthood, caring for the caregiver, and coming to grips with grief.

Scan the QR code to read the book!



Pharmacy first-years don white coats on World Pharmacists Day

It was a doubly memorable day for students joining the **Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons)** programme in 2023, with the School of Pharmacy organising the new intake's **White Coat Ceremony** to coincide with World Pharmacists Day on 25 September. The White Coat Ceremony, held to signify the start of a student's professional pharmacy education, is so named for the symbolic moment when new students are robed in white coats by their seniors. Akmalayatun Kamal Kamaruddin, Director of Pharmacy Board Malaysia, was the guest of honour on this occasion, which also saw the 2023 cohort pledging to embrace and develop professional values and attributes.

“In the years ahead we will focus on making sure our programmes remain relevant within the ever-changing landscape of pharmacy and the pharmaceutical sciences.”

– Prof Ong Chin Eng, Dean, School of Pharmacy



The White Coat Ceremony to welcome new Pharmacy students.

IMU students bring together peers from other unis

The **18th Malaysian Pharmacy Students' Association (MyPSA) National Gathering of Pharmacy Students (NoGAPS) 2023** unfolded over four days in August at the Bukit Jalil campus. The event was meticulously orchestrated by the **IMU Pharmacy Students' Association (IPSA)** in collaboration with MyPSA. The chosen theme, "Rise, United, Shine," encapsulated the values and ambitions that resonate within the hearts of Malaysia's pharmacy students. The gathering brought together 131 participants from various universities. Activities included team-building exercises, a Public Health Campaign Challenge (PHCC), workshops, symposiums, and a gala night.

Also in 2023, **IMU medical students** who are members of the **Asian Medical Student Association - IMU (AMSA-IMU) chapter** organised a series of student-led activities throughout the year, comprising webinars, workshops, podcasts, special awareness campaigns, and the **National Anatomy and Pathology Summit**. Other student-led activities at the School of Medicine included the Intersarsity Battle of Skills (iBOS), organised with IMU faculty and the Malaysian Society for Simulation in Healthcare (MaSSH) and the Global Surgery Symposium, organised by the IMU Student Surgical Society in collaboration with the Malaysian Student Surgical Society. The Symposium attracted more than 150 medical students from all over Malaysia.



The 18th Malaysian Pharmacy Students' Association (MyPSA) National Gathering of Pharmacy Students (NoGAPS) 2023 at the Bukit Jalil campus from 10-13 August.

Scoring at the inaugural SOHS Young Entrepreneur Challenge

Train them, coach them, and watch them excel on the pitch – this is not football academy, but the inaugural **School of Health Sciences (SOHS) Young Entrepreneur Challenge**. Co-hosted by SOHS and Youth Ventures Asia, the new Challenge is already set to be an annual event where students can win seed funding to kickstart their entrepreneurial dreams. SOHS students who took up the Challenge in 2023 were coached and trained by a group of experienced mentors in a series of workshops on entrepreneurship skills such as business planning and pitching. At the final event on 11 October, participants pitched their ideas in a bid to win the Young Entrepreneur Challenge award. Kogulakanna Alagappan from the Biomedical Science programme won the grand prize for 'MetaCare4u', an idea for a platform to connect individuals who require mental support. The day also saw the first SOHS Entrepreneurship Forum taking place, with talks by IMU Health Group Managing Director Prof Gerry George and Youth Ventures Asia CEO Hanif Marzuki.

Health sciences students to come under alliance of leaders

This year, the **School of Health Sciences (SOHS)** took the first step towards becoming part of the **Asia Pacific Alliance of Health Leaders (APAHL)**, with Dr Lim Swee Geok and Dr Chang Woan Ching of the Nursing faculty attending the 2023 APAHL forum in Hong Kong from 1-4 November. The Alliance focuses on **developing leadership skills among health sciences students**. Soon, SOHS students will have a chance to learn from their peers as well as be mentored by the health sciences faculties of Yamaguchi University, Chiang Mai University, Mahidol University and Hong Kong University.

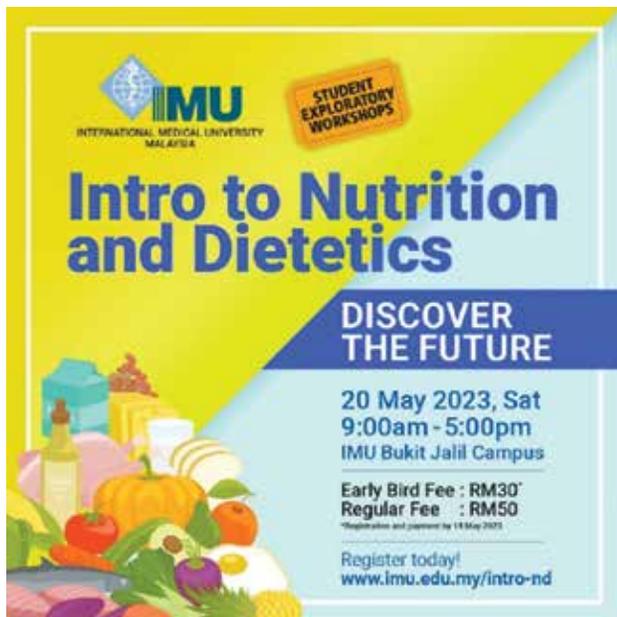
“Students’ learning experience and research opportunities at the School of Health Sciences have benefited immensely from the School’s strong partnerships with industry. It is our hope that these connections will continue to nurture the industry-driven ecosystem within the IMU.”

– Prof Ts Dr Anna Ling Pick Kiong, Dean, School of Health Sciences

Engaging with the public

IMU students are passionate about their chosen fields and thrilled to share what they know – nowhere is this more evident than at the annual events held to introduce the general public to the world of medicine and the health sciences. At these events, students transform into enthusiastic educators, imparting knowledge through poster displays, talks, workshops, campus tours, hands-on demonstrations and interactive games.

- **WFC World Spine Day:** The World Federation of Chiropractic (WFC) holds an annual competition for the best programme held in conjunction with World Spine Day. For the third consecutive year, IMU Chiropractic students and staff walked away with the top prize in the Educational Institution Category. (18 Jan)



Intro to Nutrition and Dietetics was one of the Student Exploratory Workshops organised in 2023.

- **Biomedical Science Fiesta:** The Fiesta is a student-led event organised by the IMU Society of Biomedical Science. This year's edition was designed around the subject of mycology. (20-22 Mar)
- **Medical Biotechnology Day:** Themed "The Algae Revolution: Preparing for the Future", the event's objective was to showcase the utility of algae in modern biotechnology industries and their impacts on our daily lives. (6 Jul)
- **Oral Health Week:** The primary goal of this student-led annual activity is to promote awareness about oral hygiene practices and the importance of maintaining good oral health. (11-12 Jul)
- **Pharmaceutical Chemistry Week:** This year's theme was "Towards Achieving the SDGs: Green and Sustainable Chemistry in Education and Practice". This year's event was held in conjunction with the 15th anniversary of the BSc (Hons) in Pharmaceutical Chemistry programme. (13-14 Jul)
- **Pharmacy Week:** The chosen theme for 2023 was "Pharmacy Strengthening Health Systems". (2 Aug)

Other events such as the **Science Discovery Challenge 2023** and the **Student Exploratory Workshops (SEW)** were geared towards secondary-school and pre-university students, while intervarsity competitions included the **IMU Intersvarsity Medical Science Quiz Competition 2023**, the **IMU Case-Based Learning (Intersvarsity Challenge)**, and the **2nd Intersvarsity Battle of Skills (iBOS)**.

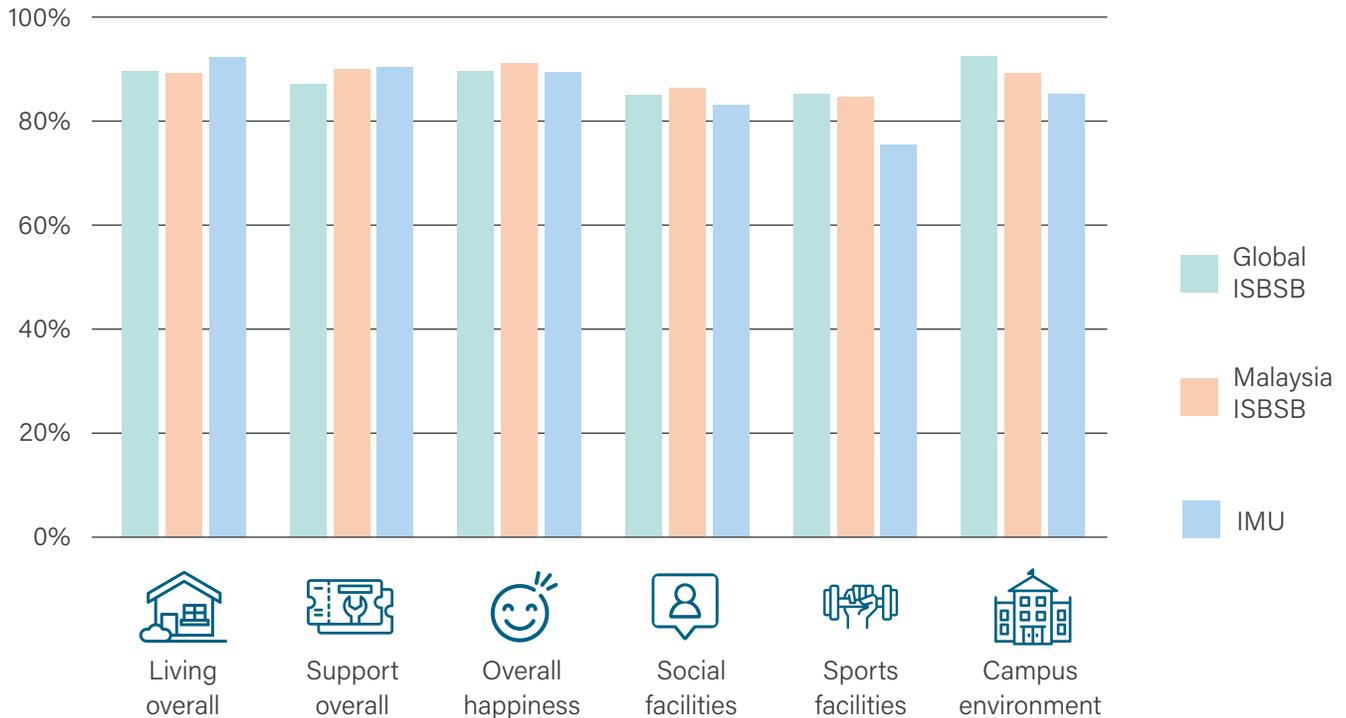


Pharmacy Week.

Students are happy to be back on campus!

While still embracing hybrid modes, the percentage of **face-to-face lectures** had increased to 60 percent as at June 2023. Students were happy to come back to the campus and to be back physically in laboratory and clinical skills sessions. The overall satisfaction response in the **i-Barometer** (a survey conducted annually to measure the students' satisfaction with the educational environment) in 2022 was 89 percent, compared to a similar response of 88 percent in 2021. The satisfaction response under laboratories improved from 88.6 percent (2021) to 92 percent (2022). The i-Barometer consists of the International Student Barometer and Student Barometer (ISBSB).

Happiness with selected parameters and facilities



“As we say goodbye to 2023, we are thankful for the past and excited about what is to come. We look forward to an amazing year ahead with endless possibilities and lots of growth.”

– Janice Chan Vey Lian, Director, Centre for Complementary and Alternative Medicine

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

CENTRE FOR PRE-UNIVERSITY STUDIES

Students

- **Davin Chong Ming Juan** was the overall winner and Champion of this year's pre-university section of the IMU Science Discovery Challenge. The category attracted 1,680 participants from educational institutions across the country, and it was the first time the prize was won by an IMU Foundation in Science student.
- **Hoh Jia Xian** and **Chang Xue Rou** reached the final round of the National Statistics Competition held at Universiti Sains Malaysia.



Davin Chong Ming Juan (right), overall winner and Champion of the pre-university section of the Science Discovery Challenge, with his twin brother Dennis Chong Ming Jian who took sixth place in a field of 1,680 competitors.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Students

- **Heng Hian Jie, Gan Ching Earn, Tasha Elizabeth Lee May Shan, Lai Wei Joe** and **Rebecca Ng Ru Wen** took second place at the North Borneo Intersarsity Surgical Quiz Competition, organised by Universiti Malaysia Sabah in conjunction with the Sabah Surgical Conference 2023.
- **Prathiksha Karthikeyan** won first place in the finals of the Open Category at the National University of Singapore's Medical Grand Challenge.
- **Simon Cheah Mun Fai, Raja Nur Shahkeerah Raja Kamarulzaman** and **Fathimath Saeedizuhaath Shameem** were runners-up at the 2nd Intersarsity Battle of Skills (iBOS) 2023, a medical emergency competition organised by the IMU and the Malaysian Society for Simulation in Healthcare (MaSSH).

Faculty

- **Dr Chua Siew Houy** was elected as a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.
- **A/Prof Dr Erwin Khoo Jiayuan** completed a fellowship at the Center for Bioethics, Harvard Medical School, USA.
- **Prof Dr Hally Sreerama Reddy Chandrashekhar Thummala** was included in Stanford University's list of the world's top 2% of scientists.
- **Dr Juliet Mathew** was appointed as Chairman of the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) Selangor.
- **Dr Katrina Chung** was included in Stanford University's list of the world's top 2% of scientists.
- **A/Prof Dr Kavitha Nagandla** was elected as a Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (FRCOG). She was also invited to organise a colposcopy workshop at the AICC RCOG Conference 2023 in New Delhi.

- **Dr Meenal Mavinkurve** won for Best Oral Paper at the 12th National Paediatric Research Conference.
- **Nabil Ahmed Saleh Eid** was included in Stanford University's list of the world's top 2% of scientists.
- **Prof Nazimah Idris** was appointed as President-elect of the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Malaysia (OGSM); Honorary Secretary for MERCY Malaysia; and a member of the Specialty Education Subcommittee, Panel of Accreditors for Undergraduate and Postgraduate programmes, O&G programmes, Malaysian Medical Council.
- **A/Prof Nicole Chen** was appointed as President of the Malaysian Marriage and Family Therapy Association.
- **Dr Ong Jun Jean** won for Best Poster at the 12th National Paediatric Research Conference.
- **Prof Renu Agarwal** and **Prof Igor Nikolayevich Iezhitsa** won the Gold Award at the Pharmacy - Invention, Innovation and Design Exposition (Pharm-IIDEx) 2023.
- **Dr Serena In** was appointed as a member of the EXCO of the Malaysian Society of Clinical Psychology.
- **Prof Sharifah Sulaiha Hj Syed Aznal** was appointed as a member of the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) for 2023/2026, and a member of the Special Task Force Subcommittee, Malaysian Association of Education in Medical & Health Science (MAEHMS). She was also a member of the Housemanship Education Subcommittee, MMC; and a member of the Panel of Scientific Reviewers Asia Pacific MEC.
- **A/Prof Dr Sunil Pazhayanur Venkateswaran** won Best Oral Presenter at the Malaysian Association of Education in Medical & Health Science (MAEMHS) Conference 2023.
- **Prof Syed Mohamed Aljunid Syed Junid** received the Outstanding Public Health Medicine Specialist Award from the Malaysian Public Health Medicine Specialists' Association of Malaysia.
- **Dr Yam Wai Keat** was appointed as an Executive Board Member of the Global Organisation for Bioinformatics Learning, Education and Training (GOBLET). She was also invited to join the Education Committee Chairs' Group, Representing Asia Pacific, International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB).

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Students

- **Brenda Lim Wei Yi** and **Chong Chia Meng** won third place for Research Road Map at the 15th National Dental Students Scientific Conference 2023.
- **Chua Teck Kwang** won Third Prize in the video presentation competition at the "Oral Health Care in the Elderly - Problems and Solutions" virtual event organised by Mahidol University - National Cheng Kung University (MU-NCKU) Overseas Hub in Thailand.
- **Goh Su Mein** won Third Prize at the International Dental Clinical Skills Competition organised by the Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh.
- **Tan Yi Wen** won First Prize for the Class IV Restoration Competition at the National Dental Students Clinical Skills Competition (NDSCSC) 2023.
- **William Tan Yan Wei** won First Prize at the International Dental Clinical Skills Competition organised by the Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh.

Faculty

- **Dr Ranjeet Ajit Bapat** was included in Stanford University's list of the world's top 2% of scientists.
- **Prof Dr Seow Liang Lin** was elected as a Fellow of the Faculty of Dental Trainers of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.
- **Prof Dr Seow Liang Lin** and **A/Prof Dr Umer Daood** were granted a patent by the Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO) for their invention relating to an adhesive composition for use in dental treatment.
- **A/Prof Dr Sivakumar Arunachalam** and his team won the Patil Teaching Innovation Award at the AMEE Glasgow 2023 conference.
- **A/Prof Dr Umer Daood** won a Silver Medal at the Malaysia Technology Expo.



Prof Dr Seow Liang Lin was elected as a Fellow of the Faculty of Dental Trainers of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

Students

- **Goo Wei En, Lim Pei Ying, Tan Wai Yee** and **Nur Hamizah Nazaruddin** won second place in the Country Finals of Project iDEA Challenge 2023.
- **Ng Man Xin** won the prestigious MPS-Duopharma Biotech Gold Medalist Award 2022 at the National Pharmacists Convention 2023.
- **Tan Xin Ni** won first place in the Clinical Skills Event and third place in the Patient Counselling Event at the 22nd Asia Pacific Pharmaceutical Symposium 2023 at Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
- **Tay Chia Pao** won the IKM Graduate Chemistry Medal Award 2023.

Faculty

- **A/Prof Dr Dinesh Kumar Chellappan** was included in Stanford University's list of the world's top 2% of scientists.
- **Dr Kow Chia Siang** was included in Stanford University's list of the world's top 2% of scientists.
- **A/Prof Lee Choy Sin** won a Silver Medal at the Malaysia Technology Expo. She was also shortlisted for the 15th National Academic Awards the Teaching Award Category.
- **Lee E Lyn** was awarded the Doctoral Publication Excellence Prize 2022 by the School of Pharmacy, University of Auckland.
- **Dr Liew Yun Khoon** was a judge for the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Challenge 2023 through social media platforms under the Malaysian Society of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (MSMBB).
- **Dr Lim Lay Cheng** received the Travel Award and the Malaysian Proteomics Society (MAPS) Travel Award to attend the 22nd World Congress of the Human Proteome Organization (HUPO 2023) in Busan, South Korea. Dr Lim was also a co-opted council member for MAPS.
- **Prof Mallikarjuna Rao** won a Bronze Medal at the Malaysia Technology Expo.

- **Prof Mohd Zulkefeli Mat Jusoh** was appointed as Chair of External Advisors of the Bachelor of Pharmacy Programme, UNISZA; Panel Assessor, Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA); Panel Assessor for Relocation of Premises of Masters and PhD programmes in Pharmaceutical Chemistry, UiTM; Panel Assessor for Maintenance Audit of the Master in Pharmaceutical Analysis programme at the Faculty of Pharmacy, UKM; a member of the National Main Committee for Pharmacy Practice Credentialing; and a member of the Scientific Committee and chairperson for oral sessions at the National Pharmacists Convention (NPC) 2023. Prof Zulkefeli was also appointed as a Council Member and Principal of the Malaysian Academy of Pharmacy, and was a Committee Member of the National Medicine Policy.
- **Prof Ong Chin Eng** was appointed as an Editorial Board Member for *Xenobiotica*, a journal published by Informa.
- **Dr Palanisamy Sivanandy** was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH), UK.
- **Dr Pravinkumar Vishwanath Ingle** was appointed as an Associate Editor for *Pharmacy Education*, the official publication of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP). He was also the Keynote Speaker at the G20 International Online Conference - Shaping A Sustainable And Inclusive Global Future, Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya, India.
- **Dr Vasudeva Rao Avupati** won for Best Oral Presentation at the International Medical Education Conference (IMEC) 2023. He was also Keynote Speaker for the international workshop, "Desktop to Benchtop: Correlation of Simulation-Based Drug Discovery with In-Vitro and In-Vivo Pharmacology".

Students

Applied Biomedical Science and Biotechnology

- **Emily Wong Yan Yi** won the Best Poster Presentation Award at the 33rd Intersarsity Biochemistry Seminar.
- **Goh Wen Xi** won the Best Poster Presentation Award at the 47th Annual Conference of the Malaysian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.
- **Low Jun Ying, Tam Kah Wey** and **Emily Wong Yan Yi** won the Professional Judges Award in the Malaysian Society For Molecular Biology And Biotechnology (MSMBB) Tik Tok Video Challenge.
- **Low Jun Ying** won the Best Oral Presentation Award at the 33rd Intersarsity Biochemistry Seminar.
- **Luis Lim Wei Cheng** won the Best Poster Award at the 13th Malaysian Symposium of Biomedical Science.
- **Oo Wei Jet** won Second Prize at the 6th Intersarsity Parasitology Oratorical Competition 2023.

Nutrition and Dietetics

- **Connie Ung** won Second Prize in the Best Student Oral Research Presentation category at the 28th Malaysian Dietitians' Association National Conference 2023.
- **Jeff Fang** won Third Prize for IPD Oral Case Presentation at the 3rd International Virtual Undergraduate Symposium on Clinical Dietetics (IUCD) 2023.
- **Lee Chiu Ying** was awarded the Undergraduate Thesis Prize at the 38th Scientific Conference of the Nutrition Society of Malaysia.
- **Nathaniel Keshan Rajah** won Third Prize in the Best Student Oral Case Study Presentation category at the 28th Malaysian Dietitians' Association National Conference 2023.
- **Vivi Ann Thu Pui Ka** won Third Prize in the Best Student Poster Research Presentation category at the 28th Malaysian Dietitians' Association National Conference 2023.



Faculty

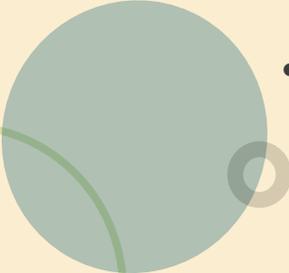
Applied Biomedical Science and Biotechnology

- **Prof Ts Dr Anna Ling** was elected as a Fellow (FRSB) of the Royal Society of Biology (RSB), UK. She was also appointed as the External Assessor for Internal Quality Audit for the Master of Science in Biotechnology programme at the University of Nottingham Malaysia.
- **Dr Ebenezer Chitra Fabian** was elected as a Fellow of the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS), UK.
- **A/Prof Dr Fabian Davamani** won a Silver Medal at the Malaysia Technology Expo. He was also a runner up in the Innovation and Technology Essentials Workshop organised by MRANTI (Malaysian Research Accelerator for Technology & Innovation).
- **Prof Hoh Boon Peng** was appointed as a Research Fellow for the Pahang Ecology Research Centre, University College of Yayasan Pahang; and a Ministry of Higher Education Panel Assessor for the Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS).
- **Ts Dr Wong Chiew Yen** was appointed as the University Representative to the National Antarctic Research Centre Steering Committee.

Nutrition and Dietetics

- **Dr Kanimolli Arasu** was appointed as a Committee Member for "Jawatankuasa Pembangunan Standard Kompetensi Dietetik Profession". She was also appointed as a Scientific Committee Member for the Allied Health Scientific Conference 2023, and a Committee Member for Dietetics Profession nomination to the Allied Health Professions Council.
- **A/Prof Dr Snigdha Misra** was appointed as an External Examiner for the University of Mauritius's BSc (Hons) Nutritional Sciences.
- **Dr Tan Ming Yeong** was appointed as a Task Force Member for the Diabetes Education Manual (3rd Edition) by the Malaysian Diabetes Educators Society.
- **Dr Wong Ting Xuan** was awarded the Postgraduate PhD Thesis Prize 2023 at the 28th Malaysian Dietitians' Association National Conference.
- **Dr Yang Wai Yew** was appointed as a Committee Member for Dietetics Profession nomination to the Allied Health Profession Council.
- **Dr Yong Heng Yaw** won the NSM Publication Prize at the 38th Scientific Conference of the Nutrition Society of Malaysia (NSM).

Nursing

- **Dr Chang Woan Ching** was appointed as a Member of the Reviewer Committee for 2018 Standard Criteria for Accreditation/ Approval of Nursing Programmes by Lembaga Jururawat Malaysia (LJM).
 - **Chow Suh Hing** was appointed as a Task Force Member for the Diabetes Education Manual (3rd Edition) by the Malaysian Diabetes Educators Society.
 - **Dr Lim Swee Geok** was appointed as a Committee Member of the Nursing Chapter (Education) by the Association of Private Hospitals Malaysia (APHM).
 - **Siti Hajar Ali** was appointed as a Committee Member of the 2nd National Anaesthesia & Intensive Care Conference for Nurses and Assistant Medical Officers (NAICC-NAMO) 2023.
 - **Tan Woei Ling** was conferred the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Nursing) by Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM).
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Students

- **Soh Yi Xian** was awarded an International Sports Chiropractic Emerging Student Scholarship by the International Federation of Sports Chiropractic (FICS).
- **Yee Shu Shuen** received a Chinese Government Scholarship from the Chinese Scholarship Council to pursue postgraduate studies at Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Faculty

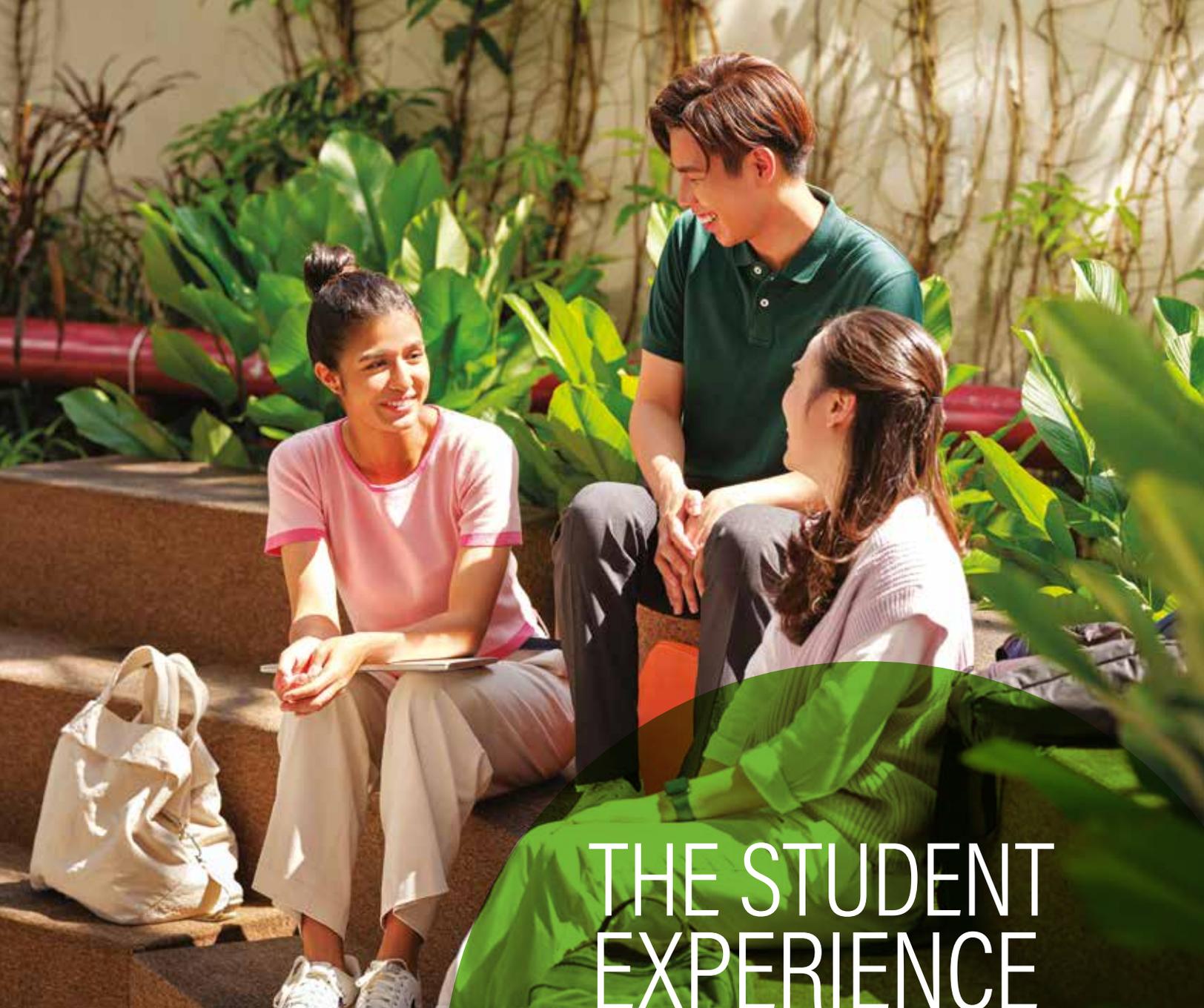
- **Janice Chan Vey Lian** was appointed as a Member of the Traditional and Complementary Medicine Council, Ministry of Health.
- **Sin Yen Suan** and **Sng Kim Sia** contributed to the Ministry of Health's development of national guidelines for the Framework on Traditional and Complementary Research in Malaysia.
- **Sofiah Hanis Ahmad Hisham** was appointed as IMU Representative to the Malaysian Anatomical Association.
- **Dr Wong Hon Foong** was an article reviewer for *World Journal of Traditional Chinese Medicine*. He was also appointed to the Joint Technical Committee for Accreditation Assessment of Traditional and Complementary Medicine Programmes by the Traditional and Complementary Medicine Council, Ministry of Health.
- **Dr Wong Yi Kai** was appointed as President of the Association of Chiropractic Malaysia. He was also appointed to the Traditional and Complementary Medicine Council, and the Joint Technical Committee for Accreditation Assessment of Traditional and Complementary Medicine Programmes, both under the Ministry of Health; and the World Federation of Chiropractic International Test of Competence Committee. At Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Dr Wong was a guest lecturer for the Sungai Long Campus's Traditional Chinese Medicine Programme.
- **Dr Wong Zhi Hang** was appointed as a Member of the Traditional and Complementary Medicine Council, Ministry of Health, and as external examiner for the Chinese Medicine Programme, Xiamen University Malaysia Campus.

Students

- **Dr Mak Kit-Kay** was the recipient of the YSPSAH Excellent Scientific Paper Award 2023.
- **Maya Chandrasekaran** was selected for an E Poster award at the International Forum on Quality & Safety in Healthcare in Melbourne, Australia.
- **Noorazyani Mohammed Yusof** won for Best Paper and Best Presenter in the Oral Presentation Category at the Pahang State Pharmacy Research & Development Convention 2023.

Faculty

- **Prof Dr Adlina Suleiman** was elected as Deputy Secretary of Akademi Profesor Malaysia.
- **The late Prof Dr Chu Wan Loy** was included in Stanford University's list of the world's top 2% of scientists.



THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

The student experience at the IMU is meant to outlast the years that are spent within our halls. It is our hope that students will find a solid footing of lasting friendships and life lessons that will stay with them long after they have graduated. We have carefully curated activities and opportunities to help and support students in their journeys – from career guidance and mental health support to platforms for interaction – and to develop them into globally-aware resilient graduates



INDUSTRY INITIATIVES: QUICK STATS 2023

**Signed Memorandums
of Understanding for
2023**

30

companies

**Industry Advisory Boards
(IABs)**

54

members from various industries have joined us on our IABs for 12 programmes. Ten have had their first meetings in 2023.

**Campus Employer
Presence***

108

companies (as of Dec 2023)

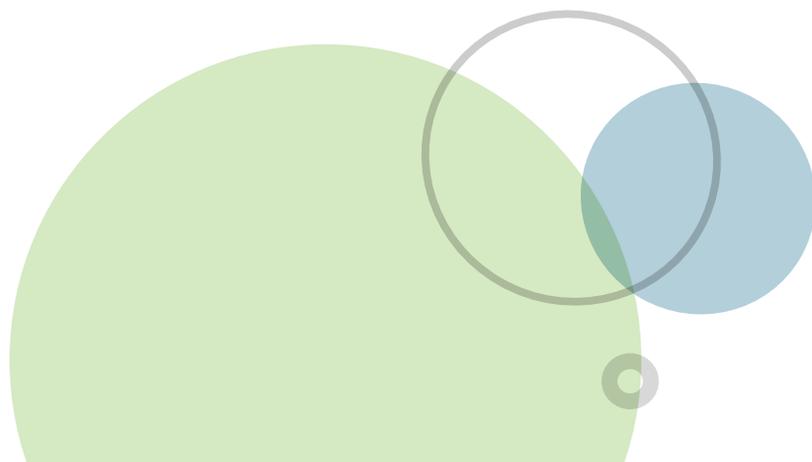
**Industry Partner
engagement****

328

interactions with 244 companies

*Employers who were physically present on the IMU Campus with the purpose of interacting with IMU students to enhance their employability. This involvement encompasses participating in events like the IMU Graduate Career Fair, Campus Hiring, the Industry Advisory Board Forum and Industry Engagement sessions or talks.

**These engagements encompass internships, research collaborations, student mobility programmes, industry placements, guest lectures and other career-oriented initiatives.



CAREER

Graduate Training Programme to provide head start

In July, the Industry Partnerships and Career Development Unit (IPCDU) launched the **Graduate Training Programme (GTP)** – a career advancement and internship initiative that allows students to pursue positions with well-established companies while they are still on campus. Conversely, it serves as an early talent pool for the industry – with 18 companies signed on with us, offering up to 82 placements, under the initiative. Through early engagement, mentorship, and hands-on research experiences, the programme fosters exploration and empowers students to shape their future from Year 1 onwards. The GTP is open to students from all undergraduate programmes. The arrangement also paves the way for academic exchanges and research collaborations.



GTP partners at the IMU Graduate Career Fair.

The 18 companies under the GTP initiative

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Alpro Pharmacy | 11 Nature Concept TCM Healthcare Sdn Bhd |
| 2 Awake Minds Centre | 12 Nourish-Tech Chinese Medical Centre Sdn Bhd |
| 3 Cell Agritech Sdn Bhd | 13 Robert Walters Sdn Bhd |
| 4 Chiropractic First Group | 14 Solution Biologics Sdn Bhd |
| 5 CryoCord Sdn Bhd | 15 Synapse Sdn Bhd |
| 6 CSI Medical Research | 16 The Xi Group |
| 7 Eppendorf Asia Pacific Sdn Bhd | 17 Tonik Asia Group |
| 8 Greencom Nanotech Sdn Bhd | 18 Xepa Soul Pattinson Malaysia |
| 9 HAN Neuro Acupuncture & Herbal Specialists | |
| 10 IQVIA RDS Malaysia Sdn Bhd | |

Industry Advisory Boards formed

In 2023, new **Industry Advisory Boards (IABs)** were formed for various programmes across the University. Ten convened their first meetings this year. Under the academic purview of the Dean of Industry Partnerships, the goal is to set up IABs across all programmes. The IAB members are experts from relevant sectors, several of them alumni who now hold leadership positions in their companies. These programme-level IABs advise schools on a range of areas including the evolving needs of the industry, alignment of learning outcomes with the skills and competencies required in the workplace and newest technologies and advancements in the field.



The annual career fair

Every year, the **IMU Graduate Career Fair** organised by the IPCDU offers an interactive platform for students and companies to establish valuable connections and explore promising opportunities in the healthcare and related industries. At the 2023 edition held on 5 July, we saw participation from 50 industry partners from various sectors, including medical and healthcare providers, pharmaceutical companies, retail pharmacies, healthcare technology firms, insurance companies and private hospitals. The lively affair had 403 students exploring future careers and potential opportunities through unique initiatives such as a “speed dating” session where graduating students were given the opportunity to meet face-to-face with key hiring personnel from participating industries.

Get ready with me – skills for the workplace

This year, the IPCDU conducted 13 **career workshops** on topics such as curriculum vitae writing, developing professional online portfolios and how to ace interviews. It also ran four **essential skills workshops** on critical thinking and problem-solving skills, communication and public speaking, time management and personal effectiveness as well as building resilience. Designed for interactivity, the workshops have helped more than 550 students hone problem-solving skills, cultivate resilience and innovation, and enhance the ability to maintain a positive mindset in the face of adversity – all skills essential to their future work life.

In addition, students have had access to career guidance counsellors at the **Career Advisory Clinic** where eight clinic sessions were held as we continued to help students explore careers, introduce job search strategies, develop professional portfolios and more.

MENTAL HEALTH

Embracing a culture of well-being

To support students' mental health needs, the Self-Development Unit (SDU) implemented many new initiatives during the year. We have engaged new local mental health professionals to offer **mental health services for the clinical campuses** in Batu Pahat and Kluang. These are in addition to the services already available at the Seremban clinical campus.

The SDU also worked with the Department of Psychology on the new **IMU mental health app**, which can promote SDU counselling services and help students find useful resources. The app was introduced during the Mental Health Week.

We continued ongoing talks at the campuses to raise awareness and promote help-seeking behaviour among students and introduced a new initiative where IMU counsellors and clinical psychologists collaborated with the IMU Library to review books and share **mental health-related podcasts**. Topics discussed included depression, mindfulness, perfectionism, mental health and self-compassion.

Students also got the chance to participate in the **Psychological First Aid (PFA) workshop** – offered to faculty in previous years. Held at the

clinical campus in Seremban on 7 October with 15 students, the PFA uses the crisis intervention model recommended by the World Health Organization for addressing crises, regardless of scale. The workshop received overwhelmingly positive student feedback, with participants rating their readiness to serve as psychological first aiders at an average score of 4.25/5.

In collaboration with the Human Resources Department and Peer Support Club (PSC), the SDU also organised the **Standard Mental Health First Aid Workshop (SMHFA)** for students and staff. The SMHFA course is a programme licensed from Mental Health First Aid International Australia. By incorporating SMHFA training into our services for students, we aim to equip participants with the necessary skills to effectively support and assist others facing mental health challenges.



A new initiative, the monthly **Me-Time colouring activity**, gives students an opportunity to gather in a relaxing session and unwind. At the IMU, students will find a range of initiatives to help them build connections and support healthy mental behaviours.

A Global Perspective on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

The SDU collaborated with the School of Medicine, the Centre for Pre-University Studies and the Malaysian Medical Association Selangor (MMA Selangor) to organise a talk by Erik Muckey, CEO of Lost&Found, a US-based organisation. He discussed global mental health issues, the effects of suicide, and his team's evidence-based efforts to prevent suicide and assist survivors in rural and indigenous communities in the US. A total of 351 students registered for the talk which was held on 21 November.

Counselling at the IMU (Jan - Sept 2023)

Total counselling hours

1,200

Most discussed topics

- Emotional/behavioural issues
- Relationships
- Academic
- Clinical
- Self and identity

Celebrating the right to mental health

The annual **Mental Health Week** was held to highlight the significance and elevate the awareness of mental health in the IMU community. Held from 5 to 10 October, the theme of 2023's Mental Health Week – co-organised by the Peer Support Club and the SDU – was "Mental Health is a Universal Human Right". This was in alignment with World Mental Health Day. Throughout the week, we reached out to 491 students who enjoyed themselves while they enhanced their knowledge and awareness, as well as gained inspiration to advocate for and safeguard the mental health of all individuals as a fundamental human right.



INTERNATIONALISATION AND DIGITAL TOOLS

Growing our global connections

There has been a consistent growth in **collaborations with international partners** across the globe that has seen steady growth of IMU inbound and outbound mobility students. In 2023, 10 new partners joined the mobility consortium, giving us a total of 58 partners as at the end of December. This academic cooperation enhances the learning experience of students and knowledge sharing of staff by exposing them to the cultural, economic, political, educational and ecological aspects of other countries. Students and faculty develop global mindsets for career advancement, teaching and learning strategies, research, academic collaborations and being successful in any environment. This is in line with the aspiration of the IMU to be among the top 500 universities in the world.

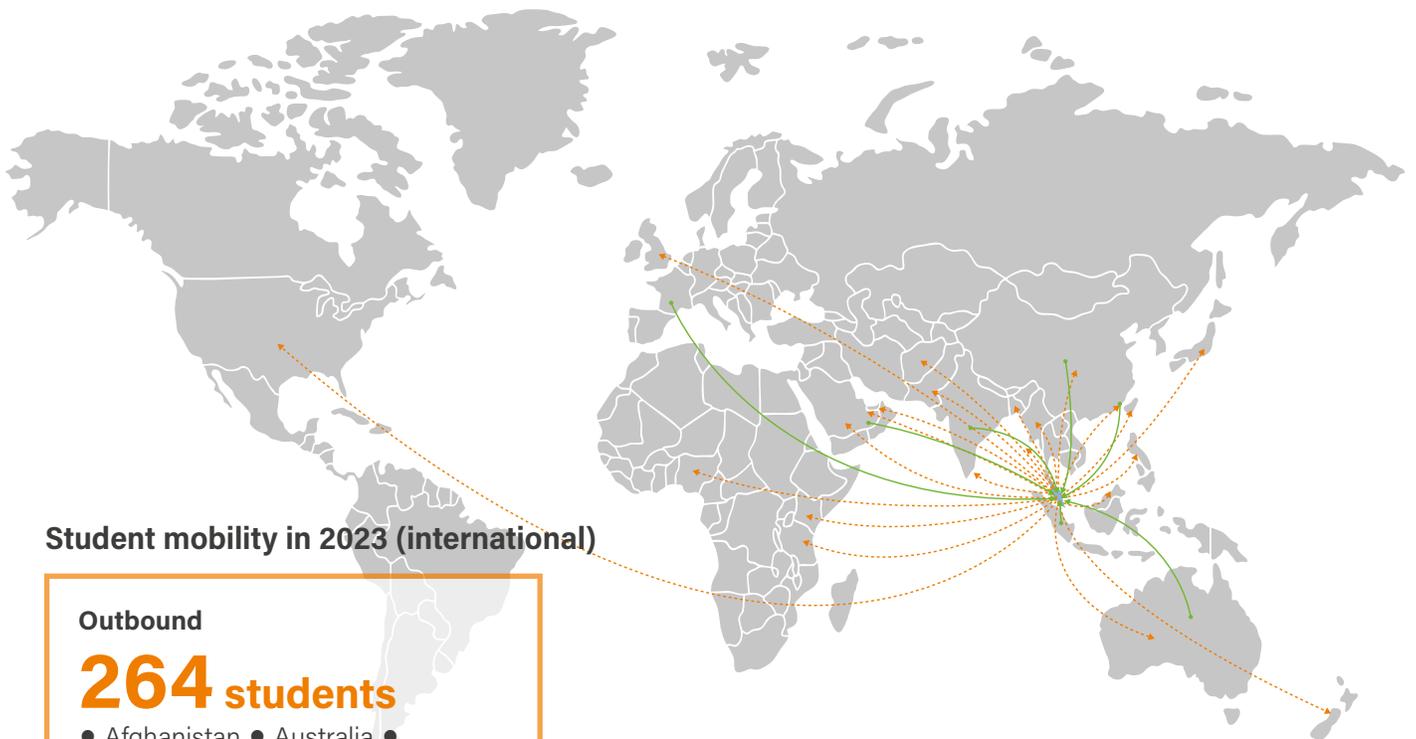


Student mobility: the global experience

IMU students can select from a variety of outbound opportunities for research, elective modules, or cultural exchange programmes. Since its inception in 2008, more than 2,800 IMU students have gained varied external learning experiences at hospitals, pharmacies and other places around the world. These outgoing students are fully or partially supported financially by the IMU. Mobility programmes are typically for two weeks, with some programmes being of shorter duration and others lasting up to four weeks.

This year, 264 students went on an international outbound experience whilst 266 international students came into the IMU to get inbound, local exposure.

Schools and Centres will now also be able to apply for student mobility funding and organise group outbound mobility visits to partner mobility institutions. For students on the inbound track into the IMU, we have continued to work with Australian universities to apply for the New Colombo Plan funding to open up more opportunities for students.



Student mobility in 2023 (international)

Outbound

264 students

- Afghanistan • Australia • Bangladesh • Brunei • China • Hong Kong • India • Japan • Kenya • Maldives • Myanmar • New Zealand • Nigeria • Pakistan • Philippines • Qatar • Saudi Arabia • Singapore • Sri Lanka • Taiwan • Tanzania • UAE • UK • US

Inbound

266 students

- Australia • China • France • Hong Kong • India • Indonesia • Singapore • UAE

Buddies without borders: the international student experience

Through the **International Student Buddy System**, the Teaching and Learning Department assigns an existing student to each new international student for two weeks prior and two weeks after they arrive in Malaysia. It aims to support new students as they transition from their home countries to the IMU and Malaysia and to help them adapt to the new environment effectively.

This year, the Centre for Bioethics and Humanities (CBH) also carried out the **Bahasa Melayu Buddy Programme**, in collaboration with the Student Representative Council, on 26 August and 9 September 2023. Participants were exposed to the nuances of Bahasa Melayu as well as Malaysian culture and etiquette relevant to clinical practice. A total of 23 international students participated in this event.



Digitally-enhanced student experience

Digital tools have been enhancing the student experience in various forms at the IMU.

This year, new online initiatives included the roll-out of the **IMU One Stop Centre (OSC)**. The OSC is a university digital transformation project to establish a seamless experience for students, beginning with pre-admission and continuing through excellent engagement and operational efficiency to alumni status. The first phase was launched by the Teaching and Learning Department in December 2023.

Also leveraging on technology, the CBH launched the **MPU Critical and Creative Thinking E-Certificate** in

February 2023 and has seen close to 250 participants. It was developed for students to self-learn and collect digital badges upon completion of critical and creative thinking tasks. These included problem-solving, case study, reflection, poster design, creative writing and visual art projects.

Students were also able to practise mock tests on the new **online MUET test platform**. This helped students to assess their preparedness for the MUET writing, reading, listening and speaking tests. The Online MUET Model Test was held three times on 14 April, 17 July and 4 October 2023. Students expressed high satisfaction with the tests, finding them extremely beneficial.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Inaugural speech competition

The inaugural **Magna Prima Uno (MPU) Slay** speech competition was conceived by the Centre for Bioethics and Humanities (CBH) to encourage students to share their thoughts on pressing topics that included education, society, culture, health, technology, environment and personal values. It also sought to develop students' critical, creative and reflective thinking skills. Students were encouraged

to advocate for change and inspire audiences to social action. The competition came at a time when engaging face-to-face was especially important as students returned to campus after the comfort of being behind screens. A total of 63 undergraduates participated with three winners emerging as outstanding speakers. The competition has been set to be a triannual event.



Transcript for extra-curricular activities

Students who graduated in June 2023 were the first cohort to receive an **extra-curricular activities (ECA) transcript** that recorded all their non-academic activities during their time at the IMU. The introduction of the IMU non-academic transcripts is a great development for students as a good ECA transcript enriches the student's portfolio and helps them along the way in their job search, scholarship applications or further studies. We also hope that the availability of this useful document will encourage and facilitate active involvement in student activities and enhancement of the student experience at the IMU.

Student life: fun and celebration galore!

Despite their packed schedules, IMU students can always be relied on to make time for well-earned moments of fun, on campus and off, with fellow IMU students and with counterparts from other universities.

The inter-campus **IMU Goodwill Games** was held in May in Seremban. The games aim to foster closer ties between IMU staff and medical students. Various activities are held, ranging from physical activities to online gaming.

The annual **IMU Cup**, organised by students for students, was held from 21 August to 31 October during which six sports houses – Draco, Griffin, Hydra, Pegasus, Phoenix and Taurus – competed in 25 types of sports and games. This year, sports house Draco emerged as the champion.

The IMU Japanese Cultural Club (IMU JCC) collaborated with counterparts from other universities to organise the **Tsukimi Bunkasai 2.0** which ran from 9-10 September. Tsukimi Bunkasai is an Anime, Comic and Games (ACG) carnival that featured elements of Japanese culture such as origami, the Japanese tea ceremony (chado), Japanese food and beverage, traditional games and clothing, as well as contemporary elements such as anime, V-tubers,

live performances and cosplay. The carnival also brought together the Japanese Cultural and AniManga clubs of other universities and built strong inter-university connections.

At the School of Postgraduate Studies, students and faculty of the Postgraduate Business Administration in Healthcare Management (PGBAHM) programmes braved the rapids at the **PGBAHM Teambuilding** event.

The School of Dentistry organised the **Tooth Gala Night**, where 150 students and 10 academic staff of the Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) programme celebrated the completion of Phase 1 for the 2021 cohort and the completion of the BDS programme for the 2018 cohort. Aside from that, the **Dental Cup**, held annually by the School's Oral Health Committee, strengthened the bond between students and faculty through sports.

Sporting events hosted by other institutions gave our students additional opportunities to shine. The **National Dental Intervarsity Games (NDIVG) 2023** was organised by SEGi University in collaboration with the Malaysian Dental Students' Association (MDSA). Some 70 of our students participated, winning prizes in swimming, table tennis and dodgeball events. We also performed well at the **sports tournament organised by MASISWA**, a sport organisation for students from Malaysian private universities. Tu Kimmie (School of Medicine) bagged the Silver Medal in the women's long jump; Yew Chi Zhu (School of Dentistry) won silver for both the women's 1500m and 5000m events; and Aishwarya Krishnamoorthy (School of Medicine) won silver in the women's 5000m Race Walking.

Special mention must be made of Foundation in Science student Tan Khai Xin, a national swimmer who represented Malaysia at the **2023 SEA Games** in Cambodia. He won two bronze medals and broke the national record in the 400m Individual Medley Swimming event.



SCHOLARSHIPS AND SPONSORSHIPS

Scholars at the IMU

As a testament to the quality of education at the IMU, the university was proud to receive the latest batch of Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA) scholars. MARA is a government agency that provides financial assistance and support for various social and economic programmes in Malaysia. The students enrolled into the IMU's Medicine programme in September 2023.

To encourage bonding and building of friendships, sponsored students under the IMU-Merit, JPA and MARA schemes participated in the **Scholars Camp 2023** which was held from 7-8 October at Radiant Retreats, Janda Baik, Pahang. The 30 participants enjoyed the two-day camp with activities focused on teambuilding, character building and leadership skills.



The camp also strengthened the relationship between scholars and the Student Services Financial Aid team, and enhanced the scholars' awareness about the support available at the IMU.



New IMU Merit and Need Scholarships granted in 2023

The IMU offers three types of scholarships:

1

IMU-Merit Scholarship: This scholarship is awarded to students demonstrating outstanding academic excellence, extra-curricular participation and leadership qualities. It covers either full or partial tuition fees.

2

IMU-Need Scholarship: This scholarship is awarded to students facing financial difficulties who demonstrate good academic achievement despite the challenging situation. This scholarship covers 100 percent of tuition fees.

3

Pantai-Gleneagles Scholarship: This scholarship is a need-based scholarship designed to assist students enrolling into nursing programmes and who are from families with dire financial difficulties.

New scholarships in 2023

15

IMU-Merit Scholarships

3

IMU-Need Scholarships

RM3,402,210

total award/bursary

Do marketing skills have a place in the health professions?

In July, a group of pharmacy students from the IMU made the university proud by securing second place in this year's AZ Project iDEA Challenge. The nationwide competition, organised by pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca, was aimed at helping students prepare for employment by providing opportunities to learn essential work skills (outside of the pharmaceutical and health purview) such as marketing and communications.

This year, the challenge was to craft a marketing campaign to educate children and young people about chronic kidney disease (CKD).

The four final-year pharmacy students – Wayne Goo, Lim Pei Ying, Tan Wai Yee and Nur Hamizah Nazaruddin – who formed the Team PawsitiveCode, impressed the judges at the finals with their innovative ideas, which featured digital ads with talking robotic pets powered by AI, as well as a unique social media challenge.

As part of the preparation, the team attended a pitching workshop by the organising committee, refined their presentation and incorporated attention-grabbing props, including a lovable stuffed toy dog – Paws. It was a trip out of their comfort zones – but the experience was priceless.

“Through this competition, we have gained a better experience and opportunity at networking with people from the pharmaceutical industry. Networking with the staff led us to potential internships or job offers, and insights into career paths within the pharmaceutical sector – a territory

that is hard to tap into especially for undergraduate pharmacy students with barely any experience to begin with,” said the team.

“Not only that, by joining the AZ Project iDEA challenge, we applied our theoretical knowledge that we learnt in our classroom towards real-world scenarios. We seamlessly combined medical knowledge from our Pharmacy course, marketing skills from our Pharmaceutical Management and Entrepreneurship module, and the digital health exposure gained through our digital health elective module to address the challenge with innovative solutions. Therefore, gaining further experience in solving any problems that come our way.”

At the IMU, we want students to have more than just academic study. Explore further, go farther, rise higher! Scan the QR code to find out more about their experience.



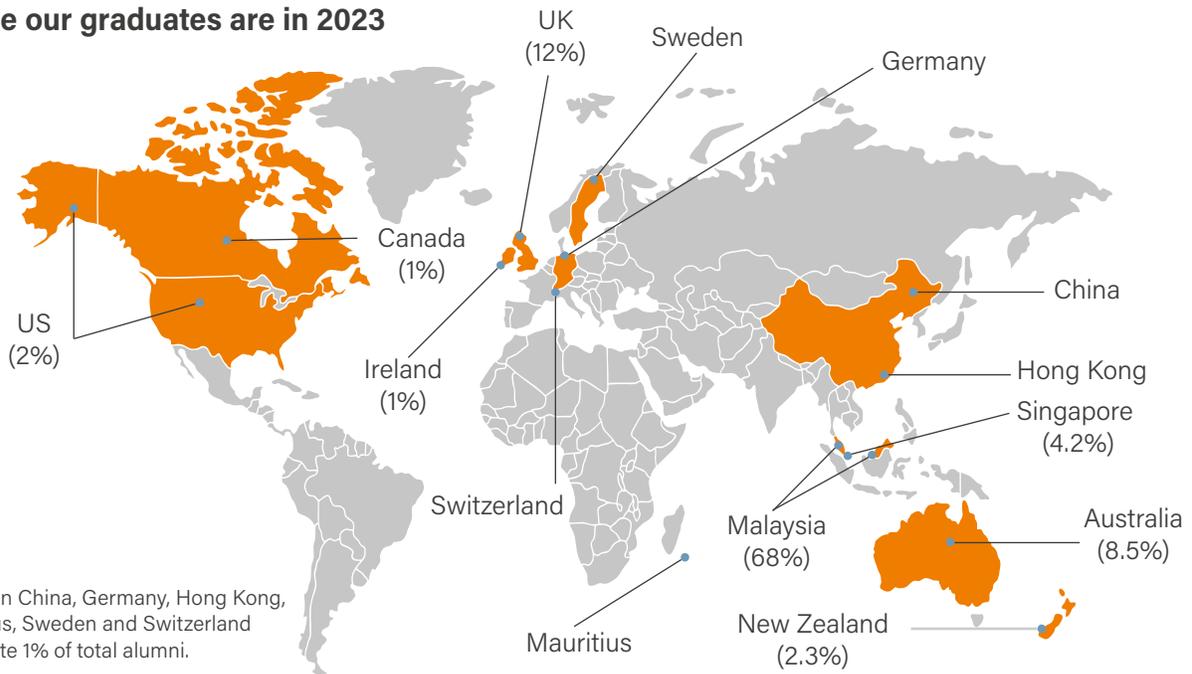
ALUMNI

Legacy around the world

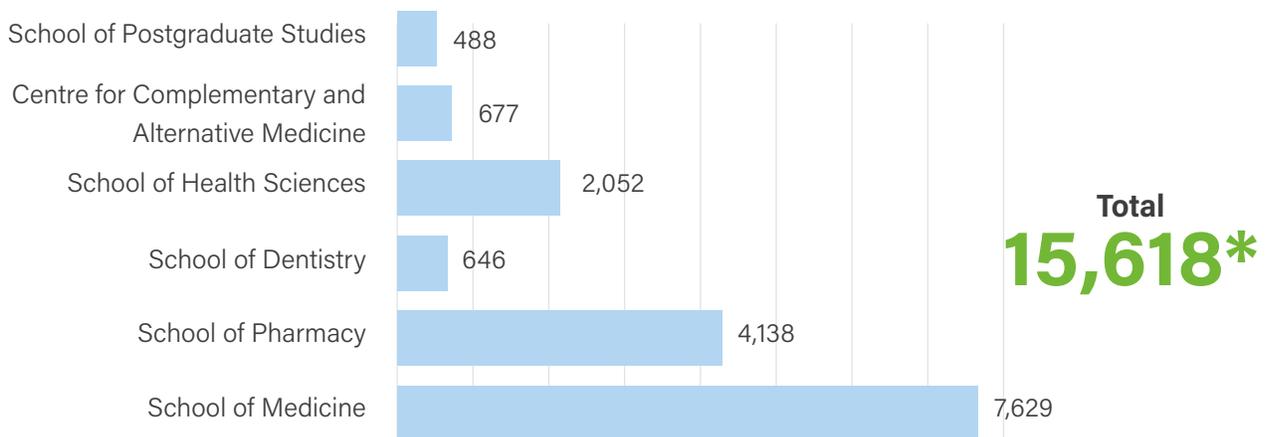
The IMU is proud of its alumni who have found their niches in various places in the world. The majority of our alumni reside in Malaysia (68 percent) with the UK and Australia coming in as the next two popular places

of residence. The IMU is looking at the establishment of a UK Alumni Chapter in 2024 to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of our graduates residing there.

Where our graduates are in 2023



Total number of alumni/graduates as of 27 December 2023



*Some alumni are graduates of multiple programmes.



The inaugural Alumni Family Day

As part of our efforts to ensure a lively alumni platform, we held the inaugural **IMU Alumni Family Day** on 9 December. IMU alumni and their families came together to network, as well as celebrate and reminisce about their time at the IMU. The event also served as a platform for alumni to showcase and promote their businesses. At the same time, it provided an opportunity for alumni to contribute to the community through a donation drive which was channelled to the Children's Training Centre.

Alumni assist

Who better to help students than someone who's been there and done that? In addition to serving as our best ambassadors in the working world, many of our alumni are happy to return to campus – in person or virtually – to help support current students. This year, the School of Medicine established an **Alumni Coaching Programme**, while over at the School of Pharmacy, the **Professional Practice Fellow** programme continues to connect Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Chemistry students with alumni. These connections help promote a seamless transition from university to workplace for students. Alumni also stepped up to help our younger students, with Foundation in Science students learning about careers and opportunities in medical biotechnology and biomedical science via an **alumni sharing session** organised by the Division of Applied Biomedical Science and Biotechnology, School of Health Sciences (SOHS).

The **10th School of Dentistry Alumni Homecoming** was organised on 5 November. This year's theme was "The Shining Stars" and was well attended by over 60 alumni, current students and academic staff.



RESEARCH

Our position on research is simple – we try to make sure it's everywhere. In a pre-university student's paper, in a graduate-level talk that undergraduates might attend, in conversations between our faculty and their counterparts elsewhere in the world, and of course, in the many labs we have on campus. At the IMU, research at advanced levels is spearheaded and coordinated by the Institute for Research, Development and Innovation (IRDI). We believe in taking a multidisciplinary and integrated approach, and we are committed to providing comprehensive support to our researchers as they work on advancing knowledge in science, healthcare and education.



INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION: QUICK STATS 2023

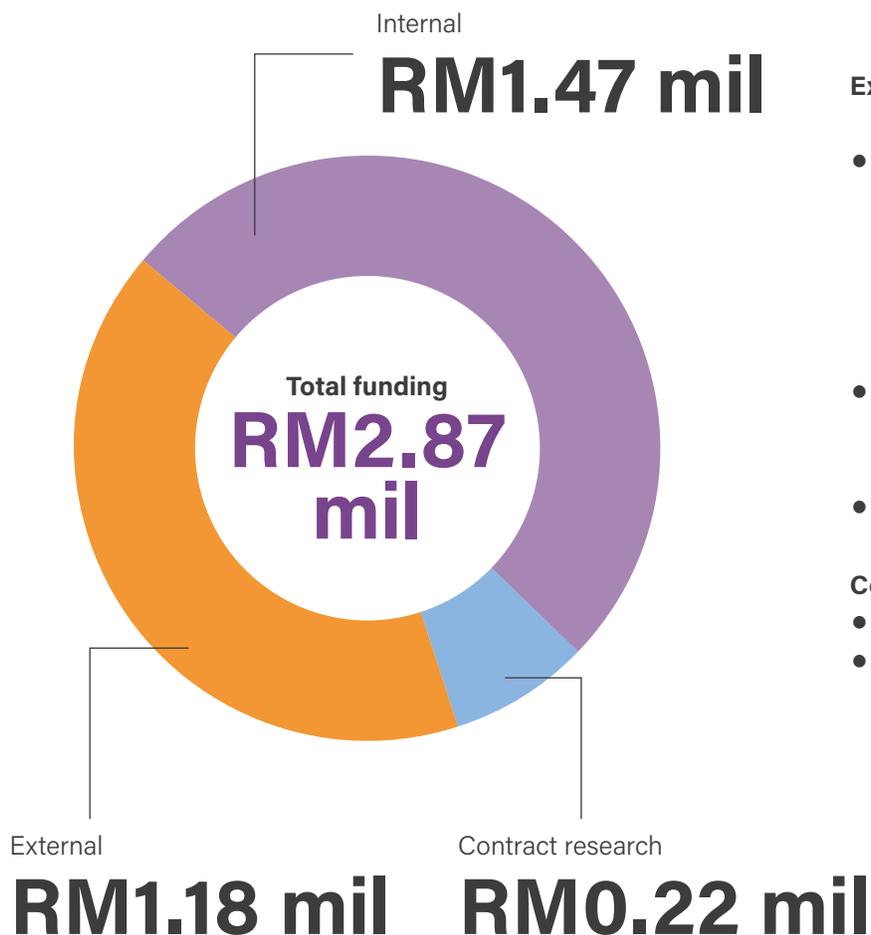
Papers published

(as of Oct 2023)

318 original and review articles
42.8% in Tier 1 and Tier 2 JCR ranked journals

Research funding

(as of Oct 2023)



External grants (2022/2023)

- **6** new projects supported by external grants from the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) under the Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS) and Prototype Research Grant Scheme (PRGS)
- Malaysia Toray Science Foundation (MTSF) Science & Technology Research Grant
- Royal Society of Chemistry

Contract research

- NanoMalaysia Berhad
- International Team for Implantology (ITI) Foundation, Switzerland

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Making an impression at Malaysia Technology Expo 2023

Our debut at the **Malaysia Technology Expo (MTE)** this year saw IRDI taking centre stage, with researchers' innovations winning an impressive four silver medals and one bronze medal. Participation in MTE 2023 brought us significant benefits, chief among them being:

- **Exposure:** MTE 2023 provided a platform to highlight the IMU's innovative research and expertise to a diverse audience, including potential collaborators and investors. It was also a valuable opportunity to expose our faculty members to the world of commercialisation.
- **Validation:** Winning the medals at MTE validated the quality of our research and its potential impact on society, and reinforced our commitment to innovation and excellence.



The IMU contingent at MTE.

The IMU's winning innovations at MTE 2023

Silver Medal

A/Prof Dr Amalraj Fabian Davamani – 3D Virtual Interactive Laboratory for Microbiology Skills Training, a groundbreaking invention which also aligns with the IMU's commitment to e-learning systems.

Silver Medal

Dr Elaine Chan Wan Ling – DiagnoSlide (renamed Vidanex), a computer-aided decision support tool that can be used in medical diagnostic laboratories. The AI software is built to recognise different types of slide images prepared from biological sample to aid the diagnosis of diseases like cancers and blood disorders.

Silver Medal

A/Prof Dr Lee Choy Sin – A sustainable and biodegradable multifunctional drug excipient using palm-based polyesteramide, that enhances pharmaceutical formulations' aqueous solubility and dissolution rates.

Silver Medal

A/Prof Dr Umer Daood – A new adhesive material for tooth fillings, incorporating antimicrobial and self-healing properties. The formulation's innovative approach improves bond strength while ensuring biocompatibility and ease of use.

Bronze Medal

Prof Mallikarjuna Rao Pichika and IMU researchers in collaboration with Dr Kavitha Mohandas (External Researcher) – Blood-free agars for the cultivation of blood-loving bacteria. The new agars offer superior health, safety, economic, ethical and environmental profiles compared to blood-based agars.

Eight IMU researchers among world's top 2% of scientists

Stanford University's annual list of the world's top 2 percent of scientists is compiled based on how frequently a researcher's work is referenced in other academic works. We are delighted to announce that this year, IMU researchers and faculty have once again done us proud, with eight of our colleagues included in the list. Prof Dr Hally Sreerama Reddy Chandrashekhar Thummala took top spot with a ranking of 28,952. Congratulations to all!

- Prof Dr Hally Sreerama Reddy Chandrashekhar Thummala
- The late Prof Dr Chu Wan Loy
- Dr Kow Chia Siang
- A/Prof Dr Dinesh Kumar Chellappan
- Dr Katrina Chung Pooi Yin
- A/Prof Dr Pathiyil Ravi Shankar
- Dr Ranjeet Ajit Bapat
- Nabil Ahmed Saleh Eid

IRDI researcher represents Malaysia in London entrepreneur programme, establishes startup

This year, Dr Elaine Chan Wan Ling of the Institute for Research, Development and Innovation (IRDI) was selected to represent Malaysia in the **Leaders in Innovation Fellowship (LIF) Technology Development Programme** organised by the Royal Academy of Engineering in London. While in the UK, she also attended London Tech Week (12-16 June), where she was invited to join the InspiringFifty Gala Dinner. In the exclusive LIF programme tailored for entrepreneurs, Dr Chan gained pivotal insights that fuelled her subsequent entrepreneurial venture. Leveraging on the knowledge and networks acquired during London Tech Week, Dr Chan founded Vidanex, an innovative startup poised to revolutionise digital pathology. This venture aims to expedite disease diagnoses, enhance healthcare efficiency, and minimise human bias. Vidanex embodies our commitment to addressing real-world healthcare challenges, generating economic value, and enriching medical education through technology-driven learning modules.



Dr Elaine Chan Wan Ling with her LIF mentors.

FOCUS AREAS

HRH Tuanku Muhriz launches SeDia Cohort, a major study on diabetes

On 8 July, the **Seremban Diabetes (SeDia) Cohort Study** was officially launched by His Royal Highness Tuanku Muhriz Ibni Almarhum Tuanku Munawir, the Yang Di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan. The study is a public-private partnership between the IMU and the Ministry of Health (MoH) represented by the Negeri Sembilan Health Department and Seremban District Health Office. It is a prospective cohort study primarily to estimate the incidence of Type 2 diabetes mellitus among the family members of diabetes patients and to determine the genetic, socio-demographic, and lifestyle-related risk factors of new-onset diabetes. The study will be funded through both public and private sector funds, including contributions from

corporations such as IHH Healthcare Malaysia who has made a contribution of RM2 million.

The year saw the successful development of the SeDia recruitment platform (Questionnaire Collection Platform), while the Sample Collection Platform is in the development and testing stages. The study intends to recruit 5,000 diabetes subjects who are registered with the National Diabetes Registry and have regular follow-up at Klinik Kesihatan Seremban, and 5,000 of their household family members. The SeDia Cohort launch was held in conjunction with the **Precision Medicine in Diabetes Symposium**, which was officiated by YB Dr Zaliha Mustafa, Minister of Health Malaysia.



Launch of the Seremban Diabetes (SeDia) Cohort Study on 8 July 2023 at the Royale Chulan Seremban. (from left) Prof Gerard George, YAM Tunku Ali Rethaiddin Ibni Tuanku Muhriz, DYMM Tuanku Muhriz Ibni Almarhum Tuanku Munawir, Prof Abdul Aziz Baba, YB Dr Zaliha Mustafa, and Datuk Dr Norhayati Rusli (Deputy Director-General, Public Health). Also present was Datuk Dr Muhammad Radzi Abu Hassan (Director-General of Health).

Digital pathology: under the microscope

Digital pathology was front and centre in several developments in 2023. On 11 May, the IMU signed a **memorandum of understanding with Universiti Telekom Sdn Bhd, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, and Swiss Digital Pathology Consortium (SDIPATH)**, with the four parties agreeing to co-operate in the following areas in digital pathology:

- Collaborative research and development
- Sharing of research infrastructure and resources
- Exchange of staff and students, postgraduate research and supervision
- Publication and presentation of scientific data
- Identification and development of key areas of common interest as standalone projects
- Joint training

The **Digital Pathology Malaysia Conference** in June was co-organised by the College of Pathologists, AI4DP, MMU, UKM and IMU. AI4DP is the **MMU-UKM-IMU Artificial Intelligence for Digital Pathology (AI4DP) Consortium**, which focuses on developing state-of-the-art AI computer vision technology to address the diagnostic needs of histopathology (tissue level) and cytopathology (cellular level).

The AI4DP Research Excellence Consortium, Multimedia University and IEEE Signal Processing Society (SPS) Malaysia organised a lecture series, workshop and collaborative discussion at Multimedia University and the IMU, featuring **Dr Satish E. Viswanath**, Fulbright Specialist from Case Comprehensive Cancer Center.



RESEARCH AT THE SCHOOLS



Scientific Scribbles: Mastering the Art of Writing Science

Together with speakers from MIMS (Monthly Index of Medical Specialties), a **webinar** was held by the Centre for Bioethics and Humanities (CBH) to equip participants with valuable insights and practical tips on scientific writing skills useful for those looking to publish in high-impact journals. It was held on 28 August.

Initiatives to facilitate research

Each School implements initiatives to facilitate research and publication-related activities among members. At the **School of Medicine**, for example, these steps include the organisation of relevant webinars, workshops, the creation of research interest groups, the organisation of Annual Research Week and Annual Research Day, and awards for research-related achievements by members.

At the **School of Dentistry**, research clusters help focus efforts on key areas, with priorities in 2023 being dental biomaterials and tissue engineering, dental implants and innovation, and dental education and clinical audit, among others. One milestone this year was a patent granted by the Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO) for an innovative adhesive agent invented by A/Prof Umer Daood and Prof Seow Liang Lin, for use with dental composites in restorations.

School of Medicine

Papers published

(as of Dec 2023)

136 individual papers

69.9% in Tier 1 and Tier 2 journals

48 students were involved as co-authors

Major grants

(as of Dec 2023)

- 2 FRGS grants
- 1 PRGS grant

School of Dentistry

Papers published

(as of Oct 2023)

53 research papers

70% in Tier 1 and Tier 2 journals

Major grants

(as of Oct 2023)

- International Team for Implantology (ITI) Research Grant
- FiteBac Technology research sponsorship
- Internal research grants

School of Pharmacy

Papers published

(as of Nov 2023)

104 indexed papers

81% in Tier 1 and Tier 2 journals

Major grants

(as of Nov 2023)

- Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC, UK) Research Grant
- 2 FRGS grants
- NanoMalaysia contract research

School of Health Sciences

Papers published

(as of Nov 2023)

47 papers

19% in Tier 1 and Tier 2 journals

Major grants

(as of Nov 2023)

- 1 FRGS grant
- YPASM Research Grant
- MOSTI Strategic Research Fund (SRF)

Centre for Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Papers published

(as of Dec 2023)

8 papers

50% in Tier 1 and Tier 2 journals

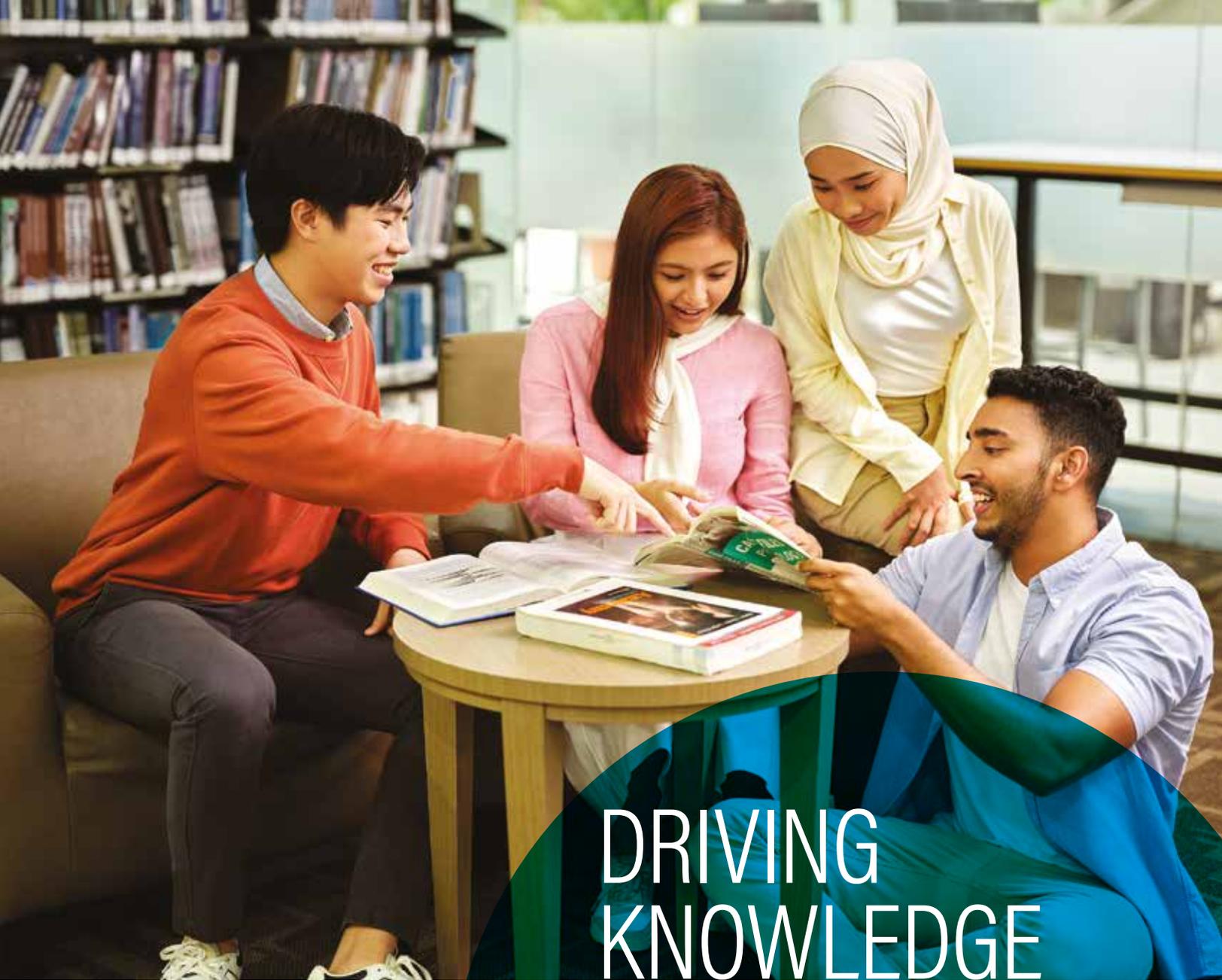
School of Postgraduate Studies

Papers published

(as of Nov 2023)

24 indexed papers

33.3% in Tier 1 and Tier 2 journals



DRIVING KNOWLEDGE

At the IMU, we are committed to supporting working professionals with courses that are industry-relevant and that come with flexibility in structure and delivery. Our programmes in continuing professional development (CPD) include clinical skills workshops and examination preparation courses, among others. But lifelong learning is not just about upskilling. It is also about broadening and deepening, sometimes fundamentally, one's understanding of the world. To this end, we organise conferences, symposiums, webinars, and talks throughout the year, providing numerous platforms for thought leaders and lifelong learners to learn, unlearn, and relearn, together.



LIFELONG LEARNING: QUICK STATS 2023

48

CPD events

20

micro-credential courses

141

enrolments for 6 micro-credential courses:

- E-Learning Essentials
 - Cosmetics & Cosmeceuticals
 - Nutrition focused physical examination in adults for dietitian (NFPE)
 - Advanced Biostatistics Multi-variate Analysis
 - Diabetes Self-care management
 - Fundamentals of Telehealth
-
- Collaborations for micro-credential courses included:
 - Fundamentals of Telehealth with Angsana Health
 - ACLS Certification with Interactive Essentials in Emergency Response, a series of skill courses for Association of Family Physician Malaysia (AFPM) trainees, with AFPM
 - an exclusive caregiver on-the-job training programme with Bigtree Medicare & Nursing Home and AgeCope (Association for Residential Aged Care Operators of Malaysia)



Endodontics workshops conducted as part of our CPD programmes.

ONGOING EDUCATION

Platforms for lifelong learning

This year, we launched our **Bachelor of Nursing (Hons) open and distance learning (ODL)**. The programme is designed for nurses with diploma qualifications, to enable them to upgrade their qualifications to a Bachelor's degree level. We also conducted **continuing professional development** workshops and examination preparation courses, as well as **faculty development workshops** for IMU faculty. **Conferences, symposiums, webinars and talks** were held throughout the year. These included the IMU Clinical Pathological Conference, the 3rd National Paediatric Bioethics Symposium, the National Anatomy and Pathology Summit, the 3rd International Dental Students Conference (IDSC), and the International Medical Education Conference (IMEC) 2023.

CPD for Kazakhstan nurse administrators

In November, the Department of Pathology & Pharmacology, Clinical Skills from the School of Medicine and the Department of Nursing from the School of Health Sciences co-organised a CPD event titled **Introduction to the Nursing Education System, Nursing Licensure and Accreditation in Malaysia** for the Centre for Business Management (the Republic of Kazakhstan). The programme's primary objective was to familiarise nurse administrators from the Republic of Kazakhstan with the nursing training system in Malaysia.



Guided Dolorclast® Therapy - Extracorporeal Shockwave Therapy (ESWT) Certification Workshop.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE

Digital Health Week

Digital Health Week 2023 was organised by the Centre for Digital Health and Health Informatics (CDHHI) in October 2023 with the aim of promoting awareness and understanding of digital health initiatives and innovations among the IMU community, public and those interested in digital healthcare ecosystems. The programme featured daily digital awareness messages disseminated over the five-day period, a webinar, industry-student dialogue and an interactive discussion with industry partners.

Initiating dialogue and expanding knowledge

The **Special Interest Groups for Health Humanities and Ethics** is an initiative for dialogue and knowledge expansion on ethics and humanities issues among academics, practitioners, students, and the community. This year, the Centre for Bioethics and Humanities parenthesis (CBH) recruited 30 faculty to join the groups.

A **series of webinars** were held as part of the group's activities. These were "Einführung": Building Empathy into the Structure of Health Care (27 September, led by Dr Supathiratheavy Rasiah); The Journey of Ethics Through Evolution, Animal Research, and Emerging Sciences (19 October, led by Prof Chandramani Thuraisingham); and Unveiling the Unseen: Legislative Measures of Supplement with NPRA (27 November, led by A/Prof Lee Choy Sin).

The members of the special interest groups have also been featured as guest speakers at the **IMU CBH-UGM Raboan webinars**, a monthly bioethics webinar organised by the CBH in partnership with Universitas Gadjah Mada, the UNESCO Chair on Bioethics. Topics have covered Student

Empowerment: Professionalism and Ethical Responsiveness; Translational Value of Animal Models in Research: Ethical Viewpoint; Leadership in Academic Medicine; Empowering Elderly: Fresh Insights into Aging and Geriatric Dentistry; and Student Engagement in Ethics and Sustainable Development.



Nutrition Goes To School (NGTS) with SEAMEO RECFON

IMU faculty members were on hand to share their knowledge at a follow-up online meeting in May on the planning and execution of the **Nutrition Goes To School (NGTS)** programme for Malaysian schools, organised between the IMU (Dr Yong Heng Yaw, Dr Chong Pei Nee, Dr Serene Tung and Dr Yang Wai Yew) and the **Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre for Food and Nutrition (SEAMEO RECFON)**. The proposed training outline, schedule and delivery were discussed for implementation in July for three identified schools through the Ministry of Education, Malaysia working together with the Ministry of Health, Malaysia.

Artificial intelligence – friend or foe?

Stephen Hawking once said, “Success in creating AI would be the biggest event in human history. Unfortunately, it might also be the last unless we learn how to avoid the risks.” Throughout the year, the topic of AI ignited many scholarly discussions of the benefits and the pitfalls of the technology.

At the IMU Centre for Education’s (ICE) forum, **“Artificial Intelligence in HPE and Healthcare”**, the potential of AI to transform both healthcare education and delivery as well as the changes in governance required to embrace the future of AI-powered healthcare were deliberated. Speakers at the forum on 18 August were Dr Wayne Holmes (University College London, United Kingdom) who spoke on AI and Curriculum Development; Prof Dr Rajasvaran Logeswaran (Asia Pacific University, Malaysia) on AI-Powered Healthcare; and Prof Dr Sandeep Reddy (Deakin University, Australia) on Governance of AI in Healthcare. The panel was moderated by the IMU’s Prof Nilesh Kumar Mitra.



On 21 September, the ICE held another session – **“Artificial Intelligence: Ethical Considerations and Impact on Personal and Professional Development”**. This focused on the ethical challenges confronted in health professions education with the use of AI in teaching and learning, and the issue of excessive data gathering that could put a student’s identity and privacy at risk. Other issues discussed were algorithm bias and delineating responsibility, accountability, blame, and credit for AI development, as well as the ethical implications on autonomy and beneficence when using AI.

CONFERENCES

Engaging, enabling and empowering students and communities

The **16th International Medical Education Conference (IMEC 2023)** was held from 13-15 October at the IMU with a lot of enthusiasm from international and national academics and students. This year the theme was “Student and Community Voices for Health Professions Education: Engage, Enable & Empower”. The conference drew international participants from 34 countries including Malaysia, US, UAE, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Pakistan, South Korea, Vietnam, UK, India, Iran, Thailand, Australia, Taiwan, Spain, Egypt, Japan and Sri Lanka who shared their papers in Oral/E-poster presentations.

Eminent international medical educators like Ronald Harden, Jeni Harden, Richard Hays, Trudie Roberts, John Norcini, Vishna Devi Nadarajah and Peter de Jong joined the conference as plenary and symposium speakers. AMEE, the International Association of Medical Science Educators (IAMSE), the Malaysian Association of Education in Medical & Health Sciences (MAEMHS), the Asia-Pacific Biomedical Science Educators Association (APBSEA), the Asia-Pacific Association on Problem-based Learning in Health Sciences (APA-PHS) and the Malaysian Convention and Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB), Ministry of Tourism, Malaysia, actively supported the conference.

During the conference, the prestigious IMU-Ron Harden Innovation in Medical Education Award was awarded to Dr Enoch Chan, University of Hong Kong, for his paper on “Engaging students as partners to design a new cardiovascular physiology practical”.



IMEC 2023

351

participants

34

countries

11

pre-conference
workshops

4

plenaries

10

symposiums

85

oral/E-poster
presentations



Celebrating dental research

The School of Dentistry organised the **3rd International Dental Students Conference (IDSC)** from 6-7 May, with the theme "Academic and Clinical Expertise Through Research". The hybrid conference attracted 106 participants from various countries, including India, the Philippines, Germany, Cambodia, Hong Kong and Oman. A total of 94 abstracts were received (46 from our undergraduate students for whom research is a compulsory module). The keynote speakers were from University of Hong Kong, University of Chulalongkorn, University of Otago, University Hospital of Pisa, Universiti Malaya and the IMU.

22nd Asian Bioethics Conference and Roundtable on Global Health Security

As biological and medical sciences advance, so do the ethical dilemmas in the field. In 1995, the Asian Bioethics Association was founded to promote scientific research in bioethics in Asia through open and international exchanges of ideas. Every year, an annual conference has been organised and the IMU was proud to host the **22nd Asian Bioethics Conference** and the accompanying **Roundtable on Global Health Security** from 15-17 May. The theme

“Challenges to Bioethics in the Era of the Pandemic” ignited thought-provoking discourse on the impact of COVID-19 on health and lives of people globally, healthcare infrastructure inadequacies, lack of health disaster preparedness, vaccine injustice, and the role of emerging technologies (AI) in future epidemics and pandemics. The conference saw a total of 92 delegates, representing 16 countries, attending the conference in hybrid mode.





HEALTHCARE

From the time the IMU was founded, we have been on a journey to be an Academic Health Centre (AHC) – where research, education and healthcare come under one symbiotic system. This ecosystem currently consists of clinics and centres that deliver outpatient healthcare services to the community, while also supporting student clinical training and research activities.





A healing environment for all

Under the pillar of healthcare, we continued to develop our **ambulatory centres and clinic** with the adoption of a 'healing environment concept' at our clinics. We believe that everything that a patient experiences within the walls of our clinics will impact healing. With this in mind, we provided our patients with a positive all-round experience which included ensuring physical improvement, process improvement, human resource development and a better front desk experience for customers.



Artist impressions of physical improvements at the ambulatory centres and clinics.



Reaching out to the community

In 2023, we increased our **local community outreach** via IMU Healthcare's Breakfast Buzz series (a platform to meet the public and discuss topics such as child development), joint corporate health events with St John's Ambulance and a collaboration with Institut Sukan Negara that saw us providing health services to national athletes.





Data-enabled and people-driven

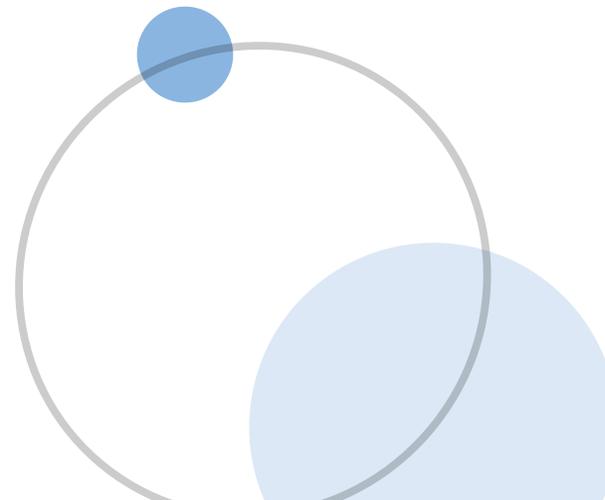
As part of the digital transformation, IMU Healthcare acquired a new **clinical information system** which was implemented at the end of 2023. This system will provide uniformity for all our centres and enable better collation of our clinical and operational data.

The healthy living clinic

Following the divestment of the IMU Hospital to Columbia Asia, the IMU Medical Clinic has embarked on a transformation into a Healthy Living clinic. The clinic focuses on five areas: wellness and screening, general, child, women and mental health. These services were fully implemented in 2023.

Open up! Increasing our facilities at the Oral Health Centre

At the **Oral Health Centre**, we have undertaken a RM2.6 mil renovation to cater to the training requirements of the dental school programme and to improve the environment for dental patients and staff. The clinic has increased capacity with six new dental chairs, an increased patient waiting area and improved work areas.





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

At the IMU, students will find a hub for community engagement as well as a place to gain sustainability knowledge and practice. Initiatives include platforms to develop capability – through education, partnerships and community-engaged research – and the capacity to act and learn within the IMU and the broader community. This culture of serving is embedded in all of our Schools, Centres and departments, with the Office of Community Engagement and Sustainability (IMU CES) playing the vital lead role to foster meaningful university-community partnerships under its service tagline, IMU Cares. We hope that this journey will be a driving force to transform staff and students into caring, ethical and holistic healthcare professionals.

COMMUNITY: QUICK STATS 2023

Volunteers and partners

853 staff
2,062 students
100 community partners

Reached out to

2,500
individuals from various communities

Focused on

3 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being)
- SDG 10 (Reducing Inequality)
- SDG 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption)

154 activities carried out
(88 focused on SDG 3, 63 focused on SDG 10, 3 focused on SDG 12)

16 were new initiatives and these included:

- **diabetes-focused programmes** for PPR communities in Lembah Pantai, KL
- the **IMU Cares Saving Lives** programme. This was an awareness and advocacy campaign bringing together experts from the National Blood Bank, Malaysian Stem Cell Registry, National Transplant Resource Centre and Academy for Silent Mentors to share knowledge and showcase blood and organ donation. The campaign drew in crowds from IMU as well as the public with more than 100 donating their blood and pledging to donate their organs.
- **Capacity-building workshops** ie. Disability Equality Training, the IMU Disaster Preparedness Team Training and Dental Management of Special Needs Children.

HEALTH FOR ALL

Building better health for diabetics

Diabetes cases have been on the rise in Malaysia and in line with our vision of “building better health for all” – and anchored on UN SDG3 – IMU Cares conducted several community health initiatives under its **community-based diabetes programme**. This included a Community Health Carnival at PPR Sri Pahang in Lembah Pantai – where over 40 IMU staff and students reached out to more than 100 individuals. The urban poor community were given comprehensive blood tests and screening, health and diabetes prevention education as well as scheduled intervention programmes.



“Hands of hope and healing” in the Philippines

“This opportunity isn’t just service, it’s a privilege,” said Janice Chan Vey Lian, Director of the IMU’s Centre for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CCAM). Chan was reflecting on the CCAM’s collaboration with

healthcare provider Intercare Chiropractic Centre Inc on the **Philippine Chiropractic Community Health Project**, from 27 August to 9 September. The CCAM team comprised Chan and Chiropractic Programme Director Wong Yi Kai, along with four students from the Chiropractic programme. Also involved was an IMU alumna working in the Philippines. The group helped provide chiropractic care to approximately 700 individuals from marginalised groups in cities such as Taguig, Pasig, Caloocan and Greenbelt. “We at IMU are honoured to extend our hands of hope and healing to the marginalised communities of the Philippines,” said Chan, while Wong noted that the initiative “not only benefited the community but also provided our students with an unparalleled opportunity to translate their theoretical knowledge into practical experience.”



Community engagement at the Schools

Community engagement is an essential component of our students' education as medical and healthcare professionals. This year, students and faculty reached out to numerous communities: the elderly, the disabled, the urban poor, special needs children, refugee children from the Rohingya and Karen communities, the deaf community, and palliative care patients, among others. Activities included health screenings, oral health screenings, breast cancer screenings, blood donation drives, disaster preparedness workshops, basic life support and first aid training.

Under its District Partnership Initiative in Seremban, the School of Medicine collaborated with Klinik Kesihatan

Sikamat on an **Adolescent Health Programme** to educate adolescents on reproductive health systems and mental health issues. Also in 2023, Dr Htet Htet received the "engagement grant" from the British Pharmacological Society for a **community project on medication safety**, in collaboration with the IMU Cares team.

At the Centre for Pre-University Studies, a Foundation in Science cohort raised funds and contributed books and electronic equipment to a primary school in Puchong.



Students speak

"I am grateful to IMU Cares for opening up such an opportunity for me to expand my horizons at such an early stage in my healthcare pursuits. I am even more inspired to serve the community in upcoming opportunities in order to mould myself into an instrumental member of the healthcare industry."

Arifah Binte Zaidi, FIS123

REDUCING INEQUALITY

Breaking the silence on deafness

Throughout 2023, we had a continued focus on SDG 10 with our initiatives that provided access to healthcare and education to B40, refugee and special needs communities as well as created greater public awareness of their challenges. **The IMU Deaf Awareness Week 2023**, held from 21-23 February, was launched by YB Senator Datuk Dr Ras Adiba Radzi, an activist and advocate for the special needs community.

A **Disability Skills Training workshop**, organised in collaboration with OKU Sentral, provided insight and capacity building for IMU students and staff. Since 2020, there have been a total of 96 **Ambassadors for the Deaf** comprising students and staff who have built capacity through the Basic Language workshop as well as developed and implemented various activities.



YB Senator Datuk Dr Ras Adiba Radzi (seated) at the launch of the IMU Deaf Awareness Week.

A positive impact on the lives of the disabled

The IMU Cares **Mobility Aid Programme for the Disabled Community** continued to build sustainable outcomes for this community, with 10 special needs individuals assessed for wheelchairs customised to their needs. The programme is a collaborative initiative between the IMU, LDS Charities and the Cheras Rehabilitation Hospital (CRH) since 2018. Through these initiatives, the IMU continues to be committed to making a positive impact on the lives of the disabled community, and the series of activities is a significant step in moving towards that direction.

Keeping smiles healthy

IMU Cares' **Better Oral Health for All** programme teamed up with Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) in a series of workshops developing skills in dental screening, oral health education and management modalities for children with special needs in the community.



Bringing oral health to the community.

Reaching out to the refugee community: Project Hopeful Mind

Children from the refugee community enjoyed a **three-month experiential learning programme**, which included co-curricular activities, rolled out by the IMU Community Service Club. The programme introduced relevant topics to promote skill development, educate on health literacy, safe touch, menstrual hygiene awareness and basic wound/injury management. The programme provided the children with a space to engage in group sport and co-curricular activities like dance and debate and encourage social integration. It is hoped that it would also promote self-sufficiency and empower the children. Activities were held at the IMU, as well as at Ruth Education Centre, a residential school for refugees, from 29 August to 25 November.

Inculcating a culture of giving

Locks of Hope 2023 gave students at the IMU the opportunity to donate their hair to make wigs for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy. Students and staff learned about the profound impact of donating hair and the need for hair donors, resulting in a total of 42 hair donors.

It was held in conjunction with **Childhood Cancer Awareness Week** from 19 August to 6 September and organised by the IMU Community Service Club, with the support from IMU Cares and Student Services. Other activities included Unmasking Cancer, a cancer awareness webinar; fundraising events for partner organisations Locks of Hope, Dignity School, and the National Cancer Society Malaysia (NCSM); a movie screening of a heartwarming cancer patient's journey; and Tint your T! an arts and craft event for participants to express artistic talents.

SUSTAINABILITY

A road map to sustainability

Inspired to be a leading **sustainability-led healthcare university** in the region, and in line with our focus on SDG 12 to uphold responsible production and consumption, the IMU is developing a sustainability road map based on the five key areas of education, research, community, environment and governance. We have been learning from others and have especially gained insights and perspectives from the sustainability journey of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM).



Students speak

“I have learnt about the concept of disability in another perspective and realised it is not the individual’s impairment that makes them disabled but the attitude and environmental factors, even society as a whole that makes them unable to fulfil their potential.”

Chang Xin Yue, ME 221

Taking action and responsibility for the future

Sixty dedicated students have come together as **IMU S.T.E.W.A.R.D.S**, a mnemonic for “IMU Students Taking Environmental Wellness Actions and Responsible Development for Sustainability”, to take leadership in planning sustainability-led initiatives at the University. This included partnering with World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-Malaysia in an Earth Day 2023 celebration and Climate Communication event aimed at empowering tertiary-level students to act now to be champions of the planet.

CAPACITY-BUILDING

Always ready: preparing staff, students and communities to be disaster-ready

When disaster strikes, there is no time to think. Preparedness is everything, a principle which students in the Master of Business Administration in Healthcare Management (MBAHM) programme took to heart when they organised a three-day **Disaster Preparedness Training Workshop and Simulation Exercise** in Kubang Kerian, Kelantan in August as part of their MBAHM course requirements. The event was also part of the IMU Cares initiatives, and partners included Pusat Pengurusan Bencana Nerve Center (PPBNC) Universiti Sains Malaysia, Pertubuhan Gabungan Bantuan Bencana NGO Malaysia (BBNGO), Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara, Angkatan Pertahanan Awam Negeri Kelantan, Sekretariat Laktasi USM, and the village of Kampung Gong Kedak. Twenty-two

postgraduate students and staff from the MBAHM, the MSc in Public Health and other programmes, together with 50 villagers, attended the workshop led by content experts in disaster preparedness. Participants were brought through a flood aid management simulation and learned about natural and man-made disasters, self-preparation, and providing aid during and after a disaster. The 22 IMU participants have come together to form the **IMU's Community Disaster Preparedness Team** and will begin implementing disaster preparedness activities for communities at risk, for example in flood-prone areas, in Malaysia. These initiatives will be part of our **Capacity Building for Community Preparedness Programmes (CCPP)**.



Running towards a more responsible future

The **IMU Chariofare Charity Run-Carnival** is one of the IMU's biggest flagship Student Community Leadership Programmes (SCLP) which provides opportunity for students to lead and manage an event, while creating awareness and advocating for identified social causes. This year's theme was "Empowering Tomorrow's Community" and saw more than 75 booths offering exciting family-friendly activities including arts and crafts, games, food and drinks as well as health screening services. The funds raised during the event went to three NGOs: OKU Sentral, Befrienders

Chariofare 2023

Runners

986

Attendees

>1,500

Funds raised

RM125,270

and the Women's Aid Organisation, as well as the IMU Humanitarian Aid Fund which covers the cost of treatment and disaster relief for underprivileged communities.



Chariofare 2023 was made extra special this year with the participation of more than 30 participants from the disabled community.

Lighting the fire within our students: the IMU Aflame Award

The **IMU Aflame Award** was established in 2011 to recognise and honour a graduating student who has demonstrated exceptional humanistic endeavours and interpersonal skills in the practice of healthcare and community service. This year the award went to a deserving medical student, **Raja Nur Shahkeerah Raja Kamarul Zaman** whose passion for advocating for equal rights flourished through her journey at the IMU. Shahkeerah has proactively led various community-centric initiatives, including working with UNHCR on a policy draft for refugee healthcare in Malaysia as well as running social entrepreneurship endeavours with the refugee community. The Aflame Award is one of our long-standing Student Community Leadership Programmes (SCLP).



As part of her prize, Shahkeerah nominated the Kachin Refugee Learning Centre as the beneficiary of a RM5,000 donation.

IMU IN THE WORLD PARTNER UNIVERSITIES



The IMU's pledge to offer only the best educational experiences for its students extends far beyond its borders. With a secure and long-established global network of 36 partner institutions of higher learning, the IMU is committed to opening doors to education and training opportunities outside Malaysia via our credit transfer programmes. These collaborations in health professional education cover most of the undergraduate programmes offered at the University which makes the dream of studying overseas more accessible to Malaysians.

Similarly, the IMU is unique in fostering and establishing collaborations for the training of practitioners in complementary therapies. Building and developing these worldwide relationships also strengthens the University's ability to secure global talent, which in turn helps attract the brightest and the best to come and study at the IMU. Since 1995, the IMU's Partner Schools have conferred degrees on more than 6,000 individuals. Having established itself as a household name in Malaysia, the IMU is set for international recognition.

AUSTRALIA



CANADA



CHINA



IRELAND



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

NEW ZEALAND



UNITED KINGDOM



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



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The IMU has been certified with ISO 21001:2018 for the provision of Pre-University, Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programmes for the Medical and Healthcare Professions.

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