# StarSpecial

THE STAR, TUESDAY 21 MARCH 2023

POSTGRADUATE

MANAGEMENT and Science University (MSU) presented three research grants and two awards at the launch of MSU IDEA 2023 and MSU REACT 2023.

These were presented by MSU president Prof Tan Sri Datuk Wira Dr Mohd Shukri Ab Yajid. The grants include the MSU Translational Research Grant (MTRG), the MSU International Research Network Grant (MIRG) and the MSU Publication and Conference Grant (MPCG) while the awards include the Research Sustainability and the Exhibition and Competition Accolade awards.

The MTRG went to Saeid Mezail Mawazi of the School of Pharmacy (SPH) and Muhammad Danial Che Ramli of the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences (FHLS) for Avena S Cream (good for eczematous and dry skin) and for The Potential Effect of Cordyceps Militaris in the Retina of Rats Induced with Diabetic Retinopathy respectively.

They each also received the Research Sustainability Award from the Exhibition and Competition category for the Halah Lipstick and The Neuroprotective Value of Butterfly Pea (Clitoria ternatae) on Parkinson's and Alzheimer's Diseases respectively.

The MIRG went to Dr Maisarah Abdul Mutalib of the School of Graduate Studies (SGS), for the Protective Effects of Roselle

pgc@nus.edu.sg

### An eventful launch event

(Hibiscus sabdariffa L.) Extract against Hydrogen Peroxide Induced Oxidative Stress in 3T3 Cells and Synergistic Anti-Cancer Properties in Breast Cancer Cell Lines. She also received an MPCG for her Critical Review of Polymethoxyflavones – a prominent flavonoids subclass of Kaempferia parviflora transcending expectations.

The four other recipients of the MPCG include Dr Nik Nasihah Nik Ramli of SGS, Dr Ng Chean Hui and Dr Tan Suk Fei of SPH and Dr Nurul Akmal Jamaludin of the International Medical School (IMS).

Receiving the Exhibition and Competition Accolade Award was Dr Santhra Segaran Balan of FHLS for his 3D Printing of a Rat Model with Augmented Reality and Musculoskeletal System as Teaching and Learning Tools.

Teaching and Learning Tools.

MSU IDEA and MSU REACT are programmes by the MSU Research Management Centre.

The postgraduate studies at MSU.

The postgraduate studies at MSU are carefully crafted to cultivate leadership and real research contribution that addresses handson industrial challenges at the highest management level.

The university research

in nus.scale



MSU presented research grants and awards at its launch event.

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ecosystems are strengthened with the establishment of the MSU Centre of Excellence, which includes the Leadership and Entrepreneurship Advancement Institute, International Centre for Halal Studies, Centre of Cyber Security and Big Data, MSU Clinical Centre of Excellence, MSU Centre for Complementary and Alternative Medicine and MSU Eye Centre.

MSU is proud to recommend Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Master programmes that emphasise and recognise innovative research, scientific knowledge and industrial application at both domestic and international platforms.

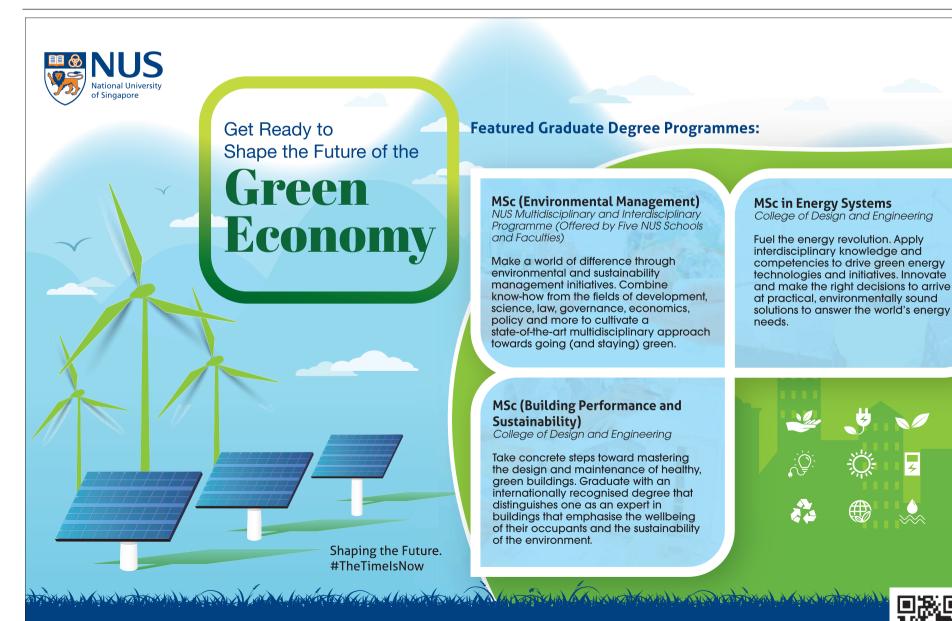
SGS offers advanced degrees at MSc and PhD levels covering wide areas including Computer Science, Information and Communication Technology, Food Service Technology, Biomedicine, Engineering, Applied Science, Health Sciences, Biomedical

Sciences, Information Technology, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacy, Design, Medical Physiology, Public Health and Anatomy.

Through these programmes, MSU integrates the global best in educational innovation with the adoption of real-world scenarios into the learning experience. Strategic thinking and thought-provoking case study expose and equip students with a higher level of practical problem-solving abilities. All modules are rigorously designed with strategic industrial and corporate input, an opening vignette to major events and real-world issues around the globe.

In all, as an applied, enterprise, holistic and international university, MSU offers foundation, undergraduate, postgraduate and flexible programmes through an entry system that facilitates admission of students from all walks of life, where it aims at transforming lives and enriching futures

■ For more information on postgraduate programmes offered at MSU, call 03-5521 6868, email enquiry@msu.edu.my or visit www.msu.edu.my.



**Postgraduate** THE STAR, TUESDAY 21 MARCH 2023

## Mitigating climate change in time

THE year 2022 was marked by widespread climatic catastrophes. Many parts of the world were affected by unusual weather patterns which caused abnormal temperatures, floods and droughts.

Climate change poses the greatest health risk humanity has ever faced. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), climate change will cause the rise of malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress cases. These are anticipated to account for over 250,000 annual excess fatalities between 2030 and 2050.

Due to the serious threat this issue poses, there is now an urgent demand for increased climate action.

#### Adapting green initiatives

Understanding their influence and possible footprint in various industries, corporations

are gradually adopting 'green' reporting through environmental management tools such as environmental risk assessment (ERA) in tackling climate change.

ERA assesses the potential harm caused by substances or activities to the environment. This is critical in managing the effectiveness of production wastes that contribute to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Reducing the emissions of GHG is essential in slowing global warming.

The shift to clean energy such as solar and wind power also helps alleviate environmental concerns raised by GHG.

However, as the world moves away from relying on fossil fuels, further research and development are required to support the efficient usage of clean energy.

Besides these, green strategies are now integrated into the planning of building design and urban settlements. The ultimate objective is to construct buildings that are green, efficient and low-maintenance in terms of design, construction and upkeep.

Existing sustainable building assessments and rating tools such as the Green Building Index (GBI) help to increase the performance ratings of new developments. Sustainable site planning and management, energy efficiency and indoor environment quality are some of the credentials that developers and building owners must pursue to be seen as relevant and responsible.

#### **Developing green skills through** education

The widespread adoption of such green practices in the business environment results in new jobs and the need for industry specialists. As such, green education is no longer a futuristic concept but a current necessity.

At the National University of Singapore (NUS), individuals who wish to advance their expertise or career opportunities in green and sustainable sectors have several options in master's programmes. These include:

- Master of Science (Environmental Management)
  - Master of Science (Energy Systems)
- Master of Science (Building) Performance and Sustainability)

The M.Sc. (Environmental Management) taps into the expertise of theoretical and applied aspects of environmental management and its tools. Students are equipped with a firm understanding of the relationship between science, management and the latest policies. Thus, the programme prepares them to tackle ecological challenges through diverse perspectives and

Those interested in enhancing the development and research of clean energy can venture into M.Sc. (Energy Systems). Graduates are equipped with an in-depth understanding of clean energy technology and innovation management. Additionally, students will gain expertise in using quantitative and qualitative tools to make educated choices about where to invest in and implement green solutions.

M.Sc. (Building Performance and Sustainability) provides an opportunity to acquire knowledge and expertise in bringing sustainable design elements and concepts to the forefront.

In addition, students will learn about Energy Efficient Technology and develop an understanding of how to analyse and fully optimise its potential. A paradigm shift towards the design of greener buildings that are not only sustainable but also healthy for their occupants calls for the development of these skills.

The education sector plays an important role in ensuring green skills and relevant career pathways are embedded within new programmes. It is only with such change can the world expect to see the rise of an influential generation of industry specialists, dedicated to overcoming climate change.

Graduates of NUS's internationally recognised master's programmes are well positioned to pursue careers in various industries. This is because NUS students are taught transdisciplinary critical thinking skills by academics who are experts in their fields, as well as professionals from wellknown local and global environmental agencies and organisations.

NUS's extensive collaborations with external partners and international bodies for sustainable development further emphasis its excellence in teaching, research and innovation to reach collective green goals.

■ For more information on the programmes offered at NUS, visit https://scale.nus.edu.sg/ programmes/graduate or email Asean.pgc@ nus.edu.sg



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Since 1992, IMU has been nurturing high caliber medical and healthcare professionals with a holistic approach and integration in education, research and healthcare in Malaysia. IMU is the first private medical university to receive MQA's self-accreditation status and awarded SETARA tier 6 status (outstanding) in 2017 and 2019.

#### **CENTRE FOR PRE-UNIVERSITY STUDIES**

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  KPT/IPT(R3/724/6/0010)01/2030 | MQA/FA7026
- Endodontics
- (*PG Dip*) KPT/JPT(N/724/7/0043)05/2024 | MQA/SWA12162 • Implant Dentistry
- (*PG Dip*)

  KPT/JPT(R/724/7/0019)06/2026 | MQA/SWA6111

  OCT
- Prosthodontics (*PG Dip*) KPT/JPT(N/724/7/0042)05/2024 | MQA/SWA12163 **JUN**

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- Pharmaceutical Chemistry KPT/JPT(R3/442/6/0003)( FEB | MAY| JUL | SEP

#### SCHOOL OF **HEALTH SCIENCES**

- Biomedical Science
   Biomedical Science
   IMQA/A8230
- Diabetes Management and Education\*
  (PG Dip)

  KPT/IPT/B/726/7/0030\01/202
- Medical Biotechnology
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  (MSc)

  KPT/IPT(R-2-CDL/442/7/0001)01/2027 | MQA/FA1191

  KPT/IPT(N-DL/442/7/0002)02/2026 | MQA/FA1191
- Business Administration In Healthcare Management (PG Cert / PG Dip / Master)

  KPTIJPT(KØ3457/1082)09/2028 I MQA/SVA11354

  KPTIJPT(KØ3457/10901)2/2028 I MQA/SWA11355

  KPTIJPT(KØ3457/10901)2/2028 I MQA/SWA11353

  MARI SEP Dietetics with Nutrition
  - Health Professions
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      (PG Cert\*/PG Dip / Master)

      KPUPTIN-BU145/7015/2002/2026 I MQA/SWA05162

      KPTUPT(RU145/7006509/2025 I MQA/SWA05162

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  \*Available to registered nurses only

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  - Pharmacy Practice KPT/JPT(R/727/7/0051)03/2024 | MQA/SWA02796 MAR | SEP
  - Public Health\* (*MSc*)

    KPT/JPT(R2/720/7/0077)09/2025 | A10261

    KPT/JPT(R-DL/720/7/0811)09/2028 | MQA/SWA11356

    MAR | SEP
  - Medical and Health
  - # OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING (ODL)



NUS is improving its sustainability research and education in response to resolving climate change



NUS aims to achieve a carbon-neutral campus by 2030 and has embraced a combination of sustainable design and construction strategies for its buildings.



# Upskilling as a diabetes educator

DIABETES is a serious problem that affects one in every six Malaysian adults. With a steady increase in the number of people diagnosed with diabetes, this complex lifestyle disease is here to stay. "I have had diabetes for a long-time. I want to optimise my condition. Sometimes though, my health takes a back seat when the pressure of life builds up," says a 55-year-old woman who has been living with diabetes for 15 years.

To manage their health, people living with diabetes must navigate daily self-management decisions and activities. Today, more patients are looking for support from healthcare providers who are trained in this area. Diabetes educators are specialists who have completed further studies to focus their efforts on helping people with diabetes to self-manage effectively and prevent complications. Upskilling in diabetes management and

education can give healthcare providers that niche for a more successful healthcare practice.

As a diabetes educator and nurse working for the Malaysian government, Grace Toh believes in the value of upskilling in this area with a postgraduate qualification. She says, "Some healthcare providers may already have certificate-level training in diabetes management. Taking a postgraduate qualification in this area is a good top-up for the specialised care needed in diabetes management. You never know your capabilities until you test them. Continuing your education supports the 'testing and retesting' needed to improve the care we provide.

By taking a postgraduate degree in Diabetes Management and Education at the International Medical University (IMU), Toh has learnt to integrate input from



address the psychosocial needs of her patients who live with diabetes.

Nadhirah Mohd Khir who is a dietitian and diabetes educator with a private hospital also took the same postgraduate qualification as Toh. "I took this qualification to upgrade my career. Now, my understanding of the management of diabetes is deeper. Most importantly, I have the practical knowledge to help my patients manage diabetes effectively," Nadhirah reflects.

Wong Soh San, who is a diabetes educator with a private chain of hospitals further adds that obtaining her postgraduate qualification in this area has given her the skills to become a reflective practitioner. "I can recognise my gaps and strengths as a practitioner and engage in a process of continuous learning to improve my clinical skills," says Wong.

Nah Ying Wa, a retail pharmacist, continued her training as a diabetes educator to improve the quality of care that her customers receive. Diverse people go to their local pharmacies for their health needs. "Before qualifying as a diabetes educator, I would mainly provide care concerning medication issues when customers come to me. Now, I can provide a comprehensive care plan that addresses my customer's individual needs," she remarks.

For Wong, improving her patient care skills in diabetes management has increased her referrals from doctors and her visibility as a go-to



Nadhirah Binti Mohd Khir.

resource in this specialised area.

"Recently, I received an invitation to speak on diabetes care at a nursing school to nursing students at a workshop," she enthuses. When asked if getting a postgraduate degree in diabetes care is worthwhile, Nadhirah replies, "Specialising in this area is worth the investment of my time and money as I can develop my career to the next level as a dietitian who specialises in managing diabetes."

#### **Progression path**

Working adults in healthcare sectors or fresh graduates with a keen interest in diabetes education have the opportunity to upskill with a postgraduate degree at IMU by either taking the conventional learning pathway with classes at



Wong Soh San.

the university campus or the 100% online learning experience via Open Distance Learning. Designed to suit working adults, this programme incorporates a multidisciplinary approach to diabetes care in a blended learning model that includes both online and in-person learning. This delivery allows the student to make meaningful connections with the different healthcare disciplines involved in diabetes care.

The next commencement of this programme is in May 2023. If you are interested to join this programme, make an online application today.

■ For more information on this or our other postgraduate programmes, call 03-2731 7272, email postgraduate@imu.edu.my or visit www.imu.edu.my.





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### **Postgraduate Areas of Study:**

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f ◎ ➤ MSUMalaysia www.msu.edu.my MANAGEMENT & SCIENCE UNIVERSITY (MSU) DU019(B)
University Drive, Off Persiaran Olahraga, Section 13, 40100 Shah Alam, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia.