



INAUGURAL ISSUE-FOR INTERNAL CIRCULATION ONLY



NEWSLETTER JAN-JULY 2010

FACULTY OF MEDICINE (FOM)

Editorial Board

Prof. Dr. K.R. Sethuraman

Dr. P.K. Rajesh

Dr. Aruljoethy. R

Dr. Selvam. K



EDUCATING TOMORROW'S LEADERS



FACULTY OF MEDICINE (FOM) NEWSLETTER

The faculty of medicine has come a long way from our fledgling days at the Amanjaya campus where the MBBS programme was launched in 2002. Now at the sprawling Semeling campus, the Faculty of Medicine is the flag ship of the University with about 100 full time staff and another 100 doctors as part-time faculty.



The staff includes senior professors with rich clinical and teaching experience, many of whom have published extensively in peer reviewed international journals. Many of the staff has published books. The Dean, Prof. K.R. Sethuraman (also the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic affairs) is one of two from Malaysia in the international advisory panel for Davidson's text book of Medicine. The book Davidson's Clinical Cases, Strachan MW, Sharma SK, Hunter JA (editors), Churchill Livingstone Elsevier, 2008, for which Dean Professor K R Sethuraman is a contributing author has been awarded the First Prize for the best book in Medicine by the British Medical Association in the 2009 Book Competition.

The faculty is further strengthened by a team of highly reputed external examiners holding key posts in National and International medical institutions.



FOM TEAM



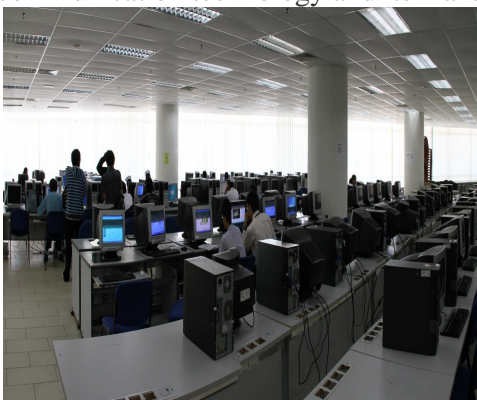
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At present AIMST FOM has 870 undergraduates. 135 AIMST medicos have joined internship this year; this amounts to a total of 310 interns from AIMST University. A total of 59 graduates from Faculty of Medicine comprising of the first two cohorts (2002 intake) have entered National Health Services as Medical Officers.

The MBBS course follows an outcome based integrated curriculum. The students are given onus and ownership of their studies and this positive approach has produced a handful of publications and quite a few paper presentations at conferences by our students. At the campus, the students as early as Year one are exposed to the state-of-the-art clinical skills center. This facility is the best in our part of the country with mannequins and equipment able to offer training ranging from teaching a fresher on how to transfer an accident victim safely up to a final year student on how to perform advanced life support procedures.

Early exposure to clinical material is useful to give meaning to basic science learning and our students are mentored, tutored and trained at 5 hospitals. The students are exposed to stages of health care delivery from primary health care to tertiary care hospitals. This helps them function effectively in any healthcare setting later.

Computer assisted learning and special study modules enhance competency in information and communication technology and its management among our MBBS undergraduates.



Cyber centre



Community posting

The faculty is proud that our students have won quizzes and events held at other medical universities and thus propose to launch a national level preclinical quiz tentatively in the year 2011.

Though most of the subjects offered builds up the knowledge and skills of the students, FOM reinforces on the importance of attitude in the grooming of a doctor. Community and Family medicine postings enables our students to recognize and analyze health problems at the level of the individual, family and the community; and solve these problems through health promotion, disease prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, using the available resources in a cost-effective manner. They are also encouraged to demonstrate sensitivity towards religious, moral, cultural and traditional values of the community they serve.

Problem based learning (PBL) is used as a teaching learning tool through the course. It ensures the students develop the ability to apply knowledge and clinical skills to practice safely and competently. It also encourages critical thinking to solve problems and for decision-making. PBL truly works towards the stated mission of the MBBS course – “To empower graduates with the knowledge, skills and values needed to deliver humanistic and evidence based quality health care in Malaysia and the rest of the world with an aptitude for continuing medical education.”

A - Activate prior knowledge,

I - Integrate basic and clinical sciences,

M - Motivate interactive learning,

S - Stimulate self directed learning,

T - Trigger curiosity to commit to life-long learning.

Publish or Perish is today’s mantra-Abraham Lincoln said “If you are not for yourself who will be” and thus this newsletter, to document aimst FOM’s continued journey towards excellence. However this maiden venture of ours is a modest compilation from the monthly faculty meeting minutes. To quote Lincoln again “you don’t have to be great to start but you have to start to be great.

Dr. P. K. Rajesh, Deputy Dean Preclinical FOM, Editor, AIMST FOM Newsletter



Foreword by the Dean



Prof..K.R.Sethuraman

The idea of a newsletter from the Faculty of Medicine (FOM) has been mooted quite some time ago. Meanwhile, a newsletter from the university was initiated, which made the Faculty's proposal for a newsletter rather redundant. The University newsletter has now been discontinued for some time now, paving way for revival of our earlier proposal

Starting a newsletter is relatively easy; however, sustaining it is much more difficult. It needs a dedicated team of editorial board to collect and collate relevant news-worthy materials on a regular basis for sustenance of the publication. The present deputy deans Dr Aruljoethy and Dr Rajesh, and Dr Selvam are committed to AIMST University and the Faculty. I have no doubt that, given enough support, they will be able to provide the necessary leadership to sustain the newsletter.

The main objective of the newsletter is to facilitate exchange of relevant, meaningful and interesting information among the key stake-holders: the full time academic and administrative staff of the Faculty, the part-time academic staff, the students and the management.

The Faculty of Medicine has been the flag-ship of the University since inception. The major news items of topical interest are: the arrival of JPA scholars, nominated for the MBBS course at AIMST-FOM, the entry of the graduates of the 2002 intake in to the health services as Medical Officers (MO) and the provisional approval given to FOM to start MSc in four basic sciences.

I am sure the hospital staff, and the students would also have some news worthy items to share with the other stake-holders. The editorial team has to make extra efforts to get these nuggets of news items and add more colour and variety to the newsletter.

I feel privileged to write this foreword to the inaugural issue of the newsletter. I seek the active support of all the readers and key players to sustain it on a regular basis.

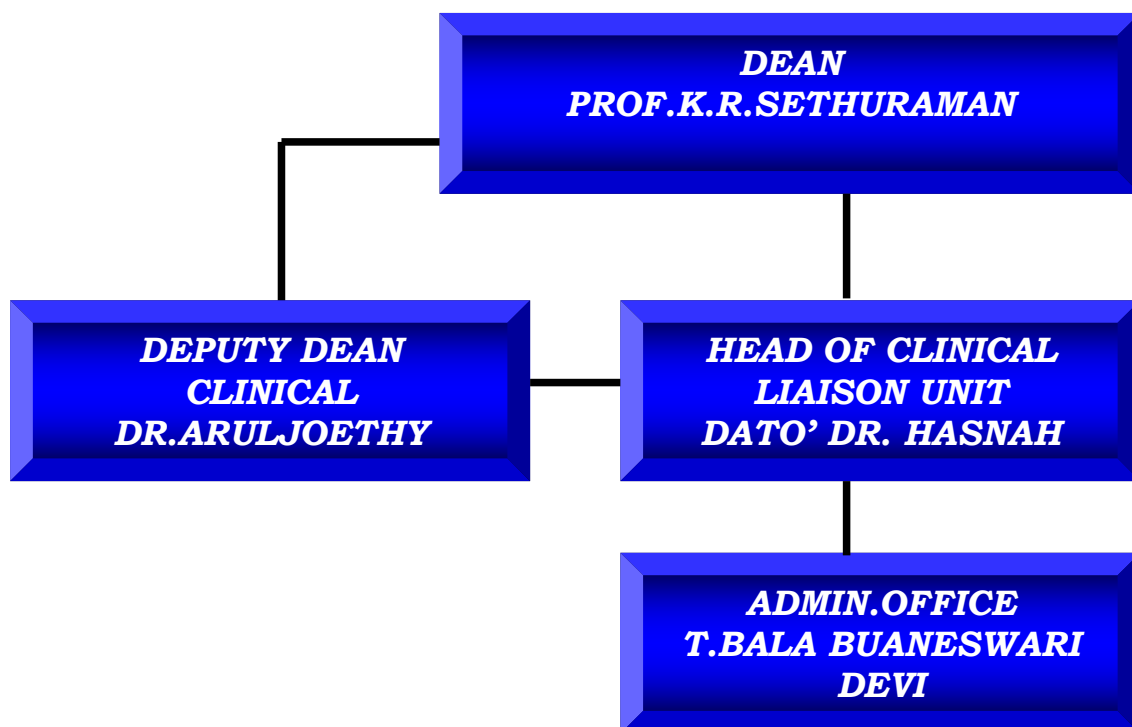
Prof K.R. Sethuraman. MD
Dean-FOM and Deputy VC (Academic & International affairs)



CLINICAL LIAISON UNIT-A REPORT

Clinical Liaison Unit was established on 15th April 2010 under the Dean of Faculty of Medicine Professor K.R.Sethuraman. Dato' Dr.Hasnah was designated as Head of the Liaison Unit and Ms.T.Bala Buaneswari Devi designated as an Officer of this unit.

ORGANISATIONAL CHART OF HOSPITAL LIAISON UNIT



LIAISON UNIT'S GOAL

Clinical Liaison Unit is responsible for serving as the primary liaison office to maintain good communication with the health care facilities.

UNIT OBJECTIVES

1. to maintain appropriate documentation with regards to hospital lecturers
2. to update the Dean weekly
3. to participate in joint meetings with hospital doctors as and when directed
4. to maintain and accentuate good relationships between the University and Hospitals.



HOSPITAL FOR LIAISON ACTIVITIES

No	Hospital Name	Number of Part-Time Lecturer
1.	Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah (HSB)	60
2.	Hospital Sultan Abdul Halim (HSAH)	35
3.	District Health Office (Kuala Muda)	4
4.	District Health Office (Kota Setar)	1
5.	District Health Office (Sik)	1
6	Private Hospitals	5
	Total	106

MONTHLY ACTIVITY OF HOSPITAL LIAISON UNIT

I WEEK – Collect attendance sheet from the respective batch representatives.

II WEEK – Compile & verify attendance sheet, prepare summary sheet of claim and get the same endorsement by subject coordinators & Dean.

III WEEK – Submit of claim forms to Finance department

IV WEEK – Deliver previous month's claim & honorarium

WEEKLY ACTIVITY OF HOSPITAL LIAISON UNIT

Conduct weekly rounds

Sunday – Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah

Thursday – Hospital Sultan Abdul Halim



Calendar of events January to July 2010 as presented in that month's faculty meeting

January 2010

Dr. Vincent published a scientific paper titled "Abnormal muscle in the anterior compartment of the forearm: a case report". "Cases Journal 2009, 2:9125 doi:10. 1186/1757-16 26-2-9125

Dr MS Ranjith & Dr S Gokul Shankar published two papers in – December 2009 issue of Egyptian Dermatology Online Journal,

1. Effect of the extract combinations of Curcuma zedoaria and Aloe vera in retarding melanin synthesis in murine melanoma cells

2. Herbal vs. chemical substances as antidandruff ingredients: which are more effective in the management of Dandruff? – An overview

Dr S Gokul Shankar is a Co-author in the following oral papers presented at 'International Symposium on Emerging Trends in Biomedical and Nanobiotechnology: Relevance to Human Health' at Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, India held between December 19-21 2009.

1. Genus specific Multiplex PCR for identification of Streptomyces
2. Universal primer for the identification of Mercury degrading bacteria by Polymerase chain reaction

Paper 1: Received second price for oral presentation

b. Reviewed a research paper for Journal of Dentistry and Oral Hygiene

Dr P K Rajesh-Presented a paper- A review of Henipavirus Emergence – From Molecular Biology to Epidemiology at EPIDEMICS2-The second International Conference on infectious disease dynamics Athens, Greece, December 2-4 2009. Co-author of this paper is **Mr. Janarthan** a student of MBBS Batch 14.

Dr. K. Narendiran had a scientific paper titled, "Clinically Important Anatomical Variation of Cutaneous Branches of Superficial Peroneal Nerve in the Foot". published in "The Open Anatomy Journal", 2010, 2, 1-4.

Mohanty BK, Aswini M, Hasamnia AA, Patil SS., Murty KSN, Jena SK. "Prescription Pattern in the Department of Medicine in a Tertiary Care Hospital in South India" in the Journal of Clinical and Diagnostic Research and has been accepted for publication for Feb 2010 issue. ISSN: 0973 – 709X

Ameya A. Hasamnis, Shyamal Sinha, P.S. Worlikar. "Study to evaluate the efficacy of holarrhena antidysenterica in acute experimental colitis in albino rats. The Internet Journal of Pharmacology. 2010 Volume 8 Number1. ISSN: 1531-2976

Dr P K Rajesh-Adjudicated a Ph.D., thesis "Antiviral and Immunodulation Property of Certain Indian Medical Plants : An Approach To Develop A Newer Antiviral Drug" work done at Vinayaka Missions University.

Prof. Harcharan Singh Sidhu involved in the APA-MQA audit, Jan 25-28th, contributed and participated in the Global higher education forum 2009-Current trends, future perspectives from Dec 13-16 2009 at Park Royal Hotel, Penang.

Prof. K.R. Sethuraman, Prof. Harcharan Singh Sidhu and Dr P K Rajesh were involved in the documentation required for the APA-MQA audit, MBBS Year 1 module-Element 6 was used as an example.





February 2010

MQA/MMC visit on 2.2.2010.

Prof K.A.Narayan and **Prof. Rashid's** Lecture notes on epidemiology had its second edition published by IBS Buku.

Dr. Arulmoli was an external examiner for PhD and evaluated the thesis, entitled "Osteoarchitectural adaptations of foot in tree climbing communities", Manipal University, India, 26th February, 2010.

Dr. Srikumar Dr. Kay Ms. Rohini attended the 8th Asia Pacific Evidence-Based Medicine & Nursing Workshop and Conference held between 2nd - 5th February 2010 in Penang

Dr PK Rajesh Prof.Neena and Dr.Bharathi presented a paper "Challenges of implementing PBL in a new medical school" and participated in two workshops each at APMEC 2010, NU Singapore, Feb 4-8 2010.

Dr Mariette and Dr.Christina attended and participated in two workshops at the 7th Asia Pacific Medical Education Conference and workshop at NU Singapore, 4th – 8th Feb 2010.

March 2010

Prof Marya published a book on Medical Physiology 3rd edition, CBS publishers, New Delhi.

Dr MS Ranjith and Dr S Gokul Shankar: Co –authors in the paper presented at 8th National Conference of SIHAM (Society for Indian Human and Animal Mycologists) at AIIMS, New Delhi (4-6 March 2010)

Title of paper : Comparison of in vitro susceptibility of melanised and non melanised cells of *Cryptococcus neoformans* to *Cinnamomum zeylanicum* and *Murraya paniculata*

Dr S Gokul Shankar: Reviewed one paper each for the following Journals

Journal of microbiology and antimicrobials; Journal of Medicinal Plants Research

African Journal of Biotechnology

Dr. Bharathi attended the World book fair on 22nd and 23rd March 2010 as the FOM library coordinator



Dr. Farzana attended and participated in two workshops at the International Medical Education conference at Kuala Lumpur on March 24 2010

Dr. N. Jeyakumar was appointed reviewer in nucleoside and nucleotides and nucleic acid journal. Dr. Jeyakumar attended 2 training programmes 1. The Basic PCR and Real Time PCR presentation (19/03/10) and 2. Hands on training on digital microscope and bacterial metabolic finger prints (25-03-10 & 26-03-10) conducted by Department of Biotechnology, AIMST University ,Malaysia.



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MBBS batch 14 students organizes Prom night at Gurney hotel, Penang on the 27th of March



Prof.K.A.Narayan organized the white Coat ceremony for Batch 15 was held on 29th March 2010.

Dr.P.K.Rajesh launched the e-PBL on CNS infections, on dokeos, along with Prof.K.A.Narayan, the PBL core group-Prof.Neena, Prof. Arunkumar, Dr. Suresh and Dr. Bharathi and the CNS coordinators-Dr. Ushakumari, Dr. Gokulshankar.

Dr. Narendiran had published a scientific paper titled “An unusual case of unilateral additional right renal artery and vein” International Journal of Anatomical variations, 2010, 3: 8 – 11.



Anatomy/Pathology Museum

Prof. Dinker Pai attended the HPSN Conference at Florida,USA.

April 2010

Ranjith MS, Shankar SG, Sidhu HS: Solanum trilobatum in the management of atopy: Through inhibition of mast cell degranulation and moderation of release of interleukins.

Phcog Res [serial online] 2010 [cited 2010 Apr 15];2:10-4.

Ranjith M.S., Gokul Shankar et al. Extensively Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (Xdr-Tb): A Potential Threat.Accepted in the Journal of Basic and Clinical Pharmacy.

Prof Ashutosh Rao invited for a talk at SP hospital on 8th of April.

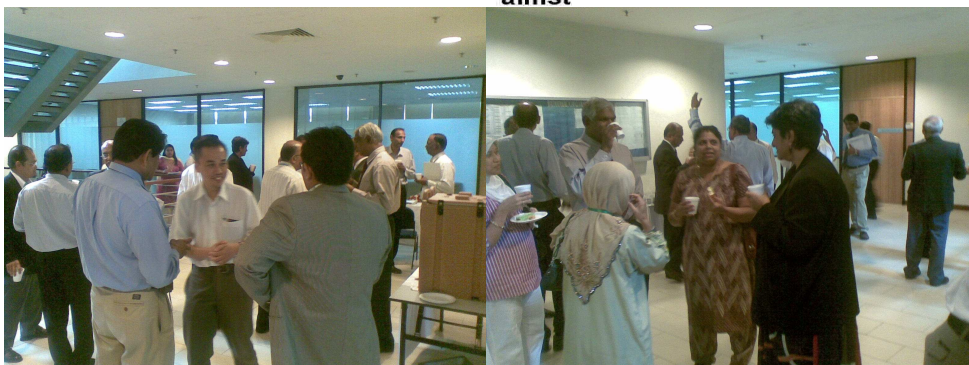
Ms. Sridevi attended the workshops on Scientific Writing organized by Clinical Research Centre (CRC), HSB on 25th & 26th April 2010

Ms. Rohini attended a seminar on “Innovative Approaches for Label-free Nanobiosensor Development Seminar 2010” organized by Faculty of Medicine on 29th & 30th April 2010

Dr Christina reported attending “Unite for Sight” an annual conference in Apr 2010 at Yale University, Connecticut, New Haven, USA.

Clinical Liaison unit established

Faculty of Medicine went through a curriculum review process in April 2010



May 2010

Dr Ranjith and Dr Gokul Shankar - 2 articles highlighting the research work on medicinal plants was published in the Chennai edition of Deccan Chronicle on March 15, 2010 (Thuthuvalai cure for asthma) and May 10, 2010 (A natural player in fair game)

Dr Jeyakumar Ms. Sridevi Ms. Rohini and Ms Jyoti attended a Workshop on Genomics and Bioinformatics for Medical Applications conducted by Faculty of Applied Sciences, Department of Biotechnology, AIMST University on 13th May 2010.

Dr Jeyakumar reviewed a paper entitled 'Phytochemistry and Immunopharmacological potential of *Nyctanthes arbortristis* leaf extract in murine model systems' for International Journal of Applied Research in Natural Products.

Prof.K.R.Sethuraman conducted the Workshop on Ethics for Educators organized by Medical Education Unit, Faculty of Medicine, AIMST University. Most of the faculty members in the university participated.

MSc programs in Anatomy, Physiology and Biochemistry approved by MQA.

Dr Bharathi, Dr P K Rajesh and Mr. Ravivarman Panirselvam, Year 3 Student presented a poster on "Learning effectiveness of Pathology in medical undergraduates in an integrated curriculum" at the 14th Ottawa Medical Education Conference and participated in multiple workshops at the Association Medical Education in Europe hosted conference at Miami, Florida, USA between May 17 and 19 2010. 22 credits were awarded for full participation in the main conference by the Royal College of Physicians, UK.

Dr. Rajesh completed the Fundamentals of Assessment in Medical Education (FAME) course between 15 and 19 May 2010. **Dr. Bharathi** completed the Essential Skills in Medical Education (ESME) Course from 15-19 May 2010 covering the following competencies: Effective Teacher, Informed Assessor/ Educator and Skilled Educational Planner.

Prof Ashutosh Rao was involved in a talk and two posters (titles and authors below) presented in the Malaysian Orthopedic Association meeting held in Johor Bahru in May 2010.

Title of Talk: Patient Profile And Patterns Of Injury In Animal Related Motor Vehicle Accidents. Ashutosh S. Rao, S.L Vijaya Kumar, Mohd Yusoff Yahaya, Asrul Fahmi Azizan, B.K Gan.

Poster: A Study Of 50 Cases Of Supracondylar Fracture Of The Humerus In A District Hospital. SL Vijaya Kumar, Ashutosh S. Rao, C.H. Foo, S.P.Pani, C.K.Lee, H.K.Lee.

Poster: Factors Affecting Results In Fixation of Trochanteric Fractures Using DHS In Elderly Patients. SL Vijaya Kumar, Ashutosh S. Rao, Anbarrasu N.D, Rosvinder S. Randhawa, Syed Mustafa Aljunid.

June 2010

Chairman of Board of Directors of AIMST University **Prof Dato' Dr. T. Marimuthu** conferred the coveted title of **Tan Sri**.

Dr.Saravanan and Mr.Haji demonstrated specimens in the Anatomy museum and Dissection hall to students from 60 schools during the National science fair for young children 2010, organized by AIMST University on 29 May and 6 June 2010.



Prof. Arulmoli and Mr. Haji with external examiner Dr. M. Samerendra Singh

Dr Girish Prabhu attended the 24th Malaysian Society of Physiologists and Pharmacologists meeting on 2nd and 3rd Jun 2010 at Shah Alam. He also attended a workshop titled Herbal Medicine Research – Challenges and Prospects.

Dr Surekha Bhat has published a paper. The citation is **Bhat S**, Rao G, Murthy KD, and Bhat PG. Alterations in stress parameters in rats housed in a pyramid model – seasonal variations. Indian Journal of Pharma and Biosciences 2010; available at <http://www.ijpbs.net/issue-2/168.pdf> .

Publications (names of Faculty members are highlighted in bold face type)

G. Venkatesan, A.J.A. Ranjitsingh, A.G. Murugesan, **S. Gokulshankar** and **MS Ranjith**. Is the difference in keratinase activity of dermatophytes to different keratinaceous substrates an attribute of adaptation to parasitism? Egyptian Dermatology Online Journal 2010: 6(1).

<http://www.edoj.org/eg/vol006/0601/006/01.htm>

Comparative pharmacognostic studies of four ficus species barks. K Babu, **S Gokul Shankar**, Sadananda Rai, Turkish Journal of Botany 2010 (available

<http://mistug.tubitak.gov.tr/bdyim/abs.php?dergi=bot&rak=0907-115>

Dr Gokul Shankar participated in the CRC sponsored 4th National Conference on Clinical Research: “Advancing Medical Research in Malaysia: the next stage” between 2-4 June 2010 and also reviewed research articles (one each) for the following Journals African Journal of Biotechnology. and Journal of Evolutionary Biology Research

Dr M S Ranjith presented a poster in the CRC sponsored 13th National Institute of Health Meeting and 4th National Conference on Clinical Research: “Advancing Medical Research in Malaysia: the next stage” between 2-4 June 2010. Title of Poster: Incidence, risk factors and clinical epidemiology of Melioidosis: a complex emerging infectious disease in the Alor Setar region of Kedah, Malaysia

Dr N Inees passed the MRCOG examination.

Dr Ihab ElSayed gave a CME talk in Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah, Alor Star on suppurative diseases of the pharynx (10 Jun 2010).

Prof S. Datta Gupta delivered a lecture on *Fatty Liver Disease* at the Quarterly Scientific Conference of the Penang Adventist Hospital on 13 June 2010.

Dato’ Hasnah informed that at Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah, Alor Star, Meeting Room 2 at Level 3 at the Specialist Office, a lounge facility is available which clinical faculty members could use between 11.30 am and 2.30 pm.

Dr P K Rajesh proposed the idea of a FOM Newsletter. Dr. Aruljoethy.R and Dr. Selvam.K supported the idea.

Dr G Chandralekha attended a workshop on Plastination, conducted by School of Medicine, University Malaysia, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, 21-23 Jun 2010.

Dr.E.S. Prakash has published a research article [Prakash ES. Explicit constructivism: a missing link in ineffective lectures? *Advances in Physiology Education* 34; 93-96, 2010. Free full text at

<http://advan.physiology.org/cgi/content/full/34/2/93>]

Ms. Rohini published an article cited-Rohini K. Molecular evolution of cell division proteins FtsA, FtsL, and FtsZ in bacteria: a phylogenetic analysis". *Malaysian Journal of Microbiology*, Vol 6 (1) 2010, pp. 94-98. **Ms Rohini** also has become a Life member of the Society of Biological Chemists, India.

Dr Prabhakar attended a workshop on pain management in HSAH in June 2010.



July 2010

Dr Farzana Rizwan attended and participated in the following scientific events: *A Minisummit on MDS (Myelo-Dysplastic Syndrome) and Multiple Myeloma* of the Malaysian Society of Hematology held at G Hotel Penang on 3 July 2010; Penang Adventist Hospital & National Cancer Centre of Singapore combined Oncology Conference (PAH & NCC ONCOSCICON) on the theme *Progress in Oncology Care* at Hotel Evergreen Laurel, Penang on 11 July 2010.

Dr Ranjith reviewed a review article "Lignocellulose for ethanol production: A review of issues relating to bagasse as a source material" for African Journal of Biotechnology

Dr S Gokul Shankar has been nominated as a member of editorial board for African Journal of Microbiology Research. He has reviewed a paper titled, 'Fluoxetine treatment for major depression decreases the plasma levels of cytokines' for African Journal of Biotechnology.

Dr Gokul Shankar and Dr Ranjith have a paper accepted for publication in Journal of Applied Cosmetology (July-Sep 2010). The title of the paper is Extract combinations of Curcuma zedoaria and Aloe vera inhibit melanin synthesis and dendrite formation in murine melanoma cells.

Dr. Jeyakumar Nelson has two articles accepted for publication: i) The effect of extracts of Selaginella involvens and Selaginella inaequalifolia leaves on poultry pathogen in the Asia Pacific Journal of Tropical Medicine; and ii) Biosynthesis of silver nanoparticles using mangosteen leaf extract and evaluation of their antimicrobial activities in the Journal of Saudi Chemical Society. **Dr Nelson** also served as an external examiner of a PhD thesis (Periyar University).

Dr Mariette D'Souza published a research article. The citation is Localized immediate type hypersensitivity reaction following intralesional triamcinolone acetomide into a keloid. *Egyptian Dermatology Online Journal* 6 91; 16, 2010.

Prof.Narayan spear headed the Kampung Nelayan community posting for students- to study chronic diseases, nutrition, and environment, injuries among fishermen and anxiety among fishermen's wives. Both quantitative and qualitative methods were planned and students stayed in the village and conducted the survey. The data was analysed in the third week and findings presented during the fourth. During the home stay the students participated in the several community activities. A farewell programme was organized on the night of 17th June. A health campaign was organized on the 2nd July. The villagers visited AIMST University campus on 16th July.

Chairman Tan Sri Prof Marimuthu shared with the Faculty the good news that AIMST University has achieved a Tier 4 Rating ('Very Good') in the rating by Malaysian Qualifications Agency of Malaysian Universities and Colleges. He indicated this was a creditable achievement given the fact AIMST University is competing with established Universities, and congratulated the faculty for their contribution to this. He indicated being optimistic that AIMST University would go from strength to strength, urged the Faculty to keep up the quality of their teaching services.



AIMST facilities pictures courtesy www.myaimst.net

Members of the Faculty of Medicine are requested to send jokes, anecdotes, poems, short thought provoking articles, news reports, difficulties faced in and around FOM and the possible solutions, photographs especially of conference venues or just about anything interesting for favour of inclusion in the second issue of our newsletter. The next edition will include a student's section.

Inaugural Newsletter cover designed by Mr.Naga Bharathi MBBS Year 2 Student

Email dean.aimst@gmail.com, deputydeanaimst@gmail.com, hodpsy.aimst@gmail.com,
depdeanpreclinical.aimst@gmail.com