

# MILESTONE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA GUNIVERSITY CHARACTER

## A BIG LEAP IN RESEARCH COMMERCIALISATION



The university has marked a big leap in research commercialisation with the soft launching of the NANOCAT-HARTALEGA Pilot Plant on 11 March 2019 at Auditorium, IPPP.

Nanotechnology and Catalysis Research Centre (NANOCAT) has partnered with Hartalega Sdn. Bhd. to develop and commercialise nanomagnetite metal detectable nitrile gloves by doping the NBR latex glove with super-magnetic iron oxide nanoparticles (nanoMAG).

To fulfil the production of the need of industrial counterpart (Hartalega Sdn. Bhd.), a UM research team under the supervision of Prof. Rafie Mohd Johan and Dr. Leo Bey Fen has designed a semi-automated pilot plant located at the UM Research Incubator Building.

The 300L capacity pilot plant is estimated to

be able to produce 100 kg of nanoMAG per batch capacity per day. These nanoMAG additives will then be further processed by Hartalega to produce approximately 200,000 pairs of gloves per day. The potential for such glove is significant even on a global scale and NANOCAT is currently exploring the applications of nanoMAG with various industrial partners.

The event was officiated and launched by the Deputy Secretary General of Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment & Climate Change (MESTECC), YBrs. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ramzah Dambul. The event has also witnessed the document signing and exchange ceremony of UM with other industrial partners (Valuation and Property Services Department, Greatlav International Sdn. Bhd., Unigeneration Sdn. Bhd. & Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)).

# TOWARDS A BETTER BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & COMMERCIALISATION OF UM RESEARCH PRODUCT



A roundtable discussion with Oxentia (Oxford's Global Innovation Consultancy) and MIGHT (Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology) is one of the initiatives taken by UMCIC to exchange opinions and also to expose and highlight to others on how UMCIC works as an organisation. The program held on 31 January 2019 was attended by 17 people where four of them were from Oxford Oxentia and Might. Dr. Tim Hart and Ms. Ya-Hsin led the visit as the representative from Oxford Oxentia, While Mr. Ahmad Razif Mohamad represented MIGHT. Other consultants, research analysts and several officers from UM have also participated in the program to explore how UMCIC work and process can be improvised.

The program was comprised of introductory presentation of UM and UMCIC followed by round-table discussion and brainstorming to discuss topics on how the new organisational structure of UMCIC would function better in the commercialisation of UM innovations, services, and technology.

This program also emphasizes on the networking establishment that includes a visit to UM start-up companies in UM incubator (UMXcelarate). It is hoped that this program would enable to increase productivity and efficiency of UMCIC in assisting UM in the aspect of business development and commercialisation for UM research products.

## PUBLONS ACADEMY WORKSHOP SERIES 2019



The Research Support Unit (USP), Centre for Research Services in collaboration with Clarivate Analytics has successfully hosted the 2nd Publons Academy Workshop on 28 March 2019 at Auditorium, IPPP. The invited speaker was Dr. Kun Yu, China Market Development Manager from Publons, Clarivate.

The workshop series was first organized on 18 February 2019 at Video Conference Room, IPPP and the invited speakers were Dr. Kun Yu dan Laura Simonite from Publons, Clarivate.





## **MALAYSIA TECHNOLOGY EXPO 2019**



UM has won 3 Gold Medals and 2 Silver Medals at the MTE 2019 held on 21-23 February 2019 at PWTC Kuala Lumpur and the winners are:

**Invention & Innovation Awards 2019** 

- Prof. Dr. Ramesh T. Subramaniam (Gold)

**STEM Mentor-Mentee Awards 2019** 

- Prof. Dr. Rohaida Mohd Saat (Gold)
- Dr. Rose Amnah Abd Rauf (Gold)
- Dr. Wan Safwani Wan Kamarul Zaman (Silver)

**STEM Teaching Innovation Awards 2019** 

- Dr. Azah Anir Norman (Silver)









# UM RESEARCH CLUSTER: TOWARDS IMPACTFUL INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

#### **OUR ROLES**

Strengthen niche and thrust areas.





To be a platform for UM researchers in achieving research excellence for the betterment of the society

**OUR VISION & MISSION** 

**Think tank** for strategising research direction and policies.



To foster impactful interdisciplinary research in niche and thrust areas



Establish **collaborative** research with national and international academic institutions, public and private agencies, and industries.

Empower UM researchers in achieving research excellence.



## **KEY ELEMENTS**





Synergistic partnerships

Interdisciplinary Research

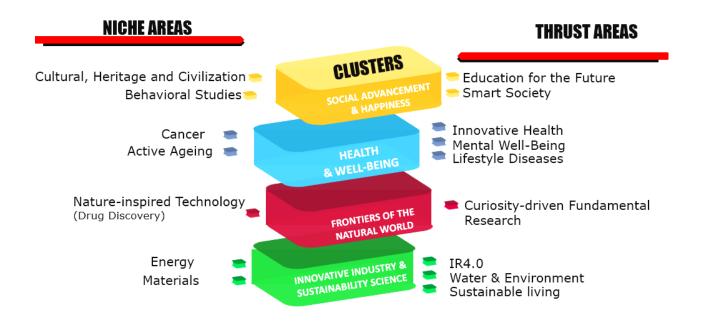
With the recent changes in the nation's economic landscape, it is undeniable that research in universities has been greatly affected. The university observes shrinkage of the research budget, while expected to meet the increasing demand from the stakeholders and taxpayers. As the university aspires to address these needs, the University of Malaya Research Cluster has been restructured to four (4) clusters.

In alignment with UM's aspiration to be the preferred partner in research and champions in leading interdisciplinary research, Research Cluster will now focus on research areas with promising performances and experts-ready with critical mass (niche) and emerging areas (thrust). These niche and thrust areas were selected based on the analysis of data on UM's past research output, expressed research interest of different faculties and research centres, deliberations in a series of meeting, workshops, national needs, and international trends.

As such, the IIRG (Impact Oriented Interdisciplinary Research Grant) was launched to kick-start and drive impact-oriented research within UM. Research with a clear intention from the outset, who the relevant stakeholders are, and how they will benefit from the said research. Researchers can no longer afford to do research only for the sake of research and they must be clear who will eventually benefit from it.

Depending on how one look at it, there are numerous definitions for impact. For the sake of simplicity, however, let impact be defined as having a "marked effect or influence". In the case of IIRG, it is to drive research that will eventually have impact beyond the academic realm and contribute directly towards society and nation. This impact can be in various areas such as cultural, economic, environmental, social, health and well-being, policy influence and change, legal, and technological developments.

## **UM RESEARCH NICHE AND THRUST AREAS**



The impacts are not limited to the abovementioned areas. Outputs and effects that positively touch the way the society live are considered as impact.

Ultimately, the majority of academic research carried out in Malaysia is funded by the government which in turn means that research is funded by taxpayers. The researcher's ultimate responsibility is therefore, to ensure that taxpayers are the main beneficiaries of its research. Unless the research is self-funded, this is how it should be.

As such, in planning research, its potential benefits to the people should always be first and foremost. It doesn't matter what the area of research may be. Feedback from stakeholders, industry and community, the government, and NGOs can guide and help researchers in understanding problems in the real world. This in turn will allow researchers to formulate effective research strategies to solve them, thus maximizing their impact.

Briefly, interdisciplinary research can be defined as research that integrates information and expertise to solve a problem whose solution would elude a single disciplinary approach. Often combining two or more disciplines, ranging from the hard sciences to the social sciences, and from fundamental research to applied research.

Some of the most significant discoveries (discovery of DNA structure for example – biology and physics) have been made when two or more disciplines combined to solve a common problem. A more elegant solution can often be derived with an interdisciplinary approach. When a problem is approached from only one perspective, often the solution is narrow, and may not necessarily be the most effective.

It was therefore, with these ideas in mind that the IIRG was launched, hopefully to propel impact oriented interdisciplinary research within University of Malaya, for a better and meaningful future for the nation.

# MILESTONE FOR INTERFAITH DIALOGUE: GENDER IDENTITY

Last 22 February 2019, the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue, University of Malaya (UMCCD) has achieved another milestone in its establishment. In collaboration with the Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (IKIM), the Interfaith Dialogue - Gender Identity featured different representatives from different religious backgrounds namely the Muslims, Buddhist, Hindu, and Christians.Interfaith dialogue is a program that promotes cultural literacy. It acts as an antidote to cultural misperceptions and misconceptions that normally contribute to the culture of hate. It is quite a challenge to organize such a program on a delicate issue (Gender Identity) of which of the nation's interest due to the ignorance of both individuals and religious groups.

The issues were discussed from the perspectives of religions to provide a platform for the participants to strengthen respective faiths and at the same time further understand other faiths. The session was moderated by Madam Enizahura Abdul Aziz from IKIM and joined by panelists: Haji Hushim Hj Salleh (Hushim Motivational & Counselling Consultancy), Ven. Kumâra



Bhikkhu (Sasanarakkha Buddhist Sanctuary), Madam T. Gowri (Malaysia Hindu Sangam) as well as Rev. Fr. Gregory Chan (Church of the Assumption, PJ).

The programme aimed at learning the views of different religions on the similarities and differences of one another on gender identity. It provided an insight into one another to achieve a common goal to live in harmony and peacefully in a community of diverse cultures. There were 108 attendees to this significant dialogue session and participants are looking forward to more interfaith dialogues on various topics to be organized in the future. This program has provided a platform for intellectual discourse. Interfaith dialogue is always a must as religious diversity will stay as long as human lives.







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## INVENTION & INNOVATION AWARDS 2019



#### **GOLD MEDAL**

Prof. Dr. Ramesh T. Subramaniam
Department of Physics
Faculty of Science

Supercapattery: A Hybrid Breakthrough in Solid State Energy Storage





## INAUGURAL ISSUE JOURNAL OF RESEARCH MANGEMENT & GOVERNANCE (JRMG)

Let us extend our heartiest welcome to the first issue of the Journal of Research Management & Governance (JRMG) (eISSN: 2637-1103), the first of its kind in Malaysia and perhaps in the South East Asian region. JRMG is beginning its journey in December 2018 with the University of Malaya – the premier research university in Malaysia – as its host. For more information, please visit https://jrmg.um.edu.my/

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