

Sunway University Convocation February 2022
18 February 2022



The 4-day Sunway University Convocation held at Sunway Lagoon Amphitheater has concluded successfully with graduates tossing their mortarboards in the air. It is truly an exhilarating moment for all our graduates who will be embarking on the next milestone in their academic pursuits and future careers, as well as becoming new members of our Sunway Alumni Community.

Top 10 academics associated with Malaysia according to the Scopus Database in 2021

21 February 2022



Despite facing the Covid-19 pandemic that came to so overwhelmingly control our lives as well as working remotely most of the time, Distinguished Professor David Andrew Bradley (Head of the Research Centre for Applied Physics and Radiation Technologies) and Professor Mayeen Uddin Khandaker have managed to publish 88 and 105 journal articles respectively over the year 2021, and emerged as among the top 10 academics associated with Malaysia according to the Scopus database (see Fig. 1).

Also, an increase of more than 100% of the research citations (sourced from Scopus) since pre-pandemic year 2019 (see Fig. 2). Overall, 64%, 32% and 5% of the articles are published in the respective quartile Q1, Q2 and Q3 journals. Out of 35 journals, as can be seen in Fig. 3, articles published in Radiation Physics and Chemistry journal make up 43% of the year 2021 publications.

Congratulations, Professor Bradley and Professor Khandaker!

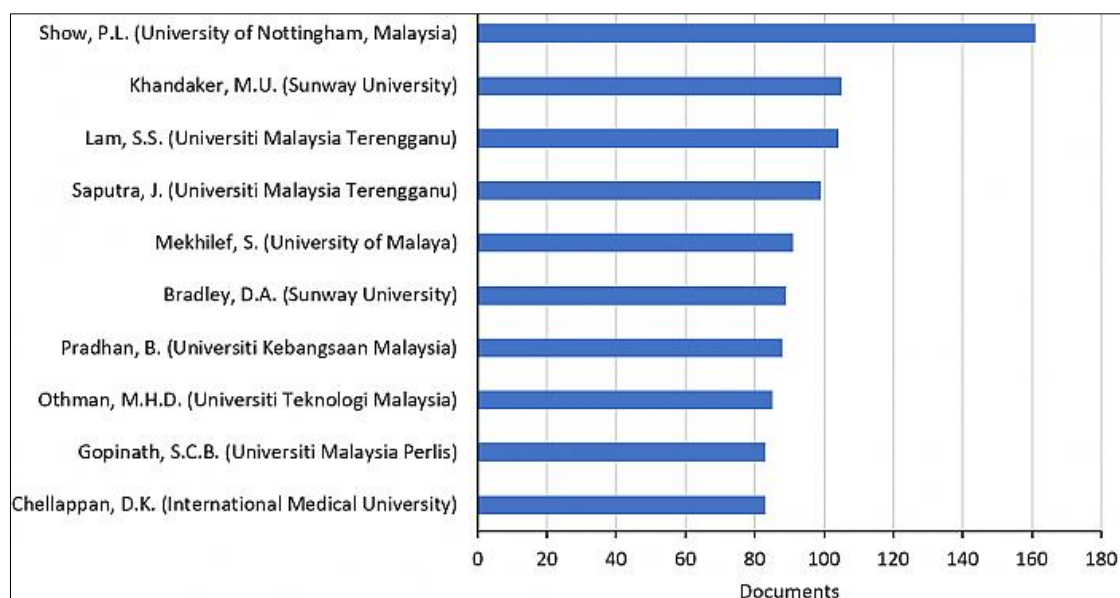


Fig. 1. The published journal articles over the year 2021 acquired via Scopus database, indicative of the top 10 academics affiliated with Malaysia. Two listed academics, Distinguished Professor David A. Bradley (Bradley, D.A.) and Professor Mayeen Uddin Khandaker (Khandaker, M.U.), are from the Research Centre for Applied Physics and Radiation Technologies, School of Engineering and Technology, Sunway University.

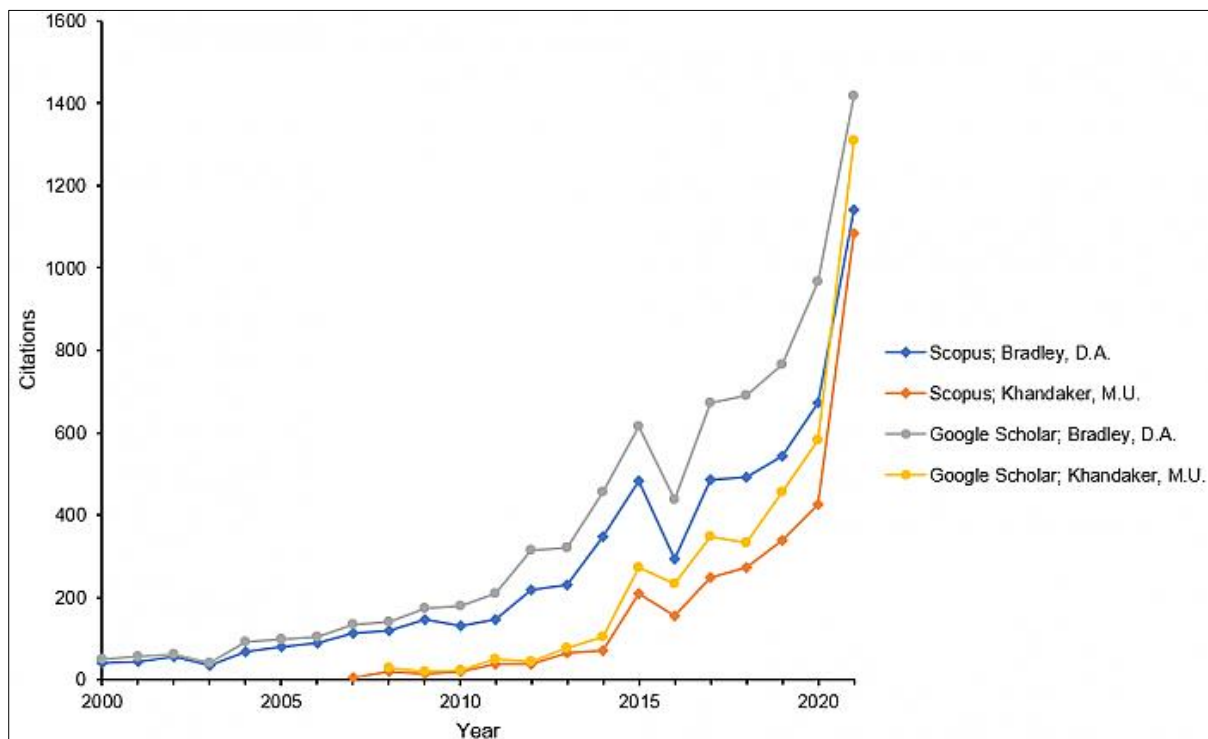


Fig. 2. Citations per year adapted from the sources of Scopus and Google Scholar.

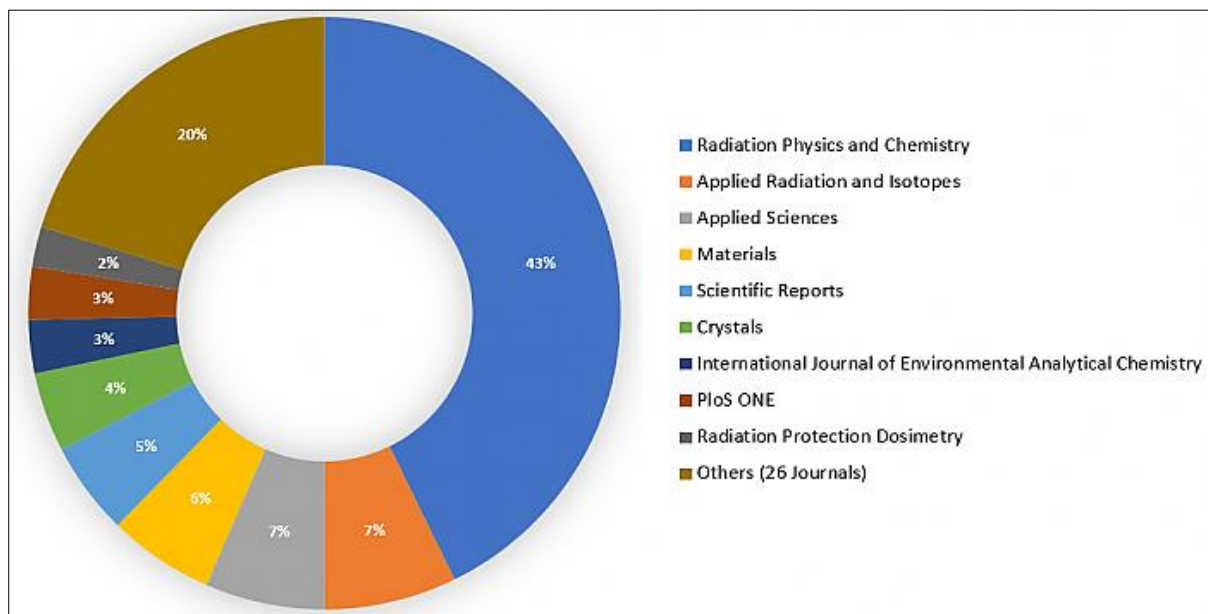


Fig. 3. A percentage of published articles in the Scopus indexed journals.

UNESCO-UNEVOC grant winners: Prof Graeme Atherton, Prof Glenda Crosling & Assoc Prof Dr Angela Lee Siew Hoong are the recipients of UNESCO Grant worth 23,000 Euros
19 January 2022

The graphic features the UNESCO and UNEVOC logos at the top left, with the text 'International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training'. To the right, it says 'UNESCO - UNEVOC GRANT WINNERS' in large, bold letters. Below this, three circular portraits of the winners are shown. Under each portrait is a nameplate with their names and affiliations. At the bottom, a dark blue banner contains the text 'UNESCO Grant worth €23000 Euros' and the project title 'Creating an Online Repository on Digital Skills and Competence in TVET'. The background is decorated with yellow confetti and colorful streamers.

UNESCO - UNEVOC GRANT WINNERS

Prof. GRAEME ATHERTON
Sunway University
Centre for Higher Education Research (CHER)

Prof. GLENDA CROSLING
Sunway University
Centre for Higher Education Research (CHER)

AP. Ts. Dr. ANGELA LEE
Sunway University
School of Engineering & Technology (SET)

UNESCO Grant worth €23000 Euros
"Creating an Online Repository on Digital Skills and Competence in TVET"

This is a multidisciplinary research team drawn from Centre for Higher Education Research (CHER) and School of Engineering and Technology, Sunway University won UNESCO-UNEVOC research grant. The Project Team Leader Professor Graeme Atherton (CHER Adjunct Professor and Professor at the University of West London, UK) with the team members: Professor Glenda Crosling (Head, CHER) and Associate Professor Dr. Angela Lee Siew Hoong (Head, Department of Computing and Information Systems, School of Engineering and Technology) worked on the project titled "Creating an Online Repository on Digital Skills and Competence in TVET".

The focus of this project is to identify the digital competencies frameworks specific to TVET. The review and presentation of this outcome will be considered and approved by UNESCO for consideration on their webpage. The framework revolves around applying digital competencies in work-based learning and apprenticeships, digital skills for multi-generational teachers and learners, competence design in different regions in digital technologies.

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Sunway University is positioned as a leading institution as well as a nation builder, contributing towards the students' learning, self-development, nurturing a holistic education and promoting a planetary health mindset. For young future leaders thinking of their first step into a one-of-a-kind university experience and inspiring student community, this is your **#TimeToMoveUp** to Sunway University.

Japanese Ai Edutech TOY EIGHT joins Investkl Gkl live lab programme, partners Sunway University to build AI assessment tool
20 January 2022



InvestKL, the leading investment promotion agency for Malaysia's capital city announced the joining of Japanese artificial intelligence (AI)-backed edutech startup Toybox Creations and Technology (TOY EIGHT) to the Greater Kuala Lumpur (GKL) Live Lab programme.

GKL Live Lab was launched in April 2021 to position Greater KL as an innovation and ideation smart city, acting as a testbed where foreign companies experimenting with new and disruptive ways to solve the most challenging problems in the world today can bring their ideas to life while collaborating with local players. It aims to create high-value and future-ready jobs, as well as deepen our local ecosystem with more sophisticated and complex activities. GKL Live Lab, through *InvestKL's Business Ecosystem Collaboration* (BEC) programme, provides a platform for multinational companies to have productive business relationships with local academia and Malaysian companies. It creates an integrated and holistic ecosystem.

TOY EIGHT is currently developing an AI-based tool that democratises developmental assessment for preschoolers via a smartphone. Designed by an ex-Nintendo game designer, it analyses children at play to understand their characteristics and strengths. This is part of TOY EIGHT's collaboration with Sunway University, which aims to address socio-educational issues in Southeast Asia by making developmental assessment affordable and accessible whilst rapidly improving the understanding of child developmental levels in different communities and areas.

Through the GKL Live Lab, Sunway iLabs (iLabs Foundry) connected TOY EIGHT to two psychology researchers from Sunway University's School of Medical and Life Sciences, Dr Woo Pei Jun and Dr Wo Su Woan who worked closely with TOY EIGHT's technical team for 12 weeks.

This collaboration resulted in a localised AI system that focuses on early childhood development including motor skills, fine motor, cognitive, receptive language, and expressive language. The AI system aims to assist young parents in Malaysia to recognise what their children are naturally good at and unlock their talents through personalised learning content, whilst identifying areas of concerns or delay so parents can seek early assistance from professionals. The AI system is currently undergoing pre-commercialisation validation for the Malaysian market by Associate Prof. Dr. Rafidah Aga and Dr. Ponmalar Alagappan of the University of Malaya.

Masaki Ishibashi, Founder and CEO of TOY EIGHT, said, *"GKL Live Lab resources were very helpful in developing and implementing an AI-based assessment system aligned with Malaysia's practices, following the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education of Malaysia. We were able to obtain all the support needed to implement solutions to educational challenges in Southeast Asia by making full use of innovative technologies and precedent cases."*

Professor Sibrandes Poppema, President of Sunway University, said, *"Sunway University is very serious about university-industry collaboration in accordance with the 10-10 MySTIE framework, combining innovative ideas from our scientists with the ability of industry partners to make the resulting products widely available to the public."*

iLabs Foundry also connected TOY EIGHT with local communities, facilitated the startup's access to new talents from Sunway University, and conducted a pilot trial with Sunway Business Units including using Sunway City as a testbed for TOY EIGHT's innovations.

Muhammad Azmi Zulkifli, CEO of InvestKL, said, *"TOY EIGHT and Sunway University's co-developed edutech project is the latest addition to our cohort of exciting GKL Live Lab projects, and yet another vote of confidence in Greater KL as an innovation and ideation smart city. Companies are now reviewing their local and global business strategies due to the changes brought by Covid-19, resulting in many pivoting to prioritizing innovation and digitalisation. GKL Live Lab incentivises these forward-looking companies to commit new or increase their investments in Greater KL."*

GKL Live Lab focuses on driving innovation, accelerating digital adoption and deepening the local ecosystem. Key industry sectors for local and multinational collaborations are technology products and services; medical technology, autonomous vehicle; future mobility; pharmaceutical or medical testing and clinical trials; R&D, design, and development; deep and emerging technology; and environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG).

'Automated Touchless Hand Sanitizer Dispensing Device' won a silver award at RITEC 2021



'Automated Touchless Hand Sanitizer Dispensing Device' won a Silver Award at RITEC 2021 Professor Mayeen Khandaker and his students won a Silver Award at the Research & Innovative Technology Competition 2021 (RITEC 2021) for their work entitled "Development of a Novel Design and Subsequent Fabrication of an Automated Touchless Hand Sanitizer Dispenser to Reduce the Spread of Contagious Diseases" under the Innovative Product category. The virtual event was organized by the Faculty of Engineering Technology, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia on 27 October 2021. The key problem of the conventional ultrasonic and infrared-based dispensers is their malfunctioning due to the interference of sunlight, vehicle sound, etc. To overcome such problems, this work demonstrates a novel design and subsequent fabrication of a low-cost, touchless, LDR-based automated sanitizer dispenser to be used in busy public places. The overall performance of the manufactured device was analyzed based on the cost, power consumption, and environmental factors by deploying it in busy public places as well as in indoor environments, and found to be more efficient and cost-effective compared to conventional dispensers available in the market. The presented device is expected to play a key role in the disinfection of public hands in a contactless manner, hence reducing the spread of infectious diseases in society.

Virtual mobility programme with the School of Hospitality and Service Management 21 February 2022



Despite travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the School of Hospitality and Service Management (SHSM) successfully launched a home-based virtual mobility programme with Kansai Gaidai University, Japan. This virtual mobility programme, also known as the Asian Studies Programme, took place from August to December 2021. A total of eight undergraduate degree students from SHSM successfully completed this four-month virtual mobility programme. These students are Cheryl Wong Pui Mun, Chew Yi Ning, Goh Hwee Yu, Kay Caitlynn, Micole Yong Yu Xuan, Khoo Ming Tsu, Tan Jia Earn, and Tan Wei Hang.

The Asian Studies Programme was established in 1972 by Kansai Gaidai University that welcomes over 600 students from 40 countries around the world annually. The purpose of the programme is to provide international students with a means to explore Japanese and Asian studies through languages, culture, tradition, globalisation, business and management. The courses concern the Japanese language; fashion and music in Japan; sociocultural elements in Japan; and Japanese business. Given the COVID-19 travel restrictions, students still had the opportunity to participate in this programme from their respective home countries.

International mobility programmes are an effective avenue for students to enrich their education experience by gaining exposure to other cultures and languages, both of which can enhance one's employability.

Associate Professor Dr. Daniel Chong, Associate Dean – International, also mentioned “When the world came to a halt for student exchange due to travel restrictions and the fear of a COVID-19 outbreak, a new opportunity for virtual exchange programmes arose. Many people were aware of it, but only a few responded to it. I'm glad we're among those who have taken the initiative.” Dr. Daniel Chong also expressed gratification to the team at International Office for making this a successful event.

Associate Professor Dr Yap Kian Meng is now a Chartered Engineer (CEng) under Engineering Council, UK
21 January 2022



Associate Professor Dr Yap Kian Meng is now a Chartered Engineer (CEng) under the Engineering Council and IET, UK.

The Chartered Engineers (CEng) recognizes an engineer or researcher who develops solutions using the new or existing technologies through innovation, creativity, and new ideas. The CEng status is technical accountability for complex systems with significant levels of risk. It is also awarded to recognize high achievements in knowledge, solving engineering problems, management and leadership, interpersonal skills, and professional commitment (UK-SPEC). AP Dr. Yap started his engineer's career as a Practical Trainee, Assistant Engineer, Product Engineer, Research Assistant, and Network Engineer. The title of CEng status motivates Dr. Yap to continue practicing professional development and ethics in IT and Engineering. He has developed many innovative ways in sensory technology research resulting in Q1 journal publications.

Dr. Yap is currently an Associate Professor at the Department of Computing and Information Systems (DCIS). He is also the Head of the Research Centre in Human-Machine Collaboration (HUMAC), School of Engineering and Technology (SET) at Sunway University.

Co-designing a future of healthy-ageing & well-being at Sunway City
23 February 2022



Based on the latest demographic trends, Malaysia is expected to be an aged nation by 2030 and super-aged by 2050. With almost 15% of the population expected to be older adults (aged 60 years) in less than a decade, significant challenges and opportunities will arise. The changing needs and increased demand of health care needs will require a transformation of our existing physical and social environments. Significant effort and resources will need to be invested to prepare a workforce that can cope with the changing demographic, shift societal knowledge and attitude towards ageing, and enable older adults to continue to contribute to their families, communities and broader society.

Led by the School of Medical and Life Sciences, Sunway University has established a collaborative partnership with the Senior Citizens Club Subang Jaya in fostering a holistic approach to healthy ageing and well-being that includes physiological, psychological and socio-economic dimensions. The Senior Citizens Club Subang Jaya is one of the most active and dynamic citizens club in Malaysia; working closely with the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development of Malaysia to reach out and enrich the lives of older adults in the community through social and personal development activities.

The Sunway University's Ageing Health and Well-Being Research Centre, led by Prof. Dr. Alexandre Schaefer at Sunway University was established to foster multidisciplinary research and interventions that are focused on the promotion of a healthy lifespan development in South-East Asian (SEA) communities. Specific areas of interest will include (but not limited to) the well-being of older adults in Malaysia, the interplay between socioeconomic conditions and mental health, and strategies to build resilience against future pandemics and climate events.

Recognising the significant influence that the lived environment has on behaviour, risk exposure, health outcomes, and social inclusion, this academia-public partnership will focus on developing initiatives to develop a more age-friendly environment. A whole-of-society approach is needed to ensure that we enable everyone to live longer and healthier lives. The urban environment of Sunway city and surrounding areas will be our main field of activity as a representative model of urban SEA communities. Thus, co-designing this environment with the Senior Citizens Club Subang Jaya ensures inclusivity and relevance. Prof. Dr. Mahendhiran Nair, Sunway University Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research

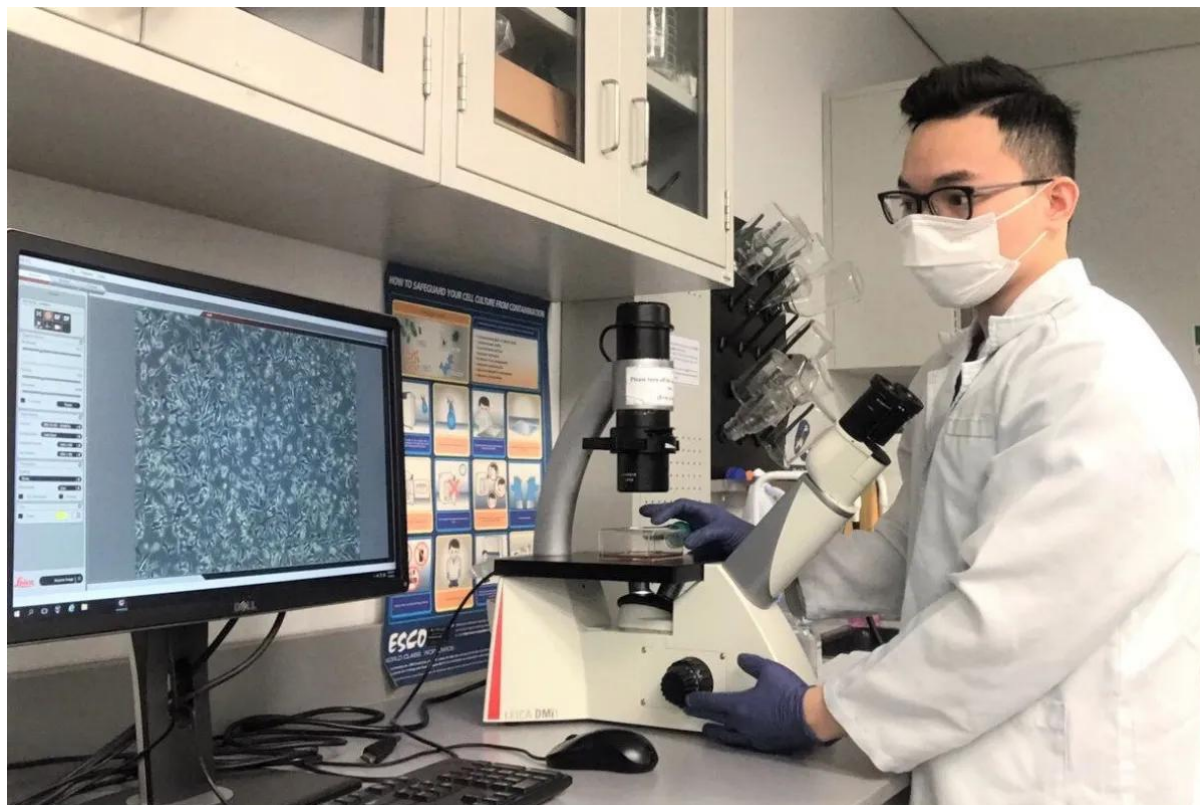
Engagement & Impact) shared his aspirations, “This collaboration is aligned to the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030, the 12th Malaysian Plan and the 10-10 Malaysian Science, Technology, Innovation and Economy Framework, which will enable new opportunities for socio-economic growth through the development of an inclusive ‘silver economy’”.

One of the main projects will be to develop a socioeconomically and ethnically diverse longitudinal cohort of urban households, which could ultimately develop into a fully-fledged Health Demographic and Surveillance System (HDSS). An HDSS is an integrated system of long-term monitoring of both health-related and socio-demographic parameters of a specific population, which can provide long-term opportunities for a variety of interdisciplinary projects from various fields (e.g. public health, microbiome research, mental health research, development economics, large-scale natural behavioural experiments, etc.). In addition, the development of lifelong quality education opportunities for the relevant upskilling across the life cycle will be promoted to enhance societal productivity and the longevity of this increased productivity. The President of Sunway University, Prof. Dr. Sibrandes Poppema shared that through this collaboration, students at Sunway University will have a great opportunity to participate in the co-designing of their future, develop passion in championing niches of unmet needs, and shape positive attitudes towards ageing.

The School of Medical and Life Sciences of Sunway University hopes to harness the rich lived experiences, the dynamic enthusiasm and energy, and influence of our partners at Senior Citizens Club Subang Jaya to not only reach out to their members but other senior citizen groups in the country to ensure that the progress we make in building age-friendly environment(s) at Sunway city will benefit all communities. Nobody should be left out in this whole-of-society approach.

DBS postgraduate's publication on long COVID-19 gains global attention

23 February 2022



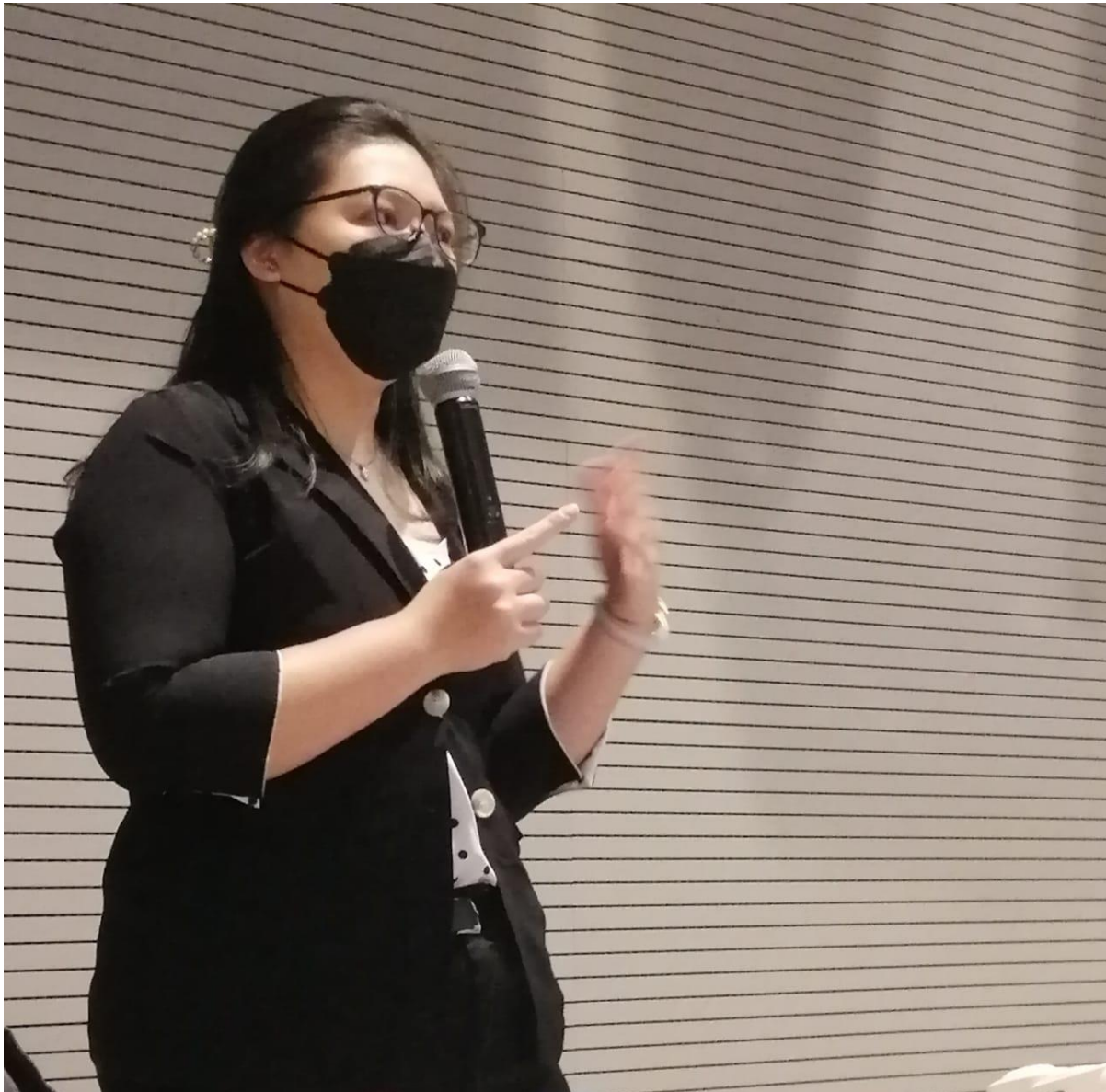
During his undergraduate days in the Department of Biological Sciences (DBS), Yong Shin Jie expressed to his lecturers his passion in scientific writing. Indeed, Shin Jie published his first ever paper in the journal *Frontiers in Neuroscience* when he was a Year 3 undergraduate! Since then, he has never looked back and already has six Scopus-indexed publications to his name! A seventh paper is expected to come out as a pre-print.

Shin Jie noted, “During my final undergraduate year, my lecturers, Dr Audrey Lim and Dr Jactty Chew offered me a literature review project. This project took one year from initiation to publication. During that year, I had ample training in dissecting and synthesizing hundreds of scientific papers, and presenting them in a coherent write-up. Fast forward two years now, I’ve authored five more review papers and built a separate career as an independent science writer. This is my hope: to be financially stable doing what I enjoy, that is, science writing.”

Shin Jie’s most recent paper in 2021 entitled, “Long COVID or post-COVID-19 syndrome: putative pathophysiology, risk factors, and treatments” published in *Infectious Diseases*, Volume 53 (Issue 10) addressed the information gaps on the possible pathophysiology, risk factors, and treatments in long COVID. To date, his paper has been cited 96 times by international researchers around the world – this is a testimony to how highly influential his paper is among researchers working on COVID-19.

Shin Jie is currently pursuing his Masters in Life Sciences with Associate Professor Audrey Lim Wei Ling and Dr. Jactty Chew on “Neuroprotective Potential of Human β -defensin-3 in Rotenone-induced SH-SY5Y Cell Model of Parkinson’s Disease”.

SHSM Alumni Story: Giving Back to Society – Ms Lee Yoke Yin



An alumna sharing session was held at a recent Community Service class under the supervision of Teaching Fellow, Ms Ng Siew Cheng. Lee Yoke Yin, a graduate of the Diploma in Events Management, who is currently employed by the Great Heart Charity Association, shared her roles, responsibilities, and aspirations. Great Heart Charity Association is a non-profit charity association in Malaysia that strives to serve as a platform between contributors, volunteers, and beneficiaries to provide and receive financial and in-kind aid.

During her study at the School of Hospitality and Service Management, Yoke Yin participated in a community service project in collaboration with the Great Heart Charity Association, which inspired her to join the organisation upon graduation. Today, Yoke Yin is a Partnership Executive Trainee under the Partnership Development Department at Great Heart Charity Association. As a Partnership Executive Trainee, Yoke Yin is responsible for managing organisation partners, particularly in communicating and providing partner support. The partnership liaison is extremely vital for collaborations between the charity organisation and external stakeholders in enabling a sustainable social commitment.

The Community Service subject is part of the students' graduating requirements, where all students have the opportunity to participate in community activities through professional societal management. During this sharing session, Yoke Yin also discussed some of the insights to conducting effective yet meaningful community service projects.

Ms Ng Siew Cheng also highlighted, "Community service helps students to develop a sense of social responsibility, a better view of society, and a heart for 'giving back' and helping others. It does not only have positive effects on society but it will also bring benefits to our lives and personal development. It also allows students to explore academic interests through community service projects that enable students to gain and improve skills such as communication and organizational skills, teamwork, planning, problem-solving and task management".

In the closing note, Ms Ng also mentioned that the involvement of students in community service can inspire them to pursue their passion and interests that may lead to a career choice just like Lee Yoke Yin.

Alumni Faris Fida Mohammad received Super Supporter 2021 from ECOVIS Saudi Arabia (ECOVIS AL SABTI)



What a great start for the year 2022. Thanks to God Almighty, I'm very happy and delighted when I was selected to receive the Super Supporter Award by ECOVIS. I will never regret working hard because hard work always pays off.

I dedicate my success not only to my parents for providing continuous support but also to Sunway University for making me what I am today.

Mr Faris Fida Mohammad (Pakistan)
BSc (Hons) Accounting & Finance - Alumnus 2020



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We are proud to announce our prestigious Alumni, Mr Faris Fida Mohammad's achievements. Congratulations and good luck for all his future endeavours.

Faris Fida Mohammad said, "Wholeheartedly appreciate ECOVIS Saudi Arabia (ECOVIS AL SABTI) for recognizing the hard work and effort their team put in, whilst also always providing the work culture and ethic for one to excel at their careers. Thank you for awarding me as Super Supporter for the year 2021."