



[UNMC Research Showcase 2017] A group photograph of the participants and judges.

## UNMC Research Showcase 2017

Our annual Research Showcase was held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017. First started in 2009, the Research Showcase is a competition designed to provide an opportunity for postgraduate research students to effectively present their research, in poster format, to a general audience.

“This is an event for researchers to showcase their work and win prizes for public engagement. We believe that the research undertaken by our postgraduate students is potentially world-changing. The skills that they have developed in communicating their often highly complex and technical research to a non-expert audience are of great importance to them in their careers”, said Ms Deepa Kumari Veerasingam, Head of Graduate School at UNMC.

The participants represented a diverse range of background and culture. We believe that this international perspective and diversity is one of the many characteristics which makes The University of Nottingham a stimulating research environment and a truly global university.

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### Future Events

#### Coffee and Cake Session #3 for Postgraduate Students

26<sup>th</sup> May 2017

3pm - 4pm

Postgraduate Social Space, H1B14

#### Boot Camp for Researchers

July 2017

Full details to be announced in due course.

## UNMC Research Showcase 2017: Winners

There were 15 participants this year. The participants were first required to submit a press release outlining their research work and explaining why it is important to the wider community. They then had to design a poster representing their research work. During the showcase, they presented their poster, explained their research and its real world implications.

The showcase aimed to promote public engagement, open discussion and exchange of views and opinions with a wider audience, who were not necessarily acquainted with the research topic or field. It provided the platform for members of the public to meet with world-leading researchers of the future, to hear about their research and question them about the impact towards the society. At the same time, the participants got the chance to improve their communication skills and engage with the wider public.



**Overall Winner: Tham Shiao Ying, School of Biosciences**  
**Title of Poster: Beyond the Magic Bullet: The Multitargeted Anticancer Drugs Cocktails**

**[From left] Shiao Ying and Ms Deepa Kumari Veerasingam, Head of Graduate School at The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus**



**Best Poster: Tham Shiao Ying, School of Biosciences**  
**Title of Poster: Beyond the Magic Bullet: The Multitargeted Anticancer Drugs Cocktails**

**[From left] Shiao Ying and Ms Ladyana Zoraya Abdullah, Founder and Vice President at Brainy Bunch International Montessori**



**Best Press Release: Lahari Murali, School of Pharmacy**  
**Title of Poster: The Curious Case of the Cannabinoid Receptors**

**[From left] Lahari and Ms Zuraidda Zainal Abidin, Senior Manager of Communications at Crops For the Future (CFF)**



**Best Press Release: Rayan Sabra, School of Pharmacy**  
**Title of Poster: Spicing the Road if a New Anticancer Hope!**

**[From left] Rayan and Mr Azlan Aliuddin, former Head of Security at The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus**



## UNMC Research Showcase 2017: External Guests

We were delighted to host a group of 10 Graduate Ambassadors from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) as members of the audience. "The showcase was very informative and I acquired some interesting knowledge especially on cancer detection and early intervention. The showcase was also very well organised and all exhibitors were well prepared with good communication and presentation skills", quoted from one of the Graduate Ambassadors.



A group photograph of the Graduate Ambassadors from UKM with our Postgraduate Student Representatives. Special thanks to the Postgraduate Student Representatives led by Mohammed Ayoub Juman, for assisting us during the showcase. We sincerely appreciate and value your commendable qualities and contribution.

This year's judging panel was made up of members of non-academic University staff and we were delighted to have three external judges, Ms Ladyana Zoraya Abdullah, Founder and Vice President at Brainy Bunch International Montessori, Ms Zuraida Zainal Abidin, Senior Manager of Communications at Crops For the Future (CFF), and Mr Azlan Aliuddin, former Head of Security at The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus. On behalf of The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus, the Graduate School would like to once again thank the showcase judges who had volunteered their time and supported the event.



Panel of judges. [From left] Ms Vimalleswari Danapal, Ms Ladyana Zoraya Abdullah, Mr Azlan Aliuddin, Ms Zuraida Zainal Abidin and Ms Deepa Kumari Veerasingam.

## Summer Courses

*Get ahead. Stay on track. Catch up.*

We are offering the following Researcher Development Programme (RDP) courses over the summer. It is a unique opportunity to get ahead, stay on track or catch up while still enjoying summer downtime on campus.

Date	Time	Course
5 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	10am - 12pm	Preparing for Your Viva
9 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	10am - 12pm	Introduction to the Skills of Teamwork for Researchers
14 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	2pm - 4pm	Publishing in High Quality Journals
19 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	10am - 12pm	Preparing for Your Annual Review
21 <sup>st</sup> June 2017	10am - 12pm	Getting Going on Your Thesis
26 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	10am - 12pm	Word Essentials for Researchers - Advanced
28 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	10am - 12pm	Creating a Poster in PowerPoint
31 <sup>st</sup> July 2017	10am - 12pm	Using Posters to Communicate Research
2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2017	10am - 3pm	Presentation Skills
4 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	10am - 1pm	Further Presentation Skills

Note: Please register your attendance at <http://moodle.nottingham.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=11606>.

## Applying for Academic Jobs

A newly introduced course entitled **Applying for Academic Jobs** was held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017. It was delivered by Dr Ahimsa Campos-Arceiz and Dr Lee Jiin Woei.

The course was designed to inform postgraduate students about the importance elements when applying for an academic position.



Apart from the theoretical framework, the workshop included some interactive group activities. Participants were tasked to determine crucial elements of a cover letter and to piece together a Curriculum Vitae. They were also taught to recognise the difference between applications for research/lectureship and teaching positions.

The offering of the course was part of our continuous effort to provide a wide range of training courses under the Researcher Development Programme (RDP) by the Graduate School.

## First Annual Review

by Mahmoud Abdelazim Helmy Mahmoud Khattab, PhD candidate from the School of Computer Science

***“You must submit your annual review report after nine months of your registration date.”***

All of us have heard this statement. In the beginning, I thought nine months will be a long time down the road and I would have a lot to write in my first year report. When I reached the nine month period, I found myself faced with the following questions: What style should I use? What should I include and what should not?

I began my report by explaining about my research field and work. I tried to put in everything that I did over the past nine months. I was very happy when I completed writing a 100 page report with about 17,000 words, within three weeks. Impressive, right? However, I was shocked to learn that my report was bad, when I submitted my report to my supervisor for review. I wrote it as if I was writing a tutorial or user manual and I had to rewrite it as a technical report by applying professional structures. After a detailed discussion with my supervisor, I started all over again. My supervisor guided me step-by-step and reviewed my writing along the way. After two months of intensive writing and several modifications and revisions, I managed to get it approved by my supervisor for submission to the examiners. After that, I was scheduled for my first year review. I was scared and nervous as my fate would be decided - either to continue with PhD or terminate as MPhil.

My friends told me that the first year review would be rather easy as the examiners would consider that I am a first year student and that they would not go deep into details of my research work. Contrastingly, my supervisor told me to fully prepare myself as the examiners might ask the full details of my research work. Furthermore, the examiners asked me to prepare a short presentation to conclude my research work before a Q&A session. My friends told me that they were not required to do a presentation so I felt very anxious and fearful.

After much thought, I started to prepare for my presentation. I prepared exactly what I should present and I even did a rehearsal and recorded it to find any weak points so that I could rectify the flaws.

Finally, it was the day of the review. I was ready and prepared. Everything else was ready too - my presentation slides, my report and my programme. Then, it was time to present. I did my best to show that I am aware of what I am doing, what I have been working on, and what I plan to do with clear objectives and milestones. The Gantt chart, which was my supervisor's idea, proved useful in this case.

***“We have no problem with you pursuing your research work as a PhD student. The formal result and recommendations will be sent to you. Congratulations!”***

I passed my first year review! Although I am not qualified to give any advice at this stage but I would like to share some of the following tips with my fellow PhD students:

- Always consult your supervisor.
- Plan your work wisely.
- Focus and stay away from any disturbances that will hinder your progress.
- Trust yourself. Tell yourself that you can do it!

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor for all the support and guidance given to me, all these while. I would like to also thank my friends for their advice and encouragement.



# Doctoral Training Partnership

## CFF-UNMC DTP

### Role models, advisors, mentors...

by Dr Maysoun Mustafa, CFF-UNMC DTP Manager

*Welcome to the ongoing CFF-UNMC DTP column. In this month's issue, we look examine the various players that are involved in your growth and development during your PhD.*

Education today has evolved and changed considerably, particularly for postgraduate students. Technology is constantly advancing, boundaries between disciplines are increasingly blurred, and data is much more abundant. Additionally, the people involved in the educational sphere have increased in both number and diversity. As such, the trove of experiences and skills that can be found within an academic institute is very diverse and extensive.

Postgraduate students can benefit from this abundance of experiences, as various players may be involved in their training and education and play a key role in the student's growth and development. The main players involved may include:

- Supervisors monitoring and guiding academic and professional progress;
- Advisers contributing towards academic progress and support with scientific information and instruction;
- Trainers teaching transferable skills and professional responsibility;
- Role models exhibiting admirable qualities and values to aspire towards;
- Mentors combine academic guidance with emotional support, career advice and role modeling.



Students can learn considerably from observing their supervisor's role in teaching, conducting research, writing grants, presenting and publishing. Occasionally, a supervisor may take on an additional role as the student's mentor. In such scenarios, their involvement will extend beyond academic and scientific instruction, such as introducing the student to a strong network and to the norms of the scientific community.

However, a mentor need not always be the supervisor. It is someone with considerable interest in the student's professional development and career growth. A mentoring relationship is a nurturing one, that will help the student identify their weaknesses and strengths both professionally and personally.

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When identifying a mentor, the first step is to identify your own needs and how the mentor can help you grow. A mentor could be anyone from a fellow PhD scholar with more experience, to someone whose career choices you admire. Choosing a mentor is an important step in a scientific journey and contributes significantly towards a focused and guided academic path.

Postgraduate training plays a big part in enhancing your professional and social networks, and finding a right mentor is one of the many platforms for achieving that. It is important to create a community among your peers, as these are the next generation of researchers. Coordinating social activities such as journal clubs all serve to strengthen relationships and share experiences within the community. Most importantly, become a mentor yourself.

## Researcher Development Programme

Researcher Development Programme (RDP) by the Graduate School provides free training for all registered postgraduate researchers and taught Masters students at The University of Nottingham to develop a range of transferable skills.

Upcoming RDP courses in May 2017 are outlined below:

Date	Time	Course
15 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	10am - 12pm	Preparing a Press Release
24 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	10am - 12.30pm	Writing Research Proposals

Note: Please register your attendance at <http://moodle.nottingham.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=11606>.

We are also open to conducting tailor made courses which are driven primarily by the students' request, input and interactions. If you wish to us to conduct such courses, please get in touch with us via email to [graduateschool@nottingham.edu.my](mailto:graduateschool@nottingham.edu.my).



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