



Postgraduate Prize Awards 2017:

[Front row, from left] Professor Law Chung Lim, Professor Claire O'Malley, Dr Then Sue-Mian and Professor Festo Massawe. [Back row, from left] Alberto Stefano Tanzi, Ng Mei Xiang, Ms Deepa Kumari, Ch'ng Qin Ting and Mass Misha'ari Weerabangsa.

Postgraduate Prize Awards 2017

The University of Nottingham **Postgraduate Prize Awards** recognise accomplishments in research, publications, conferences and contributions to the postgraduate community. Students were nominated by their Heads of School for excellence across the aforementioned areas.

The **Postgraduate Teaching Award** recognises and celebrates examples of innovative teaching and learning support. It is given to students who demonstrate innovation and reflective practice by improving effectiveness in teaching and learning support, making appropriate changes in learning activities or techniques, evaluating and reflecting on the impact of intervention and possibilities for further development.

These awards were presented to some of the University's top postgraduate research students by Professor Claire O'Malley, Vice-Provost of Research and Knowledge Transfer, during a tri-campus awards ceremony held on 17th May 2017.

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Future Events

Hari Raya Celebration for Postgraduate Students

14th July 2017

3pm - 4pm

Postgraduate Social Space, H1B14

Researcher Boot Camp

3rd - 13th July 2017

10am - 12.30pm / 2pm - 4.30pm

Postgraduate Training Room, H1B13

Postgraduate Prize Awards 2017: Winners

On 17th May 2017, award winners and their guests were invited to a tri-campus awards ceremony hosted by the Graduate School. The ceremony was showcased simultaneously across all three campuses in UK, Malaysia and China. Professor Claire O'Malley, Vice-Provost of Research and Knowledge Transfer, presented the awards to the winners while their supervisors cheered them on.

The **Postgraduate Prize Awards 2017** were presented to:

- Ch'ng Qin Ting, School of Biomedical Sciences
- Ng Mei Xiang, Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering
- Alberto Stefano Tanzi, School of Biosciences

The **Postgraduate Teaching Award 2017** was presented to:

- Mass Misha'ari Weerabangsa, School of Psychology

The Graduate School would like to once again congratulate all the winners on their commendable achievements and for receiving such prestigious awards!



[From left] Ch'ng Qin Ting, Professor Claire O'Malley and Dr Then Sue-Mian



[From left] Ng Mei Xiang, Professor Claire O'Malley and Professor Law Chung Lim



[From left] Alberto Stefani Tanzi, Professor Claire O'Malley and Professor Festo Massawe



[From left] Mass Misha'ari Weerabangsa and Professor Claire O'Malley

Coffee and Cake Session #3

The third Coffee and Cake session for this year was held on 26th May 2017. The social gathering session was a good opportunity for the postgraduate students to temporarily get away from their work and catch-up with fellow postgraduate students whilst enjoying coffee and cakes.

The Coffee and Cake session was aimed to reduce the social isolation among the postgraduate students and subsequently increase their sense of belonging within the postgraduate community on campus.

All postgraduate students on campus are welcome to attend the Coffee and Cake session. The next sessions are scheduled for 25th August, 29th September and 24th November 2017.



UNMC Research Showcase 2017: Best Press Release

Title: Exploring the Cannabinoid Receptors

Marijuana, hashish, weed... whatever it may be called, the subject of cannabis is quite a head turner, and often for the wrong reasons. But cannabis requires an accomplice to have its notorious effects - the cannabinoid receptors (CBR). These receptors are biological molecules (biomolecules) found in the human body that specifically recognise chemicals present in cannabis (referred as cannabinoids) and set in motion a sequence of signals that elicit a physiological response, like how a lock recognises one unique key (figure 1). Does this mean that the human body itself help us get 'high'? Yes. How exactly? This intriguing question is the focus of a study at the Molecular Modelling Lab at The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus.

The study uses novel 3-dimensional (3D) computational techniques to explore the structure and function of the CBR. A variety of software tools and applications have been used to build 3D models of the receptors (figure 2), and to run simulations mimicking their real-time environment; the aim being to understand how they distinguish cannabinoid molecules. Being cost-effective and faster, computational techniques serve as an efficient alternative to study biomolecules.

Why study these receptors, though? Dr Abigail Emtage from the School of Pharmacy replies, "these fascinating receptors are involved in the control of a number of physiological processes including appetite, pain-sensation, mood and memory; if we can understand exactly how the molecules interact with the CBR we can use this information to design new drugs to potentially regulate many or all of these processes!".

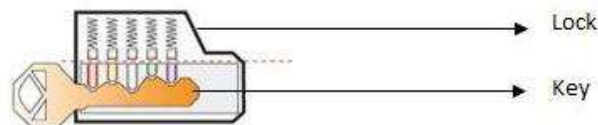


Figure 1. Lock and key

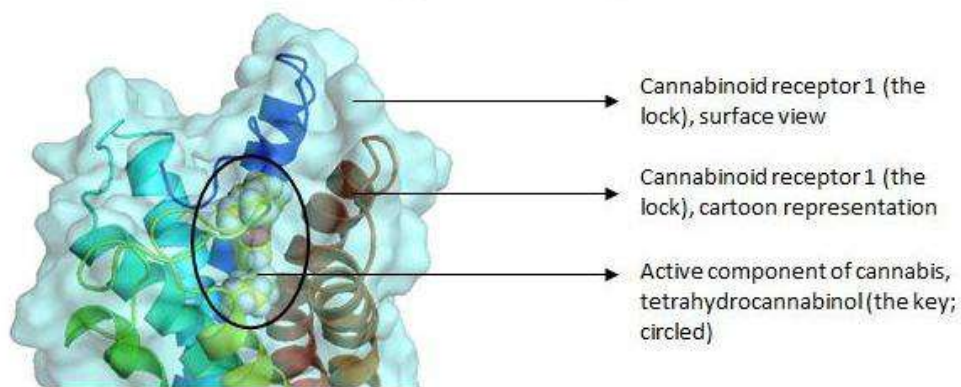


Figure 2. A 3D model of CBR1; there are 2 types of CBR

(249 words)

*Lahari Murali, PhD candidate from the School of Pharmacy, The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus
PhD title: Exploring Ligands for Cannabinoid Receptors and Related Receptors for Rational Drug Design*

SWIRL @ Nucleus

So What's It Really Like?

Research Showcase Experience #1

by Tham Shiau Ying, Overall Winner and the recipient of the Best Poster Award

I was a little apprehensive to begin with the task of preparing a 250 word press release in a simplistic layman version of my PhD work. Yet, the experience was both challenging and unique because I had to convey my research to a wider audience from a different perspective.

As for the poster preparation, I searched high and low online for inspiration in order to make my poster a standout among the norm. After a few changes on the design, I finally came out with a poster that I was most satisfied with.

On the day of the Research Showcase, I was rather rattled upon the arrival of the first judge. But I grew more confident as the day went on and the audience became more inquisitive at my work. The audience expressions helped me to come out with ideas to better explain my research in simple terms and emphasise some interesting facts.

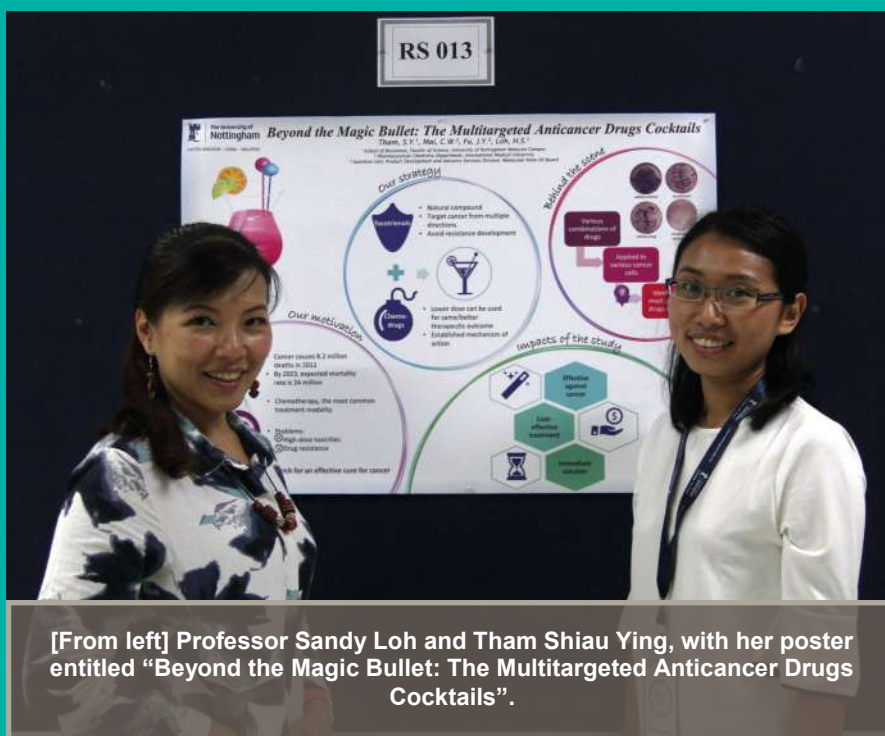
I had thoroughly enjoyed the showcase by putting my best foot forward without much thought on getting an award. So when I was announced as the winner for 'Best Poster' and 'Overall Winner' awards, I was surprised and overjoyed!

I gained invaluable experience through all the positive responses, constructive comments and some interesting questions which I strongly believe is beneficial to steer my research towards the right direction.

Research Showcase is indeed a good platform to stimulate discussions with the general audience as some of them end up sharing their views from a non-scientific standpoint. I have no hesitation in recommending my fellow postgraduate students to take part in the Research Showcase because it allows one to meet people and get advice to enhance communication and presentation skills.

It is my honour to share these awards with my supervisors, Professor Sandy Loh (UNMC), Dr Mai Chun Wai (IMU) and Dr Fu Ju Yen (MPOB) and thank them for their continuous support.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the Graduate School for organising the Research Showcase competition and congratulate all my fellow Research Showcase participants, we did it!



[From left] Professor Sandy Loh and Tham Shiau Ying, with her poster entitled "Beyond the Magic Bullet: The Multitargeted Anticancer Drugs Cocktails".

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So What's It Really Like?

Research Showcase Experience #2

by Rayan Sabra, recipient of the People's Choice Award

During my previous years, I only had the opportunity to take part in oral presentations but never in poster presentations. So the Research Showcase was literally my first ever experience in poster designing and presentation. It was definitely enjoyable and beneficial!

The journey was long but valuable. It started back in March where we had to submit a press release. After being shortlisted, the next step was to submit a poster, followed by a video recording and finally, the grand event where an exhibition was held for us to present our research to a general audience. At the beginning, it was stressful for me to find ways to grab the attention of the diverse audience and judges. I was worried that I might sound confusing and boring. However, after my first presentation, I gradually became more confident and enthusiastic.

The best part of the competition for me was getting some constructive comments and compliments from the audience. Some of them shared their knowledge and personal experiences in reflection of my research which subsequently opened my mind to new aspects that can contribute and support my research work. In general, the experience participating in the Research Showcase was very useful as it developed my communication and presentation skills especially to the wider audience. In this regard, I would like to thank the Graduate School for organising this competition, as well as my supervisor, family and friends for all the support and feedback.

N.B. The greatest tips I would share with future participants of Research Showcase is to preview your poster after printing as the background might overpower the content layout and thus hinder the appearance of some words and/or graphics which consequently limit the visual flair of your poster.



Rayan, with her poster entitled
"Spicing the road for a new anticancer hope!".



Rayan received the People's Choice Award from one of the judges, Mr Azlan Aliuddin, former Head of Security at The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus.

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So What's It Really Like?

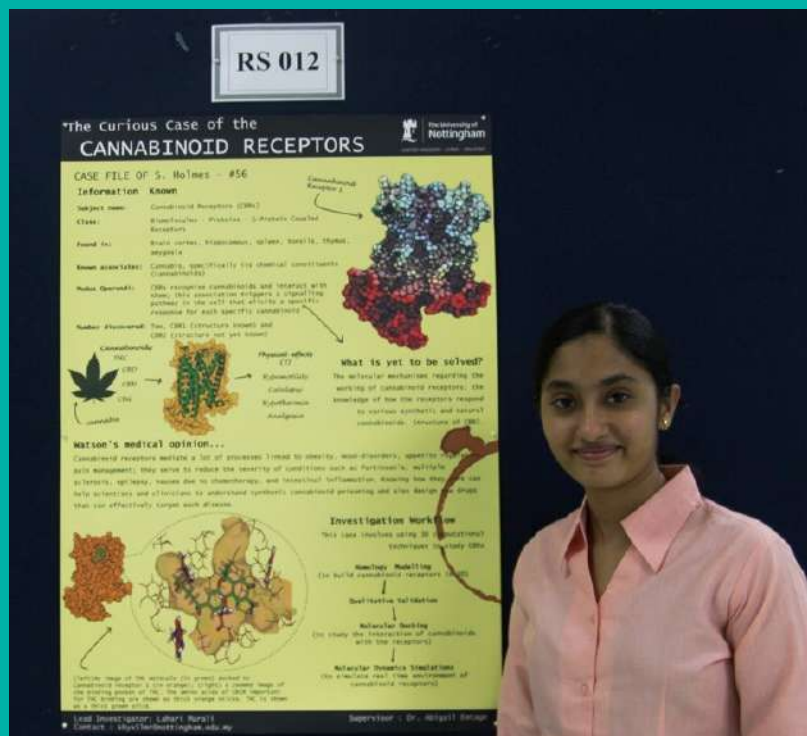
Research Showcase Experience #3

by Lahari Murali, recipient of the Best Press Release Award

Participating in the Research Showcase this year was a formative experience. Apart from giving an opportunity to communicate my work and its significance, this competition helped me realise the importance of science communication in the present world. Before the competition, I used to struggle with explaining my work to other people who do not have the same research interests or academic background as mine. In fact, writing the press release itself was challenging! I even thought that it would be nearly impossible to describe a scientific subject without the use of jargon in just 250 words. The least of all my worries was not winning the best press release! But after writing it, I felt rather confident in discussing the work I do with a varied demographic, this further helped me to prepare for the main event.

The day of the showcase came and I was quite excited as it was my very first poster presentation. It was fascinating to see how each person interpreted the topic of my research in their own way and what facet of it interested them the most; that gave me a ballpark idea of the public opinion of my work and on how I could pitch it to a diverse audience in the future. It was also great to see fellow postgraduates present their research and we learnt so much from exchanging our experiences that we have come across in our postgraduate life.

My wholehearted thanks to the Graduate School for organising this competition. And to future participants, have fun and enjoy the experience; you will thank yourself for participating!



Lahari, with her poster entitled "The Curious Case of the Cannabinoid Receptors".



Lahari received the Best Press Release Award from one of the judges, Ms Zuraida Zainal Abidin, Senior Manager of Communications at Crops For the Future (CFF).

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 June 2017 are outlined below:

Date	Time	Course
5 th June 2017	10am - 12pm	Preparing for Your Viva
9 th June 2017	10am - 12pm	Introduction to the Skills of Teamwork for Researchers
14 th June 2017	10am - 12pm	Writing Research Proposals
14 th June 2017	2pm - 4pm	Publishing in High Quality Journals
19 th June 2017	10am - 12pm	Preparing for Your Annual Review
21 st June 2017	10am - 12pm	Getting Going on Your Thesis
22 nd June 2017	10am - 4pm	Academic Job Interviews

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.



Postgraduate Student Teachers Programme

The Graduate School offers a range of workshops to postgraduate research students who are involved in teaching. The Postgraduate Student Teachers (PST) programme was recently restructured and it aims to provide you with a:

- Foundation in professional development that you can build upon, moving forward in your career
- Form of recognition to acknowledge your competency in teaching once you have completed the programme.

In line with supporting your professional development, all workshops are now aligned to the UK Professional Standard Framework's (UKPSF) areas of activity, core knowledge and professional values. For more information on the restructured PST programme, please visit:

<http://moodle.nottingham.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=12021>.

The new compulsory workshop will be conducted on the following dates. Please sign up for any one of the sessions by logging into the new tutorial booking page in Moodle at:

<http://moodle.nottingham.ac.uk/mod/tutorialbooking/view.php?id=2438787>.

Dates	Time	Workshop
7 th , 15 th & 20 th June 2017	10am - 1pm	Preparing to Teach in Higher Education

If you have any enquiries, please get in touch with us via email to graduateschool@nottingham.edu.my.

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