With generous support from the Board of Directors, AIMST University donated various Medical equipment worth of 25 thousands ringgit.

AIMST and USM’s Jointly Developing 3-in-1 Human Vaccine
The vaccines will be developed using two locally developed technology platforms.

AIMST University Distributed Food Baskets and Face Shields among Flood Victims
Through this CSR initiative, 200 food baskets and face shields were distributed on Saturday, 28 August 2021, among the flood victims and to the needy and underprivileged of the community.
VISION

To be an Internationally Renowned University Achieving Excellence in Teaching and Research by 2025

MISSION

To Develop Talent for National Prosperity and Spearhead Cutting-edge Research for Humanity
Ensure students experience the best teaching and research in medicine and other health sciences, engineering, computer technology, applied sciences, business and accountancy and law that will put them in good stead in their professional career.

Maintain high academic standards and quality in teaching that promote analytical thinking necessary to function responsibly in a globalized world.

Offer high quality and accredited undergraduate and post graduate programmes at an affordable cost in line with the national educational philosophy.

Establish centres of excellence for research and innovation in frontier areas of science and technology.

Ensure the sustainability of the university through the design of relevant programmes that guarantee graduate employability.

Discharge our purpose with integrity, respect, teamwork, professionalism, excellence and service to the community.

Care for the welfare of the employee.

Undertake social responsibility initiatives including promoting life-long learning.
Graduates of **AIMST** will be able to

- Demonstrate outstanding knowledge and expertise in their field
- Exhibit critical, creative and problem-solving skills in their professional practice
- Synthesise information from varied disciplines to achieve their professional goals
- Engage in continuous self-improvement and professional growth
- Display transformational leadership and support the professional growth of others
- Possess a respectful mind that allows for learning from others
- Communicate effectively with other professionals and the community
- Have a strong sense of social responsibility to improve social welfare
- Assimilate and apply the university’s core values (integrity, respect, teamwork, professionalism, excellence and service) in their professional and daily lives

**Programme Outcomes**

- Knowledge
- Practical skills
- Social skills & Responsibility
- Values, Attitudes & Professionalism
- Communication, Leadership & Team Skills
- Problem Solving & Scientific Skills
- Information Management & Lifelong Learning Skills
- Managerial & Entrepreneurial Skills
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At a time of unprecedented change in higher education and the broader world, AIMST University has remained a thriving institution. The University has continued to offer outstanding student experience through exceptional teaching and learning. Its ground-breaking research has ensured it a reputation for excellence. The government has recognised our research capability that it recently announced close to RM 3 million in grants for vaccine development.

As was the case in years past, this year too AIMST University has attained significant achievements. For one, for the first time the University has been ranked in the QS Asian Ranking. We are ranked as among one of the top 400 universities. Our next target is to be ranked in the QS world ranking and to obtain a five-star in the SETARA ranking of the Ministry of Higher Education.

This year too, several of our students and staff earned prestigious awards and recognitions. Our staff have been constantly featured as columnists on print media. Through their ardent writing, they have contributed much information and knowledge to benefit society. We also have undertaken CSR projects to help the needy and underprivileged affected by natural disasters and the Covid-19 pandemic.

To excel as a world-class institution of higher learning, each of us has a role in improving what we are doing now. We can do so by doing more than we have been accustomed to. We shall then be known as givers. It is only when each of us is a giver and goes the extra mile that the University can hope to scale greater heights of excellence.

And we are doing just that. For example, over the last three quarters we have achieved more in research publications (125 papers, many of them in top-notch journals) than the research output last year. All the faculties and departments partnered with the marketing division in the University’s recruitment drive. That is a historic first. This will surely strengthen our fiscal standing as well as enhance our brand.

As our 20th year of existence ends this year, AIMST University has positioned itself as a highly mature organisation. It has an effective strategic and resource plan to ensure sustainability as a business entity. Our faculties have periodically revised their curriculums and training materials to ensure that they help develop knowledgeable and well-rounded graduates so that they can quickly gain employability upon graduation. One such example is the US medical licensing examination- or USMLE-related learning materials that the Faculty of Medicine provides. These materials will surely help our medical students to do well in their exams. They will become better doctors on account of that. Such upgrading of learning materials would also put our students in good stead should they consider taking up residency in the US. With all these improvements in place, we should therefore be in the running for a ‘SETARA Tier-5 Excellent’ rating for the period 2019-2021. More so, as with the marketing enterprise, we have joined hands to work together on improving our scores across the SETARA KPIs.

Our achievements will be a testament to our diligence in the pursuit of our vision to be internationally renowned in quality teaching, learning and cutting-edge research by 2025. Let us keep moving ahead. For, if we are doing what we have always been doing, in the world of competition, we are actually sliding.

I congratulate the Editorial Board for successfully coming up with this AIMST University Newsletter for the third quarter of the year. Best wishes. God bless.
AIMST University is proud of its continued academic partnership with Hospital Sultan Abdul Halim (HSAH), Sungai Petani and Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah, Alor Setar. With generous support from the Board of Directors, AIMST University donated various Medical equipment worth of 25 thousands ringgit, which included two vital sign monitors, two ECG project channel with interpretation and dressing tables, to HSAH. This act of goodwill was much appreciated by the management of HSAH. A similar donation package is also being facilitated for Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah, Alor Setar.
The Malaysian government has adopted the National Vaccine Development Plan to boost Malaysia's preparedness to face pandemics by developing its own vaccine and thus reducing dependency on other vaccine-producing nations. The Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob launched the National Vaccine Development Plan and the Malaysia Genome & Vaccine Institute (MGVI) on Monday, November 1, 2021, at the Malaysia Genome Institute, Kajang. According to the Prime Minister, among the projects that were ready to be implemented through the National Vaccine Development Plan is the "Development of Mucosal/Oral/Subunit Vaccines against Cholera, Tuberculosis and Covid-19". This is a collaborative project between Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and Asian Institute of Medicine, Science and Technology (AIMST) University, with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI). The project will receive funding of RM 10.5 million using the Strategic Research Fund (SRF).

AIMST and USM have been working on the development of oral/mucosal vaccines for almost two decades. The vaccines will be developed using two locally developed technology platforms – an attenuated (or weakened) bacterium (patented) and an engineered chimeric protein (patent pending). Both platforms have proven to be effective in preliminary animal studies, with the attenuated bacterium (Vibrio cholerae 0139) platform anticipated to enter first-in-human trials in 2022. The attenuated V. cholerae platform is itself a vaccine against 2 diseases – cholera and traveller's diarrhoea. Many preliminary animal studies have shown that this vaccine is very safe and effective. The attenuated V. cholerae platform will be used as a delivery vehicle for other infectious diseases such as COVID-19 and tuberculosis, providing a 3-in-1 Vaccine Platform Technology (i.e. cholera, traveller's diarrhoea, and either COVID-19 or tuberculosis). The project is expected to enter GLP preclinical study in about 3 years prior to clinical trials.

These vaccine delivery routes via oral/mucosal would facilitate convenient vaccine administration since there is no need for needles/syringes and hence are cheaper than the usual parenteral administration of vaccines (via injection). Another unique property of this vaccine is that it is stable at ambient temperature (around 25°C) and hence does not need to be stored or transported under the cold chain (4-8°C). This unique property provides further advantages in logistics and costs, facilitating transportation to remote areas, enhancing vaccine distribution and equity. The team members from AIMST are Prof. M. Ravichandran (FAS), Dr. G. Prabhakaran (FAS), Dr. Lee Su Yin (FAS) and Dr. P. Subramaniam (FOP), while the team from USM is headed by Prof. Norazmi Mohd Nor.
Malaysian Intervarsity Virtual Games (MIVG) 2021 was organized virtually due to pandemic and AIMST University participated in 13 sport events. AIMST University team comprised of 81 participants in variety of sport events like virtual run, online chess, singing, escape room, videography, photography, fitness challenge, skipping challenge, PUBG and mobile legend games. AIMST contingent leader representing Faculty of Medicine was Ang Li Ming from MBBS batch 24. AIMST team eventually won 3 gold medals (virtual run event) and 2 bronze medals (online chess and skipping challenge). AIMST team also won 36 points in virtual run and secured the highest place out of 22 universities that participated in this event.

Overall, AIMST University secured the 2nd place among 22 Universities in Malaysia.
On 26 August 2021, AIMST University Covid-19 Task Force organized a webinar session to share the best practices for managing Covid-19 pandemic in university campuses. The speakers for the session were Prof M. Ravichandran, Chairman of AIMST University Covid-19 Task Force, Professor Ir. Dr. Abdul Aziz Abdul Raman, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Universti Malaya and Chairman of UM’s Covid-19 Management Committee, and Major (R) Syed Abdul Aziz Syed Hashim, Director of Occupational Safety, Health, and Environment (OSHE) of Universti Malaya. Prof Dr. Krishnan Rajam moderated the session, and Professor Datuk Dr. John Antony Xavier welcomed the speakers and gave introductory remarks. The panel members shared their university's experience in managing the pandemic. Both UM and AIMST follow similar SOPs, and both speakers from UM were impressed with AIMST's in-house system of preparing and distributing hand sanitizers, face shields and disinfection. AIMST graciously shared their in-house hand sanitizer formulation with the UM team as it is cost-effective and sustainable practice. Overall, it was a very fruitful session as both parties learnt from each other's' best practices and useful tips on managing the Covid-19 pandemic more effectively in their own campuses.
The Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of AIMST University was featured in New Straits Times.

The Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of AIMST University, Professor Datuk Dr. John Antony Xavier was featured in the columnist section of New Straits Times on 12th July 2021. The article titled ‘Allegation is rather a stretch on reality in Malaysia’ was written in view of the controversial Bloomberg article that suggested Malaysia is barreling towards a failed state. The article asserts four main fault lines that portend such an apocalyptic outcome.
On 19th August 2021, heavy rain caused severe flash floods in Yan and Kuala Muda districts. Many areas in both districts were severely affected, and homes were damaged. AIMST University took an initiative to help residents affected by flash floods at Taman Lembah Merbok, Kampung Tupah Baru, Kampung Bendang Dalam and Kampung Bujang in Tupah. Through this CSR initiative, 200 food baskets and face shields were distributed on Saturday, 28 August 2021, among the flood victims and to the needy and underprivileged of the community. This initiative was made possible through generous contributions by staff and the management of AIMST University, while the face shields were made by staff and student volunteers.
A Centre of Excellence in Learning and Teaching has been launched to standardise the best practices in Learning, Teaching and Assessment across all faculties of the University.

**COELT Vision**
A premier hub in the region for teaching and learning and excelling in outcome-based pedagogy by 2026.

**Mission/Purpose**
COELT promotes excellence, innovation, and evidence-based practices leading to effective outcome-based teaching and student-learning experience for the benefit of students, faculty, and the community through the following strategies:

- Create engaging and inclusive learning environments.
- Provide guidance, training, and opportunities for all faculties.
- Encourage evidence-based culture of teaching excellence across the University through technology-enhanced education.
- Mentoring faculty and students.
- Guide and support service-learning and technology.
- Obtain feedback from stakeholders to ensure course effectiveness and curriculum development.
- Collaborate with stakeholders and university partners to ensure academic rigour and continuous quality improvement.
- Encourage research projects and grant applications aligned to learning and teaching.
- Contribute to the development of policies, and initiatives that support excellence in teaching.
- Being a bridge between faculty, AQACC and MQA.

**Objectives of COELT**
- To align AIMST’s core values and strategic priorities with the university’s teaching mission.
- To guide and support the development and evaluation as well as reward teaching excellence and innovation.
- To establish best practices in instruction and course design including the integration of service-learning and technology.
AIMST COELT’S Values

- Aspire to be the best TL hub in the region by 2026
- Innovate and apply the best practices of TL across the university
- Mutual sharing of information and collaboration within and beyond the University
- Service learning for the benefit of the students, faculty and the community
- Technology enhanced education, to maximize effectiveness of TL

Initiatives that COELT proposes to begin with

- Workshops on Flip classrooms
- Intentional mentoring
- SDL-Assignments
- PBL (active learning methods)
- Reflection
- Service learning (SULAM)
- Assessment for and of learning
“To Strengthen Medical Devices Ecosystem through Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER) Technology Innovation Centre programmes by establishing a Centre for Excellence in Biomaterials Engineering (CoEBE)”

Under the 11th Malaysia Plan (11MP), the medical devices industry is projected to be among the nation’s top industries, with Penang and Kedah identified as a major cluster. These states are home to one third of the country’s medical devices MNCs, including B-Braun, Boston Scientific, Abbott Laboratories, Integer, Haemonetics, Japan Lifeline, Tecomet and many more. To strengthen the region’s position as a prominent player in this sub sector, the government will be driving initiatives to encourage cooperation between Pulau Pinang and Kedah to establish a conducive ecosystem for medical devices manufacturing. The Association of Malaysian Medical Industries (AMMI) in its annual report in the year 2018 has underlined several challenges faced by the growing industry. The raised concerns mainly were:

- **Talent Unavailability**
  Lack of hands-on experience and industry knowledge due to existing curriculum in universities do not fully deliver the competencies and qualifications required by the biomedical industry

- **Lack of Innovation**
  R&D incentive remain unattractive to companies that are engaged both in R&D and manufacturing in Malaysia

- **Adoption of Industry 4.0 is Relatively Low**
  Lack of awareness in adopting Industry 4.0 within the medical device industry. No proper mechanism that focuses on Industry 4.0 ecosystem.

- **Limited Collaboration Opportunities between MNC & SME**
  Insufficient strategic collaboration between the government agencies & industry associations for business matching between MNC and SMEs

- **Lack of Comprehensive GLP Labs**
  Lack of comprehensive Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) status labs in Malaysia. Companies must conduct test outside Malaysia thus incurring higher costs. Costing of conducting test in Malaysia is also higher compared to test conducted in India and Singapore

- **No Hub for Clinical Trials**
  No incentives or financial assistance provided to companies for this activity. Focus should be made on building Malaysia as the Hub of Clinical Trials with a complete ecosystem
The Centre for Lifelong Learning (CLL), in collaboration with Senior Prof K. R. Sethuraman, Dean of Faculty of Medicine, AIMST University, organized the course of Certificate in Communication Skills for Healthcare Professions (CCSHP). The course commenced online on 28 April 2021 and concluded on 16 June 2021. A total of 45 participants attended and completed the 18 hour session. Educators from Sri Venkateswara Group of Institution (SVGI), Panimalar Medical College Hospital & Research Institute (PMCHRI), MGM Medical College, Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research, Government Institute of Medical Sciences, India, participated in this course. This course aims to create Health Professions Educators (Medicine/Dentistry, Nursing etc), who are equipped to teach the artful practice of communications skills to their undergraduates and postgraduate students. CLL conducted an online certificate presentation on July 7 2021. Associate Prof. Dr Ramesh Kumeresam, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Students Affairs and Dean of Faculty of Dentistry, AIMST University, witnessed the certificate presentation. Dr. S. Mahadevan, Director of SVGI, Dr. S. Ratnasamy, Dean of SVGI Medical College, Dr. C. Sakhikumar, Director of PMCHRI, Prof. Dr. Surapaneni Krishna Kumar, Vice Principal of PMCHRI attended the session. Congratulations to all the participants.

CLL thanks the management of AIMST University, SVGI, PMCHRI and Senior Prof. Dr. KR Sethuraman for their support. CLL started second Batch of CCSHP on 9 July 2021. A total of 48 participants enrolled for this course.
The Centre for Lifelong Learning (CLL) and Centre for Indian Heritage & Civilization, AIMST University, organized an online Yappilakkanam Workshop from 10/07/2021 until 8/08/2021. A total of 16 participants of Tamil enthusiasts and Tamil school teachers attended and completed this 10 hour session. The principal trainer for this workshop was Dr. Manonmani Devi A/P M.A.R. Annamalai. CLL conducted an online certificate presentation ceremony on 29th August 2021. All the participants have successfully completed the workshop and were awarded the Certificate of Completion during this event. Congratulations to all the participants.

CLL thanks the Management of AIMST University and Dr. Manonmani Devi A/P M.A.R. Annamalai and all the participants for their support.
TEDx AIMST University organized the inaugural event on 29 August, 2021. A total audience of around 1300, across both streaming platforms, Zoom and YouTube, participated in the event. The event kick-started with a welcoming speech by our vice-chancellor, Prof. Datuk Dr. John Anthony Xavier, followed by a short and sweet opening speech by our advisor, Prof. Dr. P.K. Rajesh.

Seven out of thirteen speakers had the morning session, where they swept the audience off their feet in more than one way. They were in their best-presenting selves, each having a different approach to their talk. Ms. Melisha Lin, Dr. Navraj Singh Sidhu, Mr. Melvin Poh, Datuk Ramli bin Ibrahim, Dato’ Dr. Fadzilah Kamaludin, Dr. Andrew Kok Wai Yun, and Mdm. Anita Abu Bakar demonstrated different approach to their talk. Some made the audience laugh, some made them cry, but all of them touched the hearts and opened our minds. They covered different topics, ranging from passion to the power of the mind, digital age life, arts and culture, epidemiology, prevention of illnesses, and mental health. They gave a new perspective to look at things.
Three BSc (Hons) Biotechnology students, Ms. Chok Sien Yin, Ms. Gooi Kerh Min and Ms. Fadzila Aini, completed their 12 week internship training at the plant tissue culture laboratory at School of Biological Sciences, and Centre for Chemical Biology, USM. Despite the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the students were lucky to be able to complete their internship physically at USM under the guidance of Professor Sreeramanan Subramaniam. The students were taught about the various aspects of plant tissue culture. They were also introduced to the new concept of indoor farming of using LED lighting system with the synergistic integration of IoT, AI and computer vision technologies for vegetable farming. It was truly an enriching experience for the students since they were able to apply the knowledge and skills that they have learnt in their Year 2 Cell Culture course during their internship training.

“During the internship period, I got a chance to work in an indoor farming lab under Prof. Sreeramanan from USM Penang. My internship project is to establish butterhead lettuce in the hydroponic method using nutrient solution and hydroponic sponge to replace the soil in traditional farming. Indoor farming is an interesting work for me especially when I see the progress of my plant grow bigger and taller day by day”. ------ by Chok Sin Yien

“The project I am doing at Prof Sree’s lab is production of broccoli microgreen. In this project, I have learned how to plant using hydroponic and this method can also be used at home. This project is so enjoyable to observe the microgreen grow day by day.”------ Gooi Kerh Min

“The project that I had carried out was the Production of Purple Cabbage Microgreen. Praises and thanks to the God, the Almighty for His showers of blessings throughout my industrial training and to complete this training successfully. All I have to say is I really enjoyed these three months training and I have also gained some hands-on experience by working on the project and also I have gain more knowledge as well.” ------ Fadzila Aini Binti Muhammad Farid
Two of our PhD in Biotechnology students presented their research findings in the international Oxford Bacteriophage Conference “Phages 2021” – the longest running phage conferences series in Europe - which was held virtually, via Zoom on 7-8 September 2021.

Mr. Yukgehaish Kumarasan gave an oral presentation entitled “PhageLeads: predicting therapeutic phage suitability” on the second day of the conference. In his study, Mr. Yukgehaish has successfully developed a tool based on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the selection of safe phages for phage therapy. The tool has a 96% accuracy in predicting the presence of lysogeny marker and phage lifestyle using protein feature space.

Ms. Prasanna Mutusamy gave a poster presentation entitled “Comparative analysis of rainforest Salmonella phages”. In her study, Ms. Prasanna successfully isolated phages against MDR human pathogen, Salmonella spp. from a conserved tropical rainforest, showing that the rainforest is suitable source of novel and effective lytic phages against human pathogens.
Faculty of Applied Sciences (FAS) organized a STEM webinar entitled “Does Biotechnology Have A Bright Future?” on 30 September 2021. This webinar was jointly organized with Tech Dome Penang. The speakers were Dr Mahaletchumy Arujanan, Global Coordinator of the International Service for the Acquisition of Agribiotech Applications (ISAAA) and the Executive Director of Malaysian Biotechnology Information Centre (MABIC), and Prof. Dr. M. Ravichandran, Dean of Faculty of Applied Sciences, AIMST University. Dr Maha is the founder and Editor-in-Chief of The Petri Dish, the first science newspaper in Malaysia. She is listed as the world’s 100 most influential people in biotechnology by Scientific American Worldview 2015. Prof. Ravichandran is a well-known figure in biotechnology research in Malaysia. On the research front, he is leading the first locally produced cholera vaccine that will begin its first clinical trials hopefully by the end of this year. His list of publications is extensive spanning more than 2 decades of R&D, with 8 patents and 3 commercialized products on diagnostics. He has also received 44 national and international awards. The webinar, which was moderated by Dr Lee Su Yin, discussed the current scenario and future directions of biotechnology in Malaysia and globally.
Alumni from four programmes at Faculty of Business and Management shared their experience at AIMST University as well as their career life after graduation.

ASNB and Faculty of Business and Management, AIMST University jointly organized a webinar "Financial Planning: Start Early" on 19 July 2021. The speaker from ASNB was Pn. Siti Norilah Shamsul Bahri and the panelist from AIMST University was Dr. Arunagiri Shanmugam Dean, Faculty of Business and Management.
In commemoration of 20 years of academic and research excellence of AIMST University, The Faculty of Dentistry organized first AIMST International Dental E- Conference -AIDEC 2021 on 24th-27th June 2021 with a Theme -“A Platform Switching for Innovative Minds”. First International Dental E Conference was steered by organizing chairperson Dr. Rajeev Arunachalam and team. Dentistry is undergoing a rapid change in terms of fast digitization of its value chain. Electronic / Virtual conferencing may prove to be an effective low-cost approach to deliver a remarkable scientific program which covers the entire range of research and innovations and share the cross-cultural experiences of various treatment procedures to students, academicians, researchers and clinicians who otherwise would be deprived of the opportunity. Unlike conventional conferences, virtual conferencing permits the involvement of a greater number of participants who would otherwise be unable to participate in events of this breadth owing to (1) limited travel fellowships, if any; (2) lack of time to travel to distant conference locations; and (3) insufficient accommodation and subsistence funds. These factors apply in general to the post-/undergraduate student community and especially to the target audiences that reside in developing countries. Minimizing the requirement to travel also means that the availability of invited speakers is greatly increased, improving the chances of attracting highly relevant and high-impact presenters.

AIDEC-2021 had 256 registered national and international participants. It included pre-conference workshop delivered by national and international speakers which attracted global audience. It included 13 guest speakers, 150 scientific presentations, quiz, table clinic, photography and videography competition judged by 30 renowned judges. Conference went live on Facebook with positive feedbacks. Upon completion of the E-conference, the participants were exposed to new platform of networking with an opportunity to interact which allowed the participants exchanging their ideas in a broader way which was efficient and cost effective for the betterment of the science boosting the possibilities of novel discoveries and enrichment of the scientific research via connecting virtual platform.
The Faculty of dentistry at AIMST University, organized a webinar titled “E- Dent horizon – 2021” held on May 22nd & 23rd, 2021 which consisted of reputed international and national speakers from USA, India and Malaysia. About 7 seminar topics were spoken by the speakers on various specialty fields in dentistry such as behavior management in children, significance of posture in dental practice, nitrous oxide inhalation sedation, OMF Tumors & its reconstructive management, road maps to master’s in dental & international fellowships with interactive Q & A sessions which was very much informative regarding the Dental practice and Post-graduation studies for the participants. A positive feedback was received with encouraging words for the organizing the webinar.
3"O" International Dental E-Quiz Competition

3"O" International Dental E-quiz competition, 2021 was organized by the Faculty of Dentistry. AIMST University with co organizers from AMROPIN, India Rajas Dental college, India and CSI Dental College India was conducted on 14th August 2021. This quiz comprises of Oral Medicine and Radiology, Oral Pathology and Oral Surgery subjects targeting the undergraduate all over the globe. We had teams participated form five different countries. The winner and the runner up were awarded cash prizes.

**Winners: RM 300**
College of Dentistry. Imam Abdulrahman bin Faisal University, Saudi Arabia

**First runner up: RM 200**
KLE University, India

**Second runner up: RM 100**
KLE University, India
The Engineering Accreditation Council (EAC) conducted a Virtual Accreditation Visit to AIMST University on 2nd and 3rd August 2021. The panel members of EAC comprised of Ir. Dr. Razak Yaacob, Ir. Dr. Mas Sahidayana Mohktar, Ir. Nor Azman Mohd Ruah and Ir. Dr. Yeap Kim Ho.

The Alumni of AIMST University Mr. Prethevraj and Mr. Raman Raguraman delivered a talk on the Revolution of Digital Technologies via Electrical and Electronic Industry. Mr. Prethevraj is currently employed as an Electrical Engineer at Jebal Al-Sahaili Trading LLC in Oman.

On 13th September 2021, Mr. Tieh Zhe Xuan Daniel, an Alumnus of AIMST University at present employed as an Electrical Engineer at Motorola Solutions Sdn. Bhd. in Penang, delivered a talk on the Importance of Electrical and Electronics Engineering Studies. This talk was conducted with the objective for Marketing of Engineering Courses offered at the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Technology of AIMST University. Mr. Tieh explained his experiences while at AIMST as a student as well as while at Motorola Solutions as a fresh graduate Engineer who is currently gaining practical experiences in industry applying the theoretical knowledge in a real-time environment.
The Medical Education Unit, Faculty of Medicine (FOM) AIMST University organized a webinar on ‘Adopting Jigsaw model curricular delivery using fusion mode Pedagogy-A live sharing session’ on 23rd July 2021.

This live sharing session featured experienced speakers from FOM and highlighted the role of ‘Contemplative pedagogy’, a process of being mindful and considers all aspects of a challenging situation to plan an effective strategy for curricular delivery. Various guiding principles and solutions were discussed for the benefit of other medical and health professions educators.
BOA 2021 was held from 11th September 2021 to 12th September 2021. The Opening Ceremony was officiated by Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs and Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ramesh Kumaresan and the closing ceremony was held on 12th September 2021 at 4.00 pm and officiated by Dean of Faculty of Medicine, Sr. Prof. Dr. K.R. Sethuraman.

The Quiz consisted of 3 Rounds. Round 1-Rapid Fire Quiz and Round 2-Case Scenario Trivia were Preliminary Rounds with Medicine, Surgery, Orthopedics, Obstetrics & Gynecology and Pediatrics. Faculty members from those units were the judges for Round 2. Five teams proceeded to Round 3-Emergency Medicine Simulation, which was conducted by CSC staff under Dr. Patrick. IMU won 1st and 3rd place and UKM won the 2nd place.
FOM, AIMST University Donated to HSAH Covid-19 Relief Fund

FOM, AIMST University donated a sum of RM 4000 to Covid-19 Relief Fund of Hospital Sultan Abdul Halim (HSAH). Deputy Deans of FOM Dr. Leela Anthony and Dr. Srikumar; and Ms Buaneswari Devi, with the Deputy Director of Hospital Sultan Abdul Halim, Sungai Petani at the handover ceremony.

RED Association Donated to Covid-19 Relief Fund of HSAH

R.E.D Association donated a sum of RM 2000 to Covid-19 relief fund of Hospital Sultan Abdul Halim (HSAH). On 2nd September 2021, Prof P.K Rajesh along with Tanushganth Sandrakumaran represented the club to handover the cash to the hospital management of HSAH.
On August 6 2021, the red association of AIMST University organised a webinar entitled “using sign language to talk and take history”. The webinar was open to the public and approximately 50 people were in attendance. During the webinar, attendees shared opinions, thoughts and queries while learning the primary sign language in daily medical settings. Persatuan Orang Pekak Pulau Pinang, keynote speaker, Ms Savithiri, and her assistant, Ms Cheryl Jayanthi, shared the most typical sign language in assisting the medical practitioners in diagnosing and taking care of the patients, especially those who are deaf or mute or both.
On 3rd of August 2021 AIMST University School of Nursing donated a small token of appreciation to the frontlines in Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah Kuala Muda, Sungai Petani. It was presented on behalf of the School by Madam Azila Binti Hashim and Madam Zurina Binti Ariffin to the director of PKD Kuala Muda, Dr. Nor Hayaniza Binti Awang Mosa and Officer in Charge of The PPV Centre Mr. Asif bin Yahya.

School of Nursing students volunteered to Vaccination Centre at Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah and Hospital Sultan Abdul Hali.
Welcoming the Batch 22 Diploma in Nursing Students. On 19th July 2021, 54 students enrolled in Diploma in Nursing. Due to pandemic, registration and orientation was held online. Following the registration, a structured Orientation Program was conducted. The program started with a welcome speech by the Dean, Associate Prof. Dr Yu Chye Wah, Deputy Dean School of Nursing, Madam Rajeswari Sinnasamy, Diploma Program Coordinator School of Nursing Ms Ooi Saw Geok, Bachelor of Nursing Sciences, Madam Noralene, the Batch Coordinator of Batch 22 Madam Sathayavani and the rest of the School of Nursing academicians.
FOP students, Chui Jun Hao, Tan Thye Chang, Arunnambikai A/P Baskaran and Enn A/P Ewan participated in National Pharmacy Debate Competition on 26th September 2021 and managed to enter semifinals.

Pharmacy students Chui Jun Hao and Nilesha Sunderrao won 2nd and 3rd place respectively in World Pharmacists Day slogan creation contest 2021 organized by QUEST University.

Faculty of Pharmacy students, Ms Sarvini a/p Baskaran, Ms Goy Shuh Wei, Nilesha A/P Sunderrao and Roshin A/P Ragunathan had been appointed as Malaysian Pharmaceutical Student Association’s (MyPSA) Professional Development Officer, Student Exchange Officer, Public Health Officer and Networking officer respectively for 2021/2022 session.
Dr. Christina Gellknight, Senior Associate Professor and Head of Department of Ophthalmology at AIMST University, was inducted as the ‘Member’ of the prestigious Academy of Medicine Malaysia, which is conjoint with the Academy of Medicine Singapore.

In 1989, DYMM Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di-Pertuan Agong, Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Yussuff Izzuddin Shah Ghafarullahu-lah graciously consented to become the Patron of the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia.

His Royal Highness remained as the Patron until 2014. In 2015 His Royal Highness, Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Al-Maghfur-Lah, consented to be the second Patron. Membership is offered to certified specialists who have obtained higher professional qualifications. Members and Fellows are entitled to use the letters AM and FAMM after their names.

During the academy’s induction ceremony in August 2021, Dr. Christina Gellknight was invited to join and pronounced as a ‘Member’ by Professor Dr. Hjh Nor Fariza Ngah, the President and Head of the Council of College of Ophthalmologists.
On 27th August 2021, AIMST Business Club organized a career talk by Ms. Putri Nur Ameerah, recruiting marketing specialist from RHB banking group. Moderator was Vice President of AIMST Business Club, Ms. Ong Yee Ting, year 1 student from the Bachelor of Science (Honours) Management Information Systems.

The motivational talk “Willpower” was held virtually on August 19, 2021. This talk was a collaboration with school counselors and teachers. The talk was delivered by Ng Jia Yi and Teoh Choon Hung, students from Faculty of Business and Management. Around 102 participants attended the talk. The talk was moderated by Dr. Yeoh Shwu Chyi, Lecturer at Faculty of Business and Management.
The webinar entitled Knowledge and Technology Assimilation Grant Schemes (KTAGS): “Produk Kecantikan: Ketahui Hak Anda” conducted on September 26th, 2021 was initiated by Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) under Knowledge and Technology Assimilation Grant Schemes (KTAGS). As one of the members of the KTAGS grant, Dr. Rusnifaezah Musa, a lecturer from the Faculty of Business and Management was involved in the webinar. The webinar was a collaboration programme with PUSPANITA Negeri Terengganu and Pertubuhan Aspirasi Jaringan Wanita Malaysia (AJWA). About 121 participants registered in this webinar. Dr. Rusnifaezah was the moderator for the session.
Dr Rahul Rathi delivered a talk in webinar entitled “Management of Dento-alveolar Trauma” on 21st August 2021. The workshop provided very concrete and easy-to-follow management of Dento-alveolar procedures.

Dr. Ng Yen Ping of Faculty of Pharmacy was appointed the organizing chairperson for Northern Region Pharmacist Convention 2021 – Enhancing Pharmaceutical Care in Covid-19 Pandemic in collaboration with Malaysian Pharmacists Society on 25-26th September 2021
During the semester break, AIMST Business Club has organized Virtual Movie Night on five Saturdays from July 2021 to August 2021, on five Saturday nights. The virtual movie night used video communication platform to carry out this event. About 35 participants registered for the movie broadcasting sessions.

Cooking and baking activities were virtually organized for 4 weekends (Sundays). The interested participants joined to prepare a dish accordingly and share the delicious food image and videos of the making process. These were then shared on ABC IG and FB page. Participants and viewers enjoyed the event. There were about 6 participants who enjoyed sharing their cooking and baking images.

This event allowed FBM Students to exercise with one another to improve their sense of community and mental health during the Covid-19 pandemic. Many different exercises were done such as yoga and strength training however the most popular exercise was dance cardio.
Two teams from the Faculty of Business and Management, Bachelor of Science (Honours) Management Information Systems programme won bronze award and silver award respectively in the virtual innovation competition 2021 organized by the Association of Information Scientists (AIS), Digital Information Interest Group (DIGIT), research, industry & alumni division, Universiti Teknologi MARA Kelantan, Malaysia, and Society of Information System Management (SISMA). Both teams won in the tertiary; Science & Technology category.

This is what the participants said about their experience...

“My journey during my participation in this VIC21 competition, I had an opportunity to think out of the box by sharing our innovative ideas and design related to our studies. This competition allowed us to share our idea in the form of video which is a great platform for the ideation stage. Through this competition, I was personally able to broaden my knowledge and designing skills related to our system and also got some useful insights during teamwork.”- Team member from Project Medical Student Revision System

“My experience in the VIC21 was amazing. This was my first time taking part in an international-level competition. This competition is all about new ideas, I have learned how to think differently. Being part of this competition helped me in crafting novel ideas in addition to academic achievement. Besides that, I developed good teamwork among the member to provide the best possible cooperation and have faith in the team that surprised us by winning the bronze award. I’d like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to my lecturer Ts. Kalaiselveye Rethinam, for guiding us throughout the entire process”

-Team member from Project Bijak Order System
Lecturer in charge: Ts. Kalaiselveye Rethinam

Silver Award-Winning Team:
From Left: Kanishwaran A/L Arumugam, Devaa Surendraa A/L Silvadram, Nanthini A/P Ramesh

Bronze Award-Winning Team:
From Left: Shanker A/L M.Mohgan, Kolendavelu A/L Karthigasu, Tharrshini A/P David Michael, John Ezekiel A/L Gabriel
Gowri Mogan Kumarappa, AIMST University's MBBS Batch 24 student, has accomplished her five months journey with 'Felo Parlimen Malaysia'. She was selected as one of 45 fellows of 'Felo Parlimen Malaysia' from a list of numerous applicants.

Malvinpal from MBBS Batch 23 received the Best Speaker Award at the Rice Toastmaster Club 143rd Chapter Meeting held on 3rd July 2021. He spoke on chess and explained the wonders of it. Malvinpal was selected as the best speaker by the audience poll as they loved the way he articulated the concept of chess, facts and stories related to the game.

MEDSA AIMST University organized the "Probiotics Webinar & Yakult Virtual Factory Tour" in collaboration with Yakult Malaysia. The objective of the webinar was to share information and knowledge about probiotics in the clinical setting as YAKULT Malaysia have partnered with 54 hospitals nationwide through their inpatient meals to treat gastrointestinal problems, post-operative infections and maintain general wellbeing.
Rubenaggan Bala Krishnan, Praveenath Rajendran and Kaw Zi Wei were elected President, Vice President and Secretary respectively of the new Student Council President of AIMST University.
FOM Alumnus Shared Her Experiences Post Medical School

Dr. Merlinda Shazellenne continues to serve the Ministry of Health, Malaysia (since 2014). She obtained her medical degree from AIMST University, Kedah. She is the Chairperson for the Junior Doctors Network (JDN) of Malaysia under the World Medical Association (WMA). She also was the SCHOMOS Chairperson for Negeri Sembilan for the years 2019-2021 and currently is the Honorary Secretary of MMA NS. SCHOMOS (Section Concerning House Officers, Medical Officers & Specialists), is the national body and voice of all government doctors in Malaysia. She is also a part of the National Working Committee of Women in MMA.

DR MERLINDA SHAZELLENNE
MBBS OHD
Senior Medical Officer
Kementerian Kesihatan
Malaysia
Faculty of Applied Sciences organized a webinar on ‘Biotechnologist: Beyond Biotechnology’ held on 24 September 2021. The webinar, which was moderated by Assoc. Prof. Dr C.V. Suresh, featured one of the Faculty’s successful alumni, Ms Shanta Latchumy Geevaretnam. She is currently one of the senior engineers at No Deviation Pte. Ltd, a Singapore based service provider for pharmaceutical companies. During the webinar Ms. Shanta Latchumy shared her career journey of 9 years, having worked at 5 different pharmaceutical companies. Shanta has profound knowledge in commissioning, qualification and validation of equipment and process in the pharmaceutical industry.

Ms. Shanta Latchumy also discussed the significance of biotechnology, the various opportunities and paths available to biotechnology graduates, and her wonderful experiences from her successful career journey at various levels. She stated that studying BSc (Hons) Biotechnology at AIMST greatly aided her throughout her career. One of the most important reasons given was that the lecturers and professors at the Faculty of Applied Sciences are highly qualified and competent. She emphasized that AIMST University’s MQA-accredited programme is more research and industry oriented.

In comparison to others, she believes that biotechnology graduates have a greater opportunity to learn other areas in interdisciplinary fields. She learned the engineering aspects of the fermenters and other equipment from her coworkers, and she eventually became an expert in bioengineering. She also advised biotechnology students to take advantage of any opportunity that arises and to continue to grow rather than waiting for a long time for the specific desired job. She concluded her presentation by suggesting to the students that all biotechnology career paths have a bright future and that it is best to choose based on their passion and interest.
Panadero et al. (2016a) defined self-assessment as a "wide variety of mechanisms and techniques through which students describe (i.e., assess) and possibly assign merit or worth to (i.e., evaluate) the qualities of their learning processes and products". To develop the learner's capacity for self-regulation systematically, teachers need to ignite a spark by creating tasks for self-monitoring on the learning progress.

THE SPARK
In the Immunology and Haematology System (MIHS), starting in the first week of the module, questions were uploaded in the learning management system. Questions were predominantly pathophysiology-based "why" questions to gain an accurate concept of disease. The questions were at the level of what the student is expected to know at the end of the course. Students could attempt to answer the questions anytime throughout the entire length of the module as they learnt concepts from the ongoing T-L sessions. These questions were intended to enhance the understanding of "how the disease disarranges the organ/cellular function" that is particularly hard to observe with the naked eye. Questions ranged from simple to complex in various formats, open-ended, fill in blanks, short questions, and match the following. The next step is the feedback. Feedback is an inherent catalyst for all self-regulated activities, so answers were posted for students to self-assess and clarify any doubts or misconceptions at the end of the module.

GLIMMER
How students perceived it!
The students acknowledged that the questions were an opportunity to self-assess their knowledge and competence in the module, considered the course's strength, and recommended it for the upcoming systems. Some excerpts (verbatim) from the students' feedback
"....Plus, the self-assessment test was also the strength as it gave me an opportunity to test myself on how prepared I am before the examination and gave me a rough idea of the questions that might be asked for CA." "The quizzes and the self-assessment progress test were really helpful."
"Progress test - the strength of the course" "I hope more progress tests are uploaded for the upcoming systems as it really guided me towards CA." This longitudinal self-assessment tool to assess the development of functional knowledge or competence helped the student experience less examination stress and inculcated continuous self-directed learning.

The "mini-progress test" as a self-assessment tool serves to minimize test-driven learning strategies, encourages less independent learners and would be a rich source for continuous benchmarking and quality improvement.

Dr. Bharathi Sengadan & Dr. Sam Annie Jeyachristy
Faculty of Medicine, AIMST University
Who would have thought that one day, TEDx would come to AIMST? Or that our students would bring TEDx to AIMST? If you're a fan of TED or TEDx talks, you'd know how big of a deal it is to have this inaugural event in our own backyard. The intellectual adrenaline rush you get, the thrill, the sense of supremacy, a tad bit touch of coolness, and a whole lot feeling of awesomeness. No matter how much you want to turn away from the petty truth, you can't deny that having a TEDx event instantly makes you feel like you're a part of an esteemed community. Indeed, it is one of our greatest achievements, among others, that we, AIMSTers, can brag about now while hanging out with friends from other institutes. But was it all easy peasy lemon squeezy to execute this remarkable event, or was it actually a walk in the Jurassic Park?

So, before getting into the details of TEDx AIMST University 2021, it is essential to know the ultimate difference between TED and TEDx. The former takes more of a global approach while the latter typically focuses on a local community that concentrates on local voices. TEDx is a grassroots initiative, created in the spirit of TED's overall mission to research and discover “ideas worth spreading.” Officially, the ‘x’ in TEDx stands for independently organized TED event - hence, TEDx AIMST University. So yes, the little ‘x’ there makes a huge difference. I will spare the details on the other differences. You can look it up on your own.

Let’s start from the very beginning, December 2020. The two students who envisioned the happening of this historical event at our university are besties, Lim Rong Jun and Ang Han Guan of Batch 24 MBBS. You can say they had a dream one night, and they did not turn their backs to it. They spent countless hours learning the ins and outs of TEDx, and well, the outcome paid it all off. They applied for the TEDx license and managed to convince Prof. Dr. P.K. Rajesh and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Saraswathi Bina Rai to be the advisors of this event. It was then their constant guidance that kept the TEDx boat sailing gloriously.

Rong Jun and Han Guan wasted no time in forming 'The Dream Team'. They have eyes for details and perfection. Hence, they shortlisted 19 students to be members of The Dream Team (as what the advisors call it), each having a different role. Yi Han, Winson and Celine were chosen to be on the Executives Board. They were the knights in shining armor, solving all the problems, big or small, faced by the team. It was their friendly and open approach that bridged all the departments together and their sleepless nights that paved an unhindered path for this event.
Amrita, Danyasrii, Sinyee and Yi Han made up the Curatorial Board. From finding potential speakers to constantly keeping in touch with the shortlisted speakers, paperwork after paperwork, timeline after timeline, these ladies have proved that they have what it takes to run the world. Without their social skills, we would not have gotten the speakers in the first place! However, without a family, it would have been pointless to have this event. Jiayee, Zhekai, Valentina and Gareth Chia; the Creative Board are the ones who built our community as a family. They are the creative minds behind all our beautiful posters, incredible merchandise and social media handles. Because of their tech-savvy skills, we are a strong family of 600 today.

Well, of course, no event this big would have been possible without a cash flow. That's when our Public Relations team jumps in. Kiara, Chong Zhe, Yuvetha Indran, Hong and Jinyee portrayed their best persuasive skills, securing sponsors that provided us enough funds to have this event luxuriously, without thinking twice about the budget. Then comes the turn of the life of the event, our emcee. Suzanna's remarkable energy and impeccable emcee-ing skills were the cherries on top of our cake. You can say she made sure our boat was surfing, not just sailing. So there you go, THE DREAM TEAM.

Okay, moving on to the 'big day', Sunday, 29 August 2021. From 9 am till around 5.30 pm, we had a total audience of around 1300, across both our streaming platforms, Zoom and YouTube. A good number for a first-time event, I must say. The event kick-started with a welcoming speech by our vice-chancellor, Prof. Datuk Dr. John Anthony Xavier, followed by a short and sweet opening speech by our advisor, Prof. Dr. P.K. Rajesh.

Seven out of thirteen of our speakers had the morning session, where they swept us off our feet in more than one way. They were in their best-presenting selves, each having a different approach to their talk. Yes, I am talking about none other than Ms. Melisha Lin, Dr. Navraj Singh Sidhu, Mr. Melvin Poh, Datuk Ramli bin Ibrahim, Dato' Dr. Fadzilah Kamaludin, Dr. Andrew Kok Wai Yun, and Mdm. Anita Abu Bakar. Some made us laugh, some made us cry, but all of them touched our hearts and opened our minds. They covered different topics, ranging from passion to the power of the mind, digital age life, arts and culture, field epidemiology, prevention of illnesses, and mental health. They gave us a new perspective to look at things, so yes, we had an eye-opening morning.
The post-lunch session accommodated the remaining six speakers, who highlighted more on the current worldly affairs. They addressed concerns that usually go unnoticed and unacknowledged. From volunteerism to humanity, survival of a refugee to the importance of a mere smile, women empowerment to cancer care. The afternoon session really gave everyone a touch of reality and a glimpse of hope for a better future. The talks were carefully worded by Ms. Jacqueline Hannah Albert, Dr. Madhusudhan Shanmugam, Mr. Sujauddin Karimuddin, Dr. Kayla Teh Khe Sin, Ms. Sumitra Visvanathan, and Dato’ Dr. Saunthari Somasundaram. They perfectly addressed issues that the general public usually runs away from. Well, this is the beauty of TEDx. This platform is to address such concerns and bring about a change for the better.

Throughout the event, there were two interactive sessions or to make it sound better, a meet and greet session. The audience was free to go to any breakout room of their choice to interact with their favourite speakers. This session was definitely loved by many as they got to say ‘hello’ to their idols. To spice things up, we also had prize giveaways and a Kahoot quiz. The giveaways were merely based on luck and a spinning wheel. So we could see people putting on their thinking caps during the Kahoot quiz, to win our exclusively customized merchandise. To mark the end of a long yet fulfilling event, Asso. Prof. Dr. Saraswathi Bina Rai, our advisor, gave a closing speech that was like a giant hug to all of us.

So, there you go. We have come a long way. Our journey of months of concerted efforts, sleepless nights, going all-out, to make this dream come true. Quoting Walt Disney, if you can dream it, you can do it! To our ever-supportive TEDxAIMSTUniversity family, our audience, who made it possible, we thank everyone sincerely from the bottom of our hearts. You are the reason why we were able to soar this year. And you are also the reason why we can say, we’re up for it next year too. Till next time, this is TEDxAIMSTUniversity 2021, signing off.

Amrita Preet Kaur Dhillon
Faculty of Medicine, AIMST University
Since its discovery in late-December of 2019, COVID-19 disease caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2 has wreaked havoc on the world's stability and economy, life of many was lost. According to WHO, the disease has taken the lives of more than 4.55 million human as of September 2021, which is hurt to hear. Fortunately, with the tireless efforts of researchers and governing bodies, vaccines for COVID-19 are made available to the world. Despite the fact that vaccine can prime us against infectious diseases, which has been proven again and again by scientists, a percentage of population still refuses or being reluctant to receive the vaccines. Can science dispel such hesitancy of the population to get the jabs? If so, how?

A report by University of Cambridge indicates that the share of citizens who believe that information on the harmful effects of vaccines is deliberately being concealed from the public is highest in South Africa (57%) and Nigeria (55%). From this, we can tell that one of the major culprits of vaccine hesitancy is disinformation. With internet and cell phones, spreading conspiracy theories, fake news and rumors is as easy as just making a few clicks. To counteract that, scientists need to step up, work alongside government to filter out and debunk messages that has not been proven scientifically. An advisory group run by experts from relevant scientific fields can be set up to aid the police cyber-security department would be a good start to squash down disinformation and answer inquiries from the public.

Another notable source of vaccine hesitancy being misinformation, it essentially means the message is being interpreted wrongly by the public. An example we can see is the concerns of the public towards the side effects of the vaccines. Social science can be utilized to interpret the way of thinking of general public and tackle misinformation. While convincing people to get their jabs, scientists and authorities should categorize them into different target groups, then consider and address their individual concerns, instead of using the “one drug treats all” concept. They should use evidence-based information to effectively communicate and to counteract messages that can misinform the public.

In this COVID-19 pandemic, many people adopted the idea of “wait and see” over their concerns of how quickly the vaccines were developed and if they are safe, are they effective against different strains of the virus? With the help of statistics, scientists can create info graphics that can be understood easily by the public. Public need to understand that while the ability to provide full protection against all variants of the virus is still uncertain for most vaccines, undeniably vaccines provide a good degree of immunity against the SARS-CoV-2 virus. According to a paper by Prof. Sumedha and her team, vaccinations against COVID-19 may have averted up to 140,000 deaths in the United States alone.
Science is a way of thinking, it taught us to analyse the issue logically, then plan and solve it methodologically. Thus, if we approach and understand the underlying reasons of people having vaccine hesitancy, we can find answer to the hesitancy, consequently convincing them to take the vaccines. By and by, with joint efforts of scientific communities and the authority, I believe the public can come to their senses, and go for vaccination.

Hugo Koay Lip Ping
Year 3 BSc (Hons) Biotechnology Student,
AIMST University
Since the start of Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020, several countries have developed vaccines to prevent the disease. The Covid-19 vaccine prices range from low to high and the price of vaccine paid by one country could be very different from another country. This is most probably affected by the political issues and trade agreements between countries.

The prices of the vaccines cause an inequity in the global distribution of vaccine. For those countries with high economic income, the vaccination speed is faster and the number of procured vaccines for their population is also high. According to the data by Our World in Data, the differences in vaccination speed between countries has painted a clear picture of inequity, with the high-income country such as Singapore, achieving a high vaccination rate, while for the low-income countries, especially the third-world countries such as Kenya, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Tanzania, the speed of vaccination is very slow. In Tanzania, not even 1% of the total population is fully vaccinated and at the same time, those high-income countries are starting on the third dose vaccine to the residents in their country. Thus, it is clear that there is inequity in the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines globally.

Hence, in my opinion, the distribution of COVID-19 vaccine should be based on these three criteria: the COVID-19 cases reported daily, the status of health facility and the number of residents. First, the countries that have very serious and high COVID-19 reported cases; they have the priority to have the vaccines. When these countries’ population is fully vaccinated, it would reduce the number of COVID-19 cases. When the number of cases decreases, this would also reduce the chances of the SARS-CoV-2 virus for mutation. Thus, the efficacy of vaccine against the virus would not be affected.

Secondly, the status of healthcare facility of a country. The countries with very low or poor healthcare facilities have the priority to vaccine access. It is to prevent the healthcare system of those countries from collapsing due to uncontrolled outbreak of the COVID-19 disease in those countries. Since there is no effective drug against the COVID-19 disease, the medical equipment such as oxygen concentrator machines and some drugs that are able to reduce the symptoms of the disease become highly important. However, not every country especially is those third world countries are able to afford that equipment and drugs in high volume. Thus, improving the vaccination rate would prevent those countries’ healthcare system from total collapse.
Lastly, the vaccines can be distributed according to the number of population. For example, every month every country will receive 10% of the vaccine according to the number of residents. It means that if the number of residents in a country is 10 million, then it will receive 1 million vaccine doses every month. Similarly, a country with 1 billion residents will receive 100 million vaccine doses every month. However, this depends on the number of vaccines that are available globally. Thus, to maintain or increase the quantity of vaccine, every country must work together to prevent any shortages of vaccine, and for ending this pandemic soon.

Tan Her Thean
Final Year BSc (Hons) Biotechnology student,
AIMST University
It has been almost 7 months since my family went through the Covid-19 pandemic. My son was tested Covid-19 positive and I am sharing my personal experience for all parents to be calm in upcoming health disasters that may come and go. As a mother, I went into a panic situation when I received a call from the Health Department to inform that I was in close contact with a Covid-19 positive patient. One of my family members was tested positive for Covid-19. I began trying to read as much as I could about what I should expect and how to protect other family members as he was asked to be in-home quarantine.

Though my son was categorized as a mild case, I would say that was the most miserable condition. He developed fever, a light cough, and lost his sense of smell and taste. As I searched to learn more about this virus, I kept coming across what I call "worst-case scenario" stories — stories of people dying, getting to ICU, and so on. I made the mistake of joining a support group for people who have or had COVID-19. Again, the group was just a platform where people share their stories, each worse than the one before. Instead of providing me with any hope or comfort, it left me feeling hopeless. The worst part of the entire home quarantine was the extreme isolation. Though he was at home, he was all alone for two weeks. As a mother, my heart wants me to be with him but I couldn’t do that. It was difficult to only be able to talk to him through the phone or the bedroom door. The absolute worst moment of this illness was the day that my boy asked me whether he can come out of the room, I could only burst into tears with his request and was not able to do much as I was advised not to expose the virus to my elderly mum. Every day, I was just counting hours before it will come to an end. My daily struggle with him was whether he has any trouble breathing, having a fever (where I asked to snapshot of temperature), and checking on how is the taste and smell of the food. It was almost 14 full days of isolation days before happiness found me again.

As the days pass, I was seeing some hope and was able to get rid of the nightmares. The lesson that I learned during my 14 days is that not to feel anxious and stop believing the lies in your imagination about how easily the infection spreads and the likelihood of becoming seriously ill or dying. You should not engage with anxiety through your thoughts, online research, conventional media, and social media. Though most of us have been vaccinated, it doesn’t mean we are safe. Keep calm and follow the instructions given by the health care officers, and surrender to the Almighty.

Santhi Appannan
Faculty of Business and Management
AIMST University
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