

## 10 years of research and moving on....

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Since 2001, the International Medical University has encouraged and facilitated research activities among its staff and students. Over the last 10 years, research undertaken by faculty members, postgraduate and undergraduate students has gained tremendous momentum culminating in a significant number of scientific publications and important research findings. In commemoration of IMU's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, this special issue of IeJSME is dedicated to IMU's professors whose experiences and expertise cover a diverse range of disciplines in medicine, health sciences and medical education.

Medicine and health sciences are dynamic fields which are constantly evolving as novel and innovative ideas and findings emerge in the quest for better diagnostics, treatment and control methods for diseases. Similarly advances in medical education have contributed significantly to improved and more effective teaching and learning methodologies. This special issue comprises of professorial articles which encompasses reviews that reflect research conducted by IMU professors in their respective disciplines of expertise in medicine as well as work carried out in new areas of medical education. The change in emphasis from medicine to medical education by some of the professors is a testimony of how versatile and adaptable IMU professors are in meeting the demands of the academic world. Medical education research is very relevant in cognizance of the fact that IMU aspires to be a leading private institution for medical education in the region.

Research continues to be an important driver in IMU's strategic plan and to realize this goal, concerted efforts are being made to ensure more focused and relevant research is carried out by IMU researchers in collaboration with external partners, both locally and abroad. Towards this end, an Institute for Research, Development and Innovation (IRDI) will be established later this year. IRDI will aspire to ensure that IMU not only generates research findings but is ready to translate these research findings to research products and services. The Centre for Medical Education will evolve to become the IMU Centre for Education (ICE) and be the focus for research, training and innovations in education at IMU.

These scholarly activities are essentially those of universities, and to excel, we need to do them well, and share our experience with others. The occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IMU is a significant landmark, and can be the start for IMU to develop on a broader platform for teaching, learning and research. These professorial contributions reflect the diversity, breadth and depth of the expertise and experience that exist at senior levels at IMU. The expertise, energy and commitment that exists at the rest of the university will drive IMU forward in the future, will hopefully be reflected in future issues of this journal.

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