# MOHRE BULLETIN ISSUE 1 . NOVEMBER 2020





# **INTRODUCTION**

The Master of Health Research Ethics (MOHRE) degree programme is the offspring of an exciting collaboration between the Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya and the Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics with the support of the Fogarty International Center, National Institutes of Health, USA. Members of the MOHRE Programme and John Hopkins University Teams with our first cohort of students.

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The MOHRE Bulletin is an annual publication by the MOHRE Programme, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya. The views and opinions expressed by the author(s) here do not necessarily represent those of Universiti Malaya and the board.

If you wish to know more about this bulletin or our programme, or would like to contribute to our future publications, please contact our administrative team at mohre@um.edu.my.

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# FOREWORD

Professor Dato' Dr. Adeeba Kamarulzaman Dean of Faculty of Medicine, University Malaya



# It brings me great pleasure to pen the foreword for this first edition of the MOHRE Bulletin.

The Masters of Health Research Ethics (MOHRE) is a one of a kind programme in Malaysia that we are very proud to conduct together with our colleagues from the Berman Institute of Bioethics at the Johns Hopkins University, with funding provided by the Fogarty International Center, National Institute of Health, USA. In the last few years, conducting research in all its forms--from basic science to clinical, translational and public health research--has become a priority at Universiti Malaya and many universities around the re-gion. It is therefore essential that education and training in ethical conduct of research is provided as part of this expansion in research activities. Additionally through this program, we hope to produce the next generation of leaders in research ethics in Malaysia and the region.

The comprehensive provision of the state of the art knowledge and education in the ethical principles and controversies in research is what makes the MOHRE Programme truly unique.

We hope that this Bulletin will provide some insight on this unique programme and the ethical issues related to the conduct of research in this country.

Thank you.



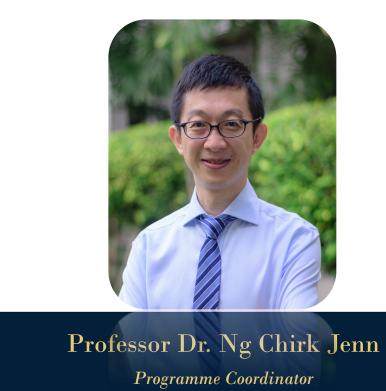
Professor Dr. Jeremy Sugarman Advisory Member

## Welcome to the Inaugural issue of the MOHRE Bulletin.

It is an honor to introduce the MOHRE Bulletin, which highlights some of the many recent achievements in research ethics by programme participants, including our first cohort of MOHRES students and faculty. The MOHRE Bulletin also includes information about our programme, which hopes to expand the bioethics network in Malaysia.

I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and support in making this programme a success and look forward to our continued collaborative efforts related to research ethics.

Enjoy!



It's a pleasure to introduce the MOHRE Bulletin to all of you. This Bulletin is a testimony to the many achievements the MOHRE Programme has made over the past one year.

As the Programme Coordinator, it has been a challenging but rewarding task to design and implement the Programme. However, thanks to the talented and supportive Faculty members from Universiti Malaya and Johns Hopkin University, our first cohort has completed their study with flying colours. During the one-year Programme, besides the formal curriculum, our students had ample opportunities to network with international colleagues in the field of bioethics and research ethics (FERCAP Conference) and participate in additional academic activities (MOHRE Essay Writing Competition).

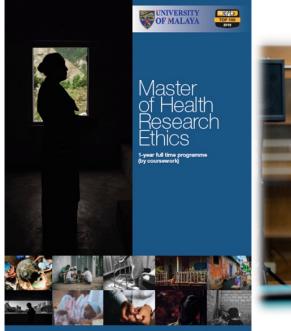
Although 2020 has been a turbulent year for all of us, the MOHRE Programme has embraced the use technology to enhance teaching and learning during the pandemic. This will help to enable our students to continue to learn effectively about health research ethics in a safe and conducive environment.



**The Masters of Health Research Ethics (MOHRE)** Programme is a one-year course of study by coursework where students are exposed to a diverse range of educational modules, all re-volving around the ethical principles and issues faced in research. Taught by a team of highly trained, qualified and dedicated experts in the field, the MOHRE Programme aims to produce competent and professional pioneers in the ethics of research.

Every year, up to ten well-deserving applicants are awarded scholarships, which covers the tuition, examination fees and a stipend. Applicants are interviewed and selected based on a very stringent and robust criteria, to ensure a high quality, inclusive and diverse Programme.

For further information, please visit mohre.um.edu.my or our Facebook or Twitter pages.





# A LOOK INTO OUR CLASS

The first cohort of the MOHRE Programme come from diverse educational and professional backgrounds. It is with great pleasure that all nine of our students have graduated with flying colours!



From top left: *Alex Phang Kean Chang*, *Grazele Jenarun*, *Pio Justin V. Asuncion*, *Malini S. Sham-nunagathan*, *Naomi Ann Domnic Selvam*, *Maylene Tan Zipagan*, *Nik Nur Eliza*, *Norizan Rosli*, *Leow Mei Lian*.

# A LOOK INTO OUR CLASS

We would like to introduce you to our new batch of students, joining us as the second cohort this year. We are very excited to have them all onboard. Welcome!



From top left: Mohd Yusmiaidil Putera, Ch'ng Wan Ping, Teong Win Zee, Lui Sze Chiang, Russell Ganesh, Jeffrey Ralph B. Luces, Wulmar Cerio, Chin Kuen Yei, Harnawan Rizky

# *GETTING THE ETHICS OF GENOME EDITING RIGHT: ENGAGING MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES*

On the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019, over 150 people attended the public conference, Getting the Ethics of Genome Editing Right: Engaging Multiple Perspectives, at the TJ Danaraj Auditorium, Faculty of Medicine. The conference was hosted by the Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya, together with the Berman Institute of Bioethics, John Hopkins University. It also marked the historic consolidation of an international collaboration in healthcare, bioethics and research with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between both institutes, establishing the Masters of Health Research Ethics (MOHRE) Programme.





# **NEWS & EVENTS**



# FORUM FOR ETHICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE IN THE ASIAN & WESTERN PACIFIC REGION (FERCAP) 2019

The 19<sup>th</sup> International Conference of FERCAP was held from the 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang, Malaysia. The UM Delegates was comprised of our first cohort of students, MOHRE Programme faculty members and colleagues from John Hopkins University. The conference was organized to address the current approaches and ethical issues in health research globally, along with the challenges of scientific advancements in health research in the Asia Pacific region. The 4-day conference also addressed the roles of the various key research stakeholders in promoting good science. Speakers representing the MOHRE Programme were the Deputy Dean (Research) of the Faculty of Medicine, Prof. Dr. Ng Chirk Jenn; MOHRE Secretariat Dr. Nishakanthi Gopalan; lecturers including Dr. Sharon Kaur and Dr. Rumana Saifi Akhter; and John Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics colleagues, Prof. Dr. Jeremy Sugarman and Joseph Ali.

### **MOVEMENT CONTROL ORDER AND E- LEARNING**

In view of the global pandemic of COVID–19, Universiti Malaya converted all classes into online teaching and learning. The Movement Control Order that was implemented beginning early March 2020 restricted students and faculty members from travelling and carrying out essential duties.

In preparation for delivery of online class sessions, MOHRE students and faculty members were trained and equipped with knowledge and skills of E– learning with the help of UM's Academic Enhancement & Leadership Development Centre (ADeC), E– learning Team (Medical Research (Development Unit) and the MOHRE Administrative Team.

MOHRE will continue to deliver class sessions online according to the discretion of Universiti Malaya and the Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia.

### **MOHRE FAREWELL CELEBRATION**

4th September 2020 marked the end of the journey of our first batch of students as they graduated with the Master degree of Health Research Ethics. The celebration was inaugurated with a speech by Dato' Prof. Dr. Adeeba Kamarulzaman and Programme Coordinator, Prof. Dr. Ng Chirk Jenn.

It brings us great pleasure and honour to announce that Grazele Jenarun has been selected as class valedictorian. Congratulations to Grazele and all of our students!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our students for believing in us, and for being with us through this journey. We hope that our paths will cross very soon, till then.

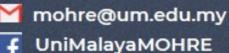
Adios!



# **NEWS & EVENTS**

# NOTES





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