

Staying relevant in biotechnology

BIOTECHNOLOGY is a multidisciplinary field that employs the biological system to produce useful products for the enhancement of life and wellbeing. As such, medical biotechnology harnesses the related fields specifically for the improvement of human health.

The recent Covid-19 pandemic has brought scientists of various disciplines around the world to immerse themselves in research revolving around battling the infection - from developing identification test kits to finding an effective vaccine.

The studies involved extensive network among scientists to bring the novel therapeutics and vaccines from bench to bed which requires enormous amounts of money to fund research activities.

Virologists, molecular biologists, pharmaceutical chemists and data scientists, alongside with the medical experts work together and merge their findings to battle Covid-19.

Hence, medical biotechnologists are scientists well equipped with knowledge and skills in a wide variety of disciplines including those mentioned above.

Developing rapid detection kits with high

sensitivity and specificity to detect patients at different infection stages - symptomatic and asymptomatic - is an example of the application of biotechnology.

Biotechnology companies such as Moderna, Inovio and Novavax, together with academics and research institutions like the University of Queensland, Imperial College London and University of Hong Kong Pressured have stepped in to develop a vaccine as soon as possible.

Thus medical biotechnology is a field very much in demand. Biotechnologists are the backbone of the healthcare system would not only be incomplete but also unable to catch up with the 'smart' living enemies like viruses.

At International Medical University (IMU), the curriculum of its medical biotechnology MB degree is developed to meet international standards and is accepted by renowned international partner university, University of Newcastle, Australia for credit transfer into relevant programmes.

Students can also opt to complete the entire degree at IMU. IMU Medical

Biotechnology graduates also have the opportunity to gain direct entry into the Strathclyde MSc Industrial Biotechnology or MSc Forensic Science.

They will only need to spend one year in Strathclyde to complete their Master's degree on a 15% studentship of the published fee. This partnership is a testament to the excellence of the IMU's MB programme which is benchmarked to international standards.

Commencement of this programme is in July and September. If you have pre-university qualifications and have an interest in Medical Biotechnology, apply online now and join the university in your pursuit of a promising and rewarding career.

If you have just completed your SPM and do not have pre-university qualifications, consider enrolling in the one-year IMU Foundation in Science (FIS), the preferred foundation and direct route for entry into any of the university's degree programmes.

■ For more information, refer to www.imu.edu.my, email start@imu.edu.my or call IMU at 03-2731 7272.



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