

An experience not to be missed

JASON Ong Jea Sheng is currently pursuing his RCSI Medical Degree at Perdana University, in his Senior Cycle 1 (Year 4) and recounted his experience:

“On May 2 this year, I embarked on a journey to Seoul, South Korea, to attend the 22nd Annual ILTS (International Liver Transplantation Society) International Congress. I have always dreamt of presenting my work at a local conference but never did I think that I would have the opportunity to feature on an international platform. I was head over heels when I finally got the green light from Perdana University – thank you so much for your support. The poster presentation was scheduled to begin at 5.30pm on May 4, at the COEX mall. I arrived an hour earlier to prepare the poster.

According to the schedule, I was placed at booth P-98 with the title Knowledge and Attitudes of Critical Care Professionals towards Brain Death, Cadaveric Organ Donation and Transplantation. Next to me was a German researcher from the University of Leipzig. We had an interesting conversation and he seemed very passionate about his research regarding ascites neutrophil function in patients with decompensated cirrhosis.

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Chance to deepen knowledge

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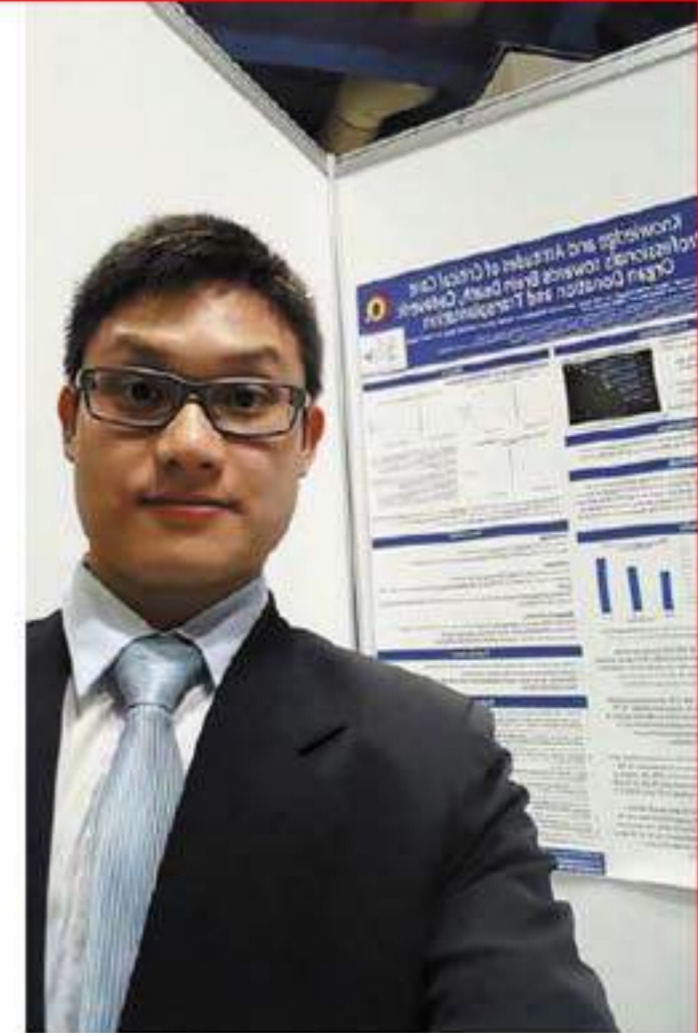
The event lasted until 7pm. Throughout the session, I had the opportunity to exchange a few words with accomplished surgeons from Canada, Russia, Japan and India. The input I received about our project and organ donation gave us an insight about the field of organ donation and transplantation internationally and the ways we can improve locally.

Overall, this opportunity spurred my interest in the field of research and deepened my understanding of evidence-based medicine. I realise that research involves a complex interplay between clinicians, biochemical scientists and statisticians to distil statistically and clinically relevant data.

Such a skill is relevant to the Biochemical Science and Research domain of the RCSI Medical Graduate profile as well as personal and professional development. We feel extremely grateful for the support and generosity from Perdana University in funding this trip. We would also like to thank the Dean, Professor David Adams, who gave us tremendous encouragement throughout the process. It has also been a pleasure to work with the dedicated team at the National Transplant Resource Centre (NTRC), juggling working round-the-clock to promote the national organ donation campaign while supporting us on site.

We are also indebted to Professor Mohammad Moshaddeque Hossain, Associate Professor Dr Karen Morgan and Dr Anne Jamaludin for their contribution and guidance along the way without which we would be adrift.

Last but not least, we would like to wholeheartedly express our gratitude to our supervisor Associate Professor Raghu



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Varadarajan for his continuous presence in our team through thick and thin.

His mere presence was a great boost to our morale and his knowledge as a hepatobiliary transplant surgeon vastly improved the study and our knowledge of organ donation and transplantation.”

The next intake for students interested in joining Perdana University's RCSI Medical Degree Programme is this September.

Students are encouraged to submit their application as soon as possible, as only limited seats are available.

A RM300,000 grant is also available for all students who enrol for the 2016/17 academic year.

■ For more information, log on to www.perdanauniversity.edu.my or call Perdana University at 03-8941 8646.