

World-class Irish education

Local university brings international training in surgery to medical students to provide more accessible education.



BY SYED ZAID SYED OSMAN

PROFESSOR Dr David Adams, the dean of Perdana University Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, discusses PURCSI programme during an exclusive interview with **Health+**.

Q: Tell us more about the Perdana University Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (PURCSI) programme in Malaysia.

A: The PURCSI was established in 2011 and we now have the first cohort graduating this September. It is a five-year programme that follows the credited Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland based in Dublin. During the programme, students will be equipped with everything they need to efficiently lead the healthcare provision in Malaysia.

Q: What are the added advantages students obtain upon graduating?

A: The curriculum uses the same syllabus taught in Dublin but is altered according to the urgency. For example, dengue fever might not be common in Dublin. Therefore, the syllabus might not require much details as what the doctors are dealing with here. In addition, the student body is able to access the world-class database to broaden their reach.

Graduates receive the bachelor of medicine, bachelor of surgery and bachelor of the art of obstetrics (MB BCh BAO) of the National University of Ireland, Licentiate LRCP & SCI of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Q: What are the requirements to join the programme?

A: To join the PURCSI, the candidate must obtain an A and 2 B+s for STPM in biology, chemistry, and physics or mathematics.

The matriculation & Foundation students require a minimum CGPA 3.5 out of 4.0, focusing on biology and chemistry and physics or mathematics.

All students must either have either a minimum MUET score of Band 4, OR IELTS score of 6.5 with no individual section lower than 6 OR TOEFL iBT (minimum sub-scores of 26 reading, 26 listening, 22 writing and 25 speaking).

Q: What is the mission and vision of the programme?

A: The objective of the PURCSI School of Medicine is to provide the education and experience that will enable its graduates to enter post-graduate training in the medical specialty of their choice. In other words, we aim to produce outstanding medical graduates who are able to deliver high level of healthcare in Malaysia.

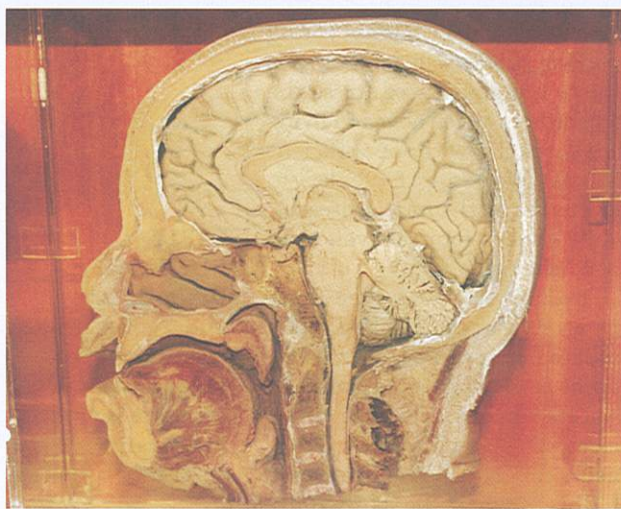
Q: Does the programme make PURCSI unique compared to other universities and colleges in Malaysia?

A: The programme is a five-year Irish medical programme completed wholly in Malaysia. Here, the students acquire the understanding and clinical competence under the supervision of our experts and it is another advantage that majority of the medical leads are from Ireland.

In addition, we do fully equipped clinical skills unit lab with medical mannequins to be used as models for our lessons and preserved human anatomy museum in our campus. The models and preserved anatomy help students understand the human body better in addition



Dr Adams tending to a patient model on the bed.



Human legs part of the training model at the PURCSI laboratory.



of preparing them for the real occasion.

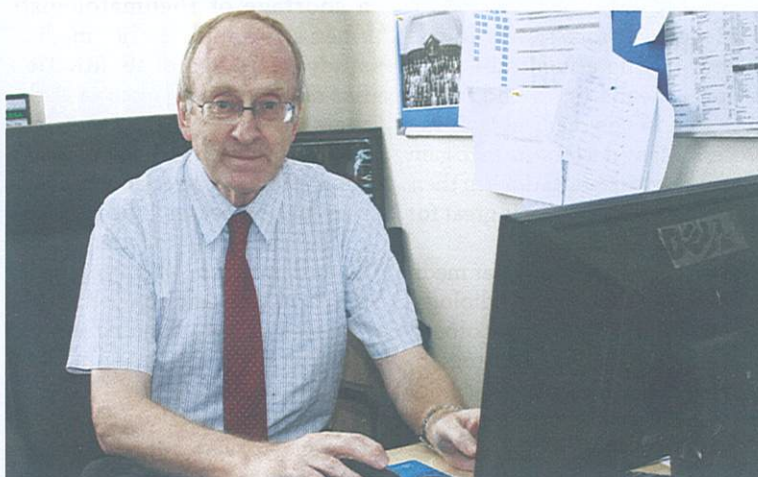
Q: Who makes up the teaching force at PURCSI?

A: As of now, I would say the expatriates make up 70% of the teaching force. But, I do have plans to produce more local doctors to teach in PURCSI. The expatriates are from Ireland, India, Myanmar and other countries.

Q: How would you rate the programme's success rate?

A: We might not have the statistics this batch are first ones to graduate after PURCSI started in Malaysia. I do however, feel positive about them. Having been in the medical field for 30 years, these young graduates are the best team of doctors I have ever gotten the chance to work with. I see bright future in them and I can say they will be great and wonderful doctors one day. **Health+**

“Graduates receiving the bachelor of medicine, bachelor of surgery and bachelor of the art of obstetrics (MB BCh BAO) of the National University of Ireland.” – Dr Adams



Real life human body mummified in plastic used for practise and lessons.

