

PUGSOM Students Excel in International Exams



The current batch of final year undergraduate medical students of Perdana University Graduate School of Medicine (PUGSOM) at Perdana University who recently sat for the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) examinations performed exemplarily to attain a 100% pass. The current final year PUGSOM students cleared their USMLE Step 1, USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK) and USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) examinations. The USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 CK are a one-day examination administered in one 8-hour and the other in a 9 hour testing session with some short breaks. Step 2 CS is conducted in the USA. All these examinations are mandatory requirements of the Malaysian Medical Council and Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) for the PUGSOM students to sit and clear to graduate for their medical degree (MD).

The PUGSOM students come from diverse ethnic, cultural and academic background. Some of them whom originated from humble as well as challenging background have surpassed all expectations in their academic journey. The diversity of the various classes is the pillar of strength that made them traverse the rough terrains of academic rigor. PUGSOM's US style 4 year Graduate Entry Medicine (GEM) program is the first of such medical course in Malaysia that requires students' entry to the medical school to have a minimum Bachelor degree in any Science related discipline as required by the US medical schools. Hence, PUGSOM medical students consist of mature students who have completed degree courses in Bio-Medical Sciences, Biotechnology, Nutrition, Optometry, Physics, Pharmacy, and Pharmacology as well as other science related degrees. Some of them have enrolled into PUGSOM with a Master's degree.

Perdana University commenced in 2011 under the auspices of the Public-Private Partnership Unit of the Prime Minister's Department. The PUGSOM program is approved by the Ministry of Higher Education. It accredited by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency. Most of the local students managed to obtain Public Services Department (PSD) full scholarships. We envisage the same for the next intake of students. PUGSOM at Perdana University currently runs the medical program in collaboration with the University of California San Diego (UCSD) School of Medicine. UCSD is ranked number ninetieth in the 2016 QS World University Rankings for Medicine. 13 American universities are ranked top out of the first 20 universities in this world-ranking list for Medicine. PUGSOM at Perdana University intends to leverage on the US style medical program to attain greater heights in Malaysia.



PUGSOM alumni have done well to start working in the government hospitals in Malaysia. Some of the PUGSOM alumni have taken advantage of their US style program training here to complete and compete among all American and foreign students in the international benchmark examination (USMLE exam). They managed to enrol into the highly competitive US Residency (post-graduate) program. It is anticipated these post-graduate students will contribute to the Malaysian workforce upon graduation to address the current shortage for clinical specialists. A glimpse of some of the students who went through PUGSOM:

Izarin Izmir bin Izhar: Izarin completed his Bachelor in Science (Chemistry) from University of Wisconsin – Madison before he enrolled into PUGSOM. He is graduating soon.

Delcos Chan Kok Hoe is from Perak: He graduated from University of Malaya with a degree in Bio-Medical Science. He pursued his post-graduate studies at the University of Hong Kong. He left his PhD to join PUGSOM. He is graduating soon from PUGSOM with a MD.

Lim Ju Lyn hails from Selangor. Her first degree is a Bachelor of Optometry from the National Institute of Ophthalmic Sciences. She joins her colleague in graduating soon.

Dr Mohamed Hanief bin Khalid grew up by the beach of Penang. Hanief graduated with a Bio-Medical degree from UPM. He further pursued his Master in Anatomy from UPM. After graduation, he is now a house officer at Serdang Hospital.

Dr Malini Chandra Serharan is from Kuala Lumpur. She is currently undertaking her Residency program in Internal Medicine at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore in USA. She was presented with the outstanding junior resident of the year award in Internal Medicine for the year 2016-17. Malini is an alumnus of the pioneer batch who completed her MD degree at PUGSOM in 2015. She enrolled PUGSOM with a Bachelor of Bio-Medical Science (UPM) and Master of Bio-Medical Science from UPM.



Dr Mior Ahmad Azmeer was born in the Royal town of Kuala Kangsar. He received his Bachelor in Science in Biotechnology from Rochester Institute of Technology, NY, USA. He is an alumnus of the pioneer batch and is currently working in Universiti Sains Malaysia hospital.

Dr Nezar Alsaedi is from the small island of Bahrain. He graduated with a bachelor's and master's degree in molecular and cellular biology from Johns Hopkins University. He completed his medical degree (MD) at PUGSOM in 2015 and is currently pursuing his residency at US.

Well done and congratulations to all the PUGSOM students. Working hard is what successful people do. Continue to strive, continue to have goals, continue to progress!