



PATHTALK



Merdeka Edition
31st August 2025



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



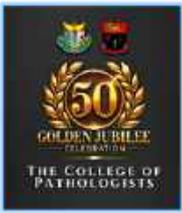
The President Message, on Merdeka Day.

Dear Members,

International Networking

Since its inception, the Malaysian Society of Pathologists (MSOP) had and the present College of Pathologists, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia (CPathAMM) has always maintained cordial relationships with international institutions of similar interest, in particular the Royal College of Pathologists of the United Kingdom, **RCPATH(UK)** and the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia, **RCPA(Australasia)**. RCPATH(UK) and CPathAMM jointly administers the ongoing RCPATH(UK) Bhagwan Singh Fellowship Programme. RCPA(Australasia) regularly sponsors a Visiting Lecturer to Malaysia to participate in our annual scientific event. Through the **tripartite association of academies of medicine** in Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong (SAR, China), we have some interactions with the respective sister pathology organisation which need to be further strengthened and actively promoted. In addition to the above collaborations, CPathAMM is a member of two international bodies, the World Association of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (**WASPALM**) and the International Liaison of Pathology Presidents (**ILPP**). In 2007, CPathAMM organised the 24th WASPALM Congress in Sunway Pyramid Convention Centre, Petaling Jaya, Selangor, with great success, attended by 835 delegates from 38 countries of the World.

This year, in conjunction with the **Golden Jubilee** celebration, CPathAMM has successfully hosted the ILPP 2025 meeting for the first time in Malaysia on 21-23 July 2025, at the Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. We are grateful for the close collaboration with the College of American Pathologists (**CAP**), whose headquarter is based in Northfield, Illinois, USA. CAP is the current secretariat for the ILPP.



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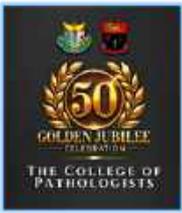
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Artificial Intelligence in Pathology Practices

Since the recognition of the arrival of the **4th Industrial Revolution** in 2016, there is extensive and rapid digitisation of human activities, dominated by artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics. A further boost came about with the successful launch of a **Large Language Model (LLM)**, ChatGPT, on 30th November 2022. Since then, there are at least 3755 LLMs available in the market for us to explore and use. Recognising the importance of LLM application in the practices of pathology, **MCPaQAP**, our sister institution established during the May 2013 CPath AGM for promotion of quality assurance activities, organised a LLM workshop to promote LLM application among our fellow practitioners. It is gratifying to see many seniors taking their time off on a Sunday to attend the workshop on 20th July 2025, held in the Multimedia Resource Centre of the Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) Sg Long Campus. The field of LLM application is in its infancy. It is time for our fellow pathologists to engage with such activities and contribute our expertises for the appropriate applications of LLMs. It is well known that “**hallucination**” is a significant problem in the LLM output. This is where we could serve as a guardrail for the abnormal behaviour of the LLMs when they are applied in the practices of pathology.



Cell-Based Therapies Coming of Age in Malaysia

It is heartening to learn that the first hematopoietic stem cell transplant was successfully performed on 27th August 2025 at the **Sarawak General Hospital (SGH)**, Kuching, Sarawak. This means patients requiring this service no longer need to travel from East Malaysia to West Malaysia. CPathAMM would like to congratulate the SGH Haematology Team led by Dr Chew Lee Ping for this important achievement.

The first haemopoietic stem cell transplant was carried out in Malaysia by the **UMMC** Paediatric Haemato-Oncology Team in 1987 led by Prof HP Lin, and the first haemopoietic stem cell transplant for **Kuala Lumpur Hospital (HKL)** was performed by Dato' Dr Raja Khuzaiyah in 1994. The team led by Prof SK Cheong successfully did the first transplant in **Hospital UKM** in 1999, fulfilling our joint (with Dr Khalid Hassan and Dr Raja Khuzaiyah) initial failed effort in HKL to introduce this technology to Malaysia way back in 1983.

Haemopoietic stem cell transplantation is a form of cell-based therapy, first carried out successfully by **Professor Dr E. Donnall Thomas** in the seventies and for this remarkable endeavour, he was awarded the **Nobel Prize in 1990**. More than a million of patients with blood cancers have been cured by this procedure.

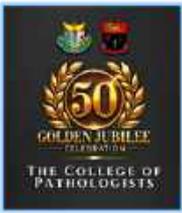
The field of cell-based therapy has now progressed beyond haematology and transfusion medicine. The application has now spread to other medical fields. At the turn of the century, we saw the rapid application of mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) in a variety of medical conditions. In fact, two and half decades after extensive clinical studies, MSCs are now approved by the regulatory bodies in various countries for several medical indications. The next breakthrough came the discovery of induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) in 2006 by **Professor Dr Shinya Yamanaka** who was awarded the **Nobel Prize in 2012**. Two decades later, the discovery has not only heralded the new field of regenerative medicine but also spawned many new industries in the healthcare arena. iPSCs technology has also rendered **new life for cord blood banking** where generation of iPSCs and their downstream products carries immense potentials for the future.

Cell-based therapies have been traditionally undertaken by the haematologists and the transfusion medicine specialists. It is only natural for them to take up this expanded field to include **MSCs, iPSCs, immune cells** (T cells, NK cells, CAR-T cells, CAR-NK cells, CAR-Macrophages, Cytokine Induced Killer cells) and **cell-based gene therapies**. It is high time these new knowledge and skills of "living drugs" be incorporated in their specialist training programmes. Perhaps it is also time for us to develop a **subspecialty on regenerative medicine** to deal with this emerging field which has come of age!

Academician Emeritus Professor Dr. S.K. Cheong

President

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ICPaLM 2025: Pathology & Artificial Intelligence – Shaping the Future of Diagnostics Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | 21-23 July 2025

The International Congress of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (ICPaLM) 2025, held in Kuala Lumpur, commemorated the Golden Jubilee of the College of Pathologists, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia (CPath AMM). It brought together regional and international leaders in pathology, laboratory medicine, and biomedical innovation under the transformative theme “Pathology & Artificial Intelligence: Transforming Diagnostics and Patient Care.”



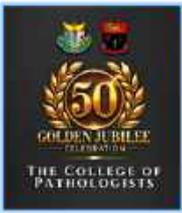
Empowering the Future Through Innovation

Hosted at Shangri-La Kuala Lumpur, this three-day in-person congress awarded 20 CPD points and welcomed pathologists, laboratory scientists, trainees, and industry stakeholders. The scientific programme explored AI integration across pathology disciplines, covering diagnostic accuracy, workflow automation, biomarker discovery, and translational innovation.

Scientific Highlights

The keynote by Prof. Kwang Hyun Cho (KAIST) on cancer reversion opened the congress with groundbreaking insights on reprogramming malignant cells. Dr. Suzy Lishman CBE, President of the Association of Clinical Pathologists (UK), shared perspectives on digital pathology and global AI adoption trends.

Six plenary sessions spanned forensic, anatomical, hematology, microbiology, chemical, and genetic pathology. International speakers included Assoc. Prof. Linda Iles, Prof. Damien Gruson, Emeritus Prof. Jane Dahlstrom, Prof. Deborah Marriott, Dr. Cornelis Harteveld, and Prof. John Rasko. Key topics ranged from AI in lab automation to neuropathology, inherited gene expression diversity, and molecular hemoglobinopathies.



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ICPALM2025

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International Congress of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Pathology & Artificial Intelligence: Transforming Diagnostic and Patient Care
Highlights: [Digital Transformation and Sustainability in Laboratory Medicine](#)
Shangri-La, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | 21-23 July 2025

X f i t s

Specialised Workshops

Pre-Congress Workshop – 20 July

“From Diagnosis to Monitoring: A Deep Dive into T Cell Disorders by Flow Cytometry”

Held at Menara Biomed, this hands-on workshop covered T-cell leukemia classification, MRD monitoring, and mimicking disorders with interactive case discussions led by local and international experts.

Post-Congress Workshop – 24 July

“All About Lymphoma – From Confusion to Clarity”

This immersive programme addressed diagnostic challenges in lymphoma using updated WHO classifications, immunophenotyping, and molecular testing. Sessions focused on grey-zone entities and challenging real-life cases with expert-led discussion.



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ILPP Engagement

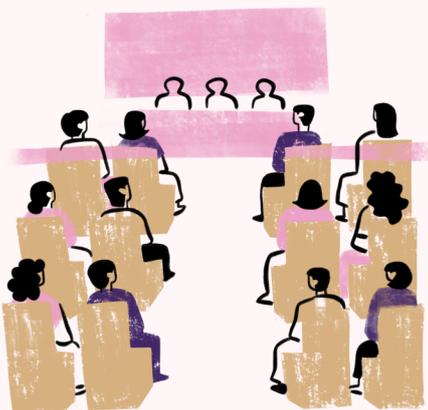
The International Liaison of Pathology Presidents (ILPP), coordinated by Emeritus Professor Cheong Soon Keong, President of the Academy of Medicine Malaysia, was prominently featured at ICPaLM 2025. The ILPP serves as a global forum for communication and collaboration among pathology leaders, providing a platform to exchange ideas, share best practices, and strengthen international partnerships. During the congress, the forum addressed key issues such as workforce shortages, training needs, and the adoption of emerging technologies including digital pathology. Meaningful cross-border collaboration and knowledge exchange further reinforced ILPP's pivotal role in advancing diagnostic standards and promoting continuous quality improvement worldwide.

Strong Industry Engagement



A vibrant exhibition hall showcased cutting-edge technologies from global leaders. Diamond sponsor Takeda Malaysia and Autobio & Bioyuan, along with Platinum sponsor ScienceVision Sdn Bhd / Illumina featured the MiSeq™ i100 platform and hosted scientific sessions on AI-enhanced oncology diagnostics. Other Platinum sponsors included Thermo Fisher Scientific/ BioMed Global, Integrated DNA Technologies (IDT) / Apical Scientific, and Snibe Diagnostics.

Gold partners such as Siemens Healthineers, SOPHiA GENETICS, QIAGEN, Sysmex, Global Precision Diagnostics, Straits Scientific, and BioMed Global contributed significantly to the scientific programme. Additionally, over 20 Silver sponsors, including McQAS, demonstrated real-world applications of AI and automation in diagnostics, from NGS workflows to external quality assessment solutions.





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Leadership & Organisation

The success of ICPaLM 2025 was made possible through the dedication and coordination of a visionary leadership team. The congress was advised by Emeritus Professor Cheong Soon Keong and chaired by Dr. Roziana Ariffin from Premier Integrated Laboratories (PIL). Dr. Sasi Devi Saminathan (Hospital Tunku Azizah-HTA) served as the Organising Secretary, overseeing congress operations and execution.

The Scientific Chair was Prof. Raja Zaharatul Azma (UKM), supported by Dr. Siti Shahrum (HTA). Key members of the committee included Assistant Secretaries Ms. Victoria Manimagalai (HTA) and Mr. Muhammad Ehsan Fitri (HTA); Treasurers Dr. Siew Sheue Feng (Hospital Kuala Lumpur-HKL), Dr. Khairul Anuar Zainun (HKL), and Dr. Razmin Ghazali; Liaison Lead, Dr. Mardziah Mohamad (UM); Venue Lead, Dr. Thatcheiany Kumariah (HKL); ILPP Coordination Lead Dr. Subashini Thambiah (Hospital Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah-HSAAS); Exhibition and Sponsorship Coordinators, Dr Saira Bahnu Mohamed Yousoof (Lead) (PIL) and Ms. Zuraini binti Yacob (HKL); Registration Lead Dr. Koo Zhao Peng (University of Malaya-UM); and Publicity Lead Dr. Shatishraj Jothee (UM). Together, this cohesive team managed scientific content, international liaison, speaker engagement, logistics, and stakeholder coordination, ensuring the smooth delivery and impactful success of the congress.



Emeritus Professor Cheong (centre) with Guest of Honour, Dato Nor Azimi, Deputy Director-General of Health (right) and Prof Dato Hanafiah, Deputy Master of AMM (left), at the opening ceremony of ICPaLM 2025.



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Academic Contributions & Recognition

A total of 254 scientific abstracts were accepted for presentation, comprising 192 e-posters, 50 physical posters, and 12 oral presentations. 251 abstracts will be published in The Malaysian Journal of Pathology, further cementing the congress's academic standing. Delegates were also awarded 20 CPD points, underscoring the event's value in continuing professional development and clinical excellence.

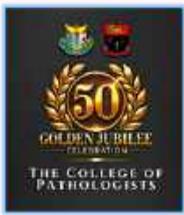
Conclusion

ICPaLM 2025 was a defining milestone in Malaysia's pathology landscape. Celebrating 50 years of the College of Pathologists, the congress successfully advanced diagnostic excellence and collaboration across borders. With its focus on AI-driven innovation, quality benchmarking, and future-ready laboratories, ICPaLM 2025 laid the foundation for a smarter, more connected future in pathology and laboratory medicine.



ICPaLM 2025 & ILPP 2025 Gala Dinner on 22 July 2025





Charting the Future of Global Pathology: ILPP 2025 in Kuala Lumpur

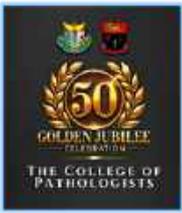
For the first time in its history, Malaysia hosted the International Liaison of Pathology Presidents (ILPP) meeting on 21-23 July 2025 at the elegant Shangri-La Hotel in Kuala Lumpur. This landmark event was held alongside the International Conference of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine 2025 (ICPaLM 2025), a biennial scientific meeting organised by the College of Pathologists, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia (CPath AMM). Adding to its significance, the occasion also marked the 50th anniversary of CPath AMM, underscoring Malaysia's growing role in global pathology.



Key participants included distinguished leaders from left-right:

Seated: Ms. Kayee Ip (Senior Manager, Governance Communications, CAP), Dr. Lance Nigel Sandle (President, Association of Clinical Pathologists UK), Dr. Suzy Lishman (Immediate Past President, Association of Clinical Pathologists UK), Dr. Donald Karcher (President, CAP), Academician Emeritus Professor Dr. Cheong Soon Keng (President, CPath AMM), Professor Dr. Komala Pillay (President, College of Pathologists of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa), Associate Professor Dr. Subashini C. Thambiah (Honorary Secretary for ILPP 2025), Ms. Heather Dow (Executive Director, Canadian Association of Pathologists), Dr. Sheue Feng Siew (Honorary Treasurer, CPath AMM).

Standing: Dr. Bernard Lewis Croal (President, RCPaPath, UK) Dr. Michael Fraser (CEO, CAP), Associate Professor Dr. Trishe Yu-Ming Leong (President, RCPA), Associate Professor Dr. Daniel Francis Owens (Vice President, RCPA), Dr. Mary Keogan (Dean, Faculty of Pathology, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland) Dr. David Andrews (CEO, RCPA), Dr. Siu Ming Mak (President, Hong Kong College of Pathologists), Professor Dr. Xavier Matias-Guiu (President-elect, European Society of Pathology), Dr. Raed Al Dieri (Chief Executive Officer, European Society of Pathology), Dr. Jason Karamchandani (President, Canadian Association of Pathologists).



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The meeting gathered an exceptional assembly of leaders from major pathology organisations worldwide, including the College of American Pathologists (CAP), the Royal College of Pathologists (RCPaTh, UK), the Association of Clinical Pathologists (UK), the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA), the Canadian Association of Pathologists, the College of Pathologists of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa, the European Society of Pathology, the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and the Hong Kong College of Pathologists. Representing CPath AMM were Academician Emeritus Professor Dr. Cheong Soon Keng (President), Dr. Tengku Norita (Vice President), Dr. Sheue Feng Siew (Honorary Treasurer) and Associate Professor Dr. Subashini C. Thambiah (Honorary Secretary for ILPP 2025).

Several of these distinguished leaders, including Dr. Bernie Croal (President, RCPaTh, UK) Dr. Donald Karcher (President, CAP) and Dr. Suzy Lishman (Immediate Past President, Association of Clinical Pathologists, UK), contributed to ICPaLM 2025 as invited speakers, joined by Dr. Dilani Samarawickrema Lokuhetty, Head of the WHO Classification of Tumours, who delivered a recorded presentation due to unforeseen circumstances.

ILPP 2025 delegates who were invited speakers at ICPaLM 2025



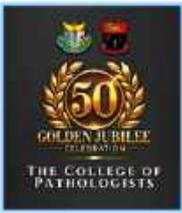
Dr. Suzy Lishman



Dr. Donald Karcher



Dr. Bernie Croal



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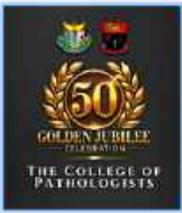
The meeting commenced with a Welcome Reception on 21 July, creating a warm and collegial atmosphere that set the stage for meaningful exchanges over the following two days. The business sessions began the following day, co-chaired by Academician Emeritus Professor Dr. Cheong Soon Keng and Dr. Donald Karcher. After introductions, declarations of interest and review of the ILPP 2024 minutes, discussions turned to pressing challenges and opportunities shaping the future of pathology.

Education featured prominently on the agenda, particularly the shift toward direct release of laboratory results to patients under the EU Health Data Sharing framework. While this initiative promotes transparency and patient empowerment, it also raises critical concerns: How will patients interpret complex data without misinterpretation or anxiety? Do healthcare systems have adequate support mechanisms to address these challenges? Delegates agreed that patient education must be prioritised alongside digital access to ensure that greater transparency does not lead to confusion or harm.

Another major topic was informatics training and certification. Significant disparities exist between countries, with some offering advanced programmes in digital pathology and data science, while others lack structured initiatives. Delegates highlighted the urgent need for standardised competencies to ensure quality and consistency across borders. Discussions also revisited competency-based assessments and their role in licensure, reflecting the ongoing debate about balancing academic rigor with workplace readiness.



The conversation then shifted to professional practice and systemic challenges beyond technology. Workforce shortages emerged as a global concern, particularly in recruiting and retaining medical laboratory technologists and assistants. Without addressing these gaps, delegates warned that even the most sophisticated digital tools will not sustain healthcare delivery. Proposed solutions included on-the-job assessments for licensure to accelerate entry, although this suggestion sparked debate about maintaining standards. The underutilisation of pathologists in clinical trials was also highlighted as a missed opportunity to advance translational research and improve patient outcomes.



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Technology dominated much of the discourse. Delegates examined digital pathology standards, flexibility in implementation and the growing trend of remote reporting. While remote practice offers convenience and resilience, it brings regulatory, security and quality assurance challenges. This naturally led to spirited debate on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Large Language Models. While AI promises efficiency and scalability, concerns about ethics, regulatory oversight and the preservation of clinical judgment were strongly voiced. Consensus emerged that successful AI adoption requires robust validation frameworks, stringent quality control and sustained human oversight to ensure that technology enhances rather than replaces professional expertise.

Updates from Dr. Suzy Lishman provided valuable insight into advocacy initiatives, including International Pathology Day and reforms in death certification and the role of medical examiners in England. These developments illustrate how pathology increasingly intersects with public health, governance and policy, expanding its relevance beyond the laboratory.

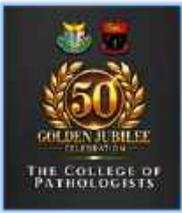
The meeting concluded with plans for future ILPP gatherings: Montreal, Quebec, Canada in 2026, Sydney, Australia in 2027, Cape Town, South Africa in 2028, Barcelona, Europe in 2029 and the United Kingdom in 2030, reinforcing the organisation's commitment to geographic diversity and shared global priorities.

Beyond the formal sessions, ILPP 2025 embraced Malaysia's cultural heritage as a bridge for international collaboration. The Gala Dinner on 22 July, hosted by ICPaLM 2025, featured traditional performances, music, games, a best-dressed competition and an extensive culinary showcase, creating a lively and convivial atmosphere.

The final day offered a creative excursion to the Kuala Lumpur Craft Complex, where delegates explored Malaysian arts and crafts and enjoyed a hands-on batik painting workshop, a calming and memorable conclusion to an intense and forward-looking meeting.



Social Activity Visit at Kuala Lumpur Craft Museum on 23 July 2025



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Hands-On Batik Painting Workshop on 23 July 2025

ILPP 2025 was more than a professional gathering; it was a strategic dialogue about the future of pathology in an era of rapid change. From bridging the digital divide and tackling workforce shortages to navigating the ethical complexities of AI, the discussions underscored the profession's need for adaptability, collaboration and patient-centred care. Hosting this historic event reaffirmed Malaysia's growing influence on the global pathology stage and its commitment to innovation, inclusivity and excellence in laboratory medicine.

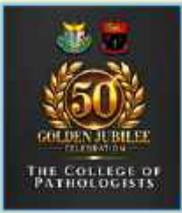
CPath AMM wishes to express its deepest appreciation to the ILPP 2025 Organising Committee for their dedication, teamwork and tireless efforts in making this landmark event a success:

- Chairman: Academician Emeritus Prof. Dr. Cheong Soon Keng
- Hon. Secretary of ILPP: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Subashini C. Thambiah
- Executive Secretary: Ms. Samantha Yuen
- Social Program Director: Dr. Tan Yuen Fen
- Committee Members: Dr. Nada Syazana Zulkufli, Dr Siti Shahrum Muhamed Said, Dr. Shenaz Banu Said Khan, Dr. Fauzah Abdul Ghani, Dr. Nalini Devi Verusingam, Ms. Lim Yee Ching, Ms. Lee Soke Sun, Ms. Fong Fan Chyi



ILPP 2025
Organising
Committee

Prepared by:
Associate Professor Dr. Subashini C. Thambiah
Honorary Secretary, ILPP 2025



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LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER 2025

Professor Datuk Dr. Ainoon Othman MBBS, D.C.P., Dr. Med. Sc., FRCPE, FAMM



In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious and Most Merciful. Peace and blessings to everyone gathered here.

It is an absolute privilege to stand before you today to honour a scholar, a pioneer and a true luminary in the field of haematopathology, Professor Datuk Dr. Ainoon Othman.

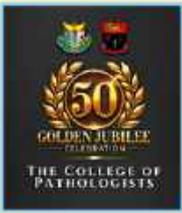
Academic Qualifications & Early Career

Professor Datuk Dr. Ainoon Othman began her illustrious career at Hospital Kuala Lumpur as a house officer in 1979 and barely five years later she became a lecturer at the Department of Pathology, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), where she contributed tremendously and was promoted to Professor in 2001. She continued to serve at UKM until 2010, after which she carried on her excellence at Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) until now, 2025, while still contributing as a visiting professor at UKM.

Curriculum Development & Educational Leadership

With a distinguished subspecialty in molecular genetics, Professor Datuk Dr. Ainoon Othman has not only deepened our understanding of complex haematological conditions but has also contributed significantly to the global scientific community, particularly in the areas of G6PD deficiency and thalassaemia, where her research continues to shape clinical practice and public health policy.

A teacher at heart, she is actively involved in teaching and medical curriculum development for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, particularly in Pathology. She has mentored, supervised and graduated more than 30 postgraduate students, who are now serving the community in various capacities.



A Legacy of Excellence in Research and Innovation

Professor Datuk Dr. Ainoon Othman has received more than 50 local and international grants worth over RM4.5 million, leading to more than 150 publications in indexed journals and numerous invitations as a speaker at local and international conferences and seminars.

Professor Datuk Dr. Ainoon Othman has built a legacy of excellence. Her work has led to numerous innovations, including award-winning research that has earned gold medals, national accolades and multiple awards from institutions and scientific bodies both locally and internationally.



Celebrated Mentor, Leader, and National Luminary

But beyond the publications and research accolades lies a mentor and leader. Professor Datuk Dr. Ainoon Othman is a recipient of numerous Excellence Service Awards from USIM and UKM; and was honoured as Tokoh Akademik (Hasanul Mudir) at USIM. In recognition of her national contributions, she was conferred the Darjah Kebesaran Panglima Jasa Negara (P.J.N.), a reflection not only of her scholarly distinction but also of her dedicated service to the nation.

Her lifelong commitment to science and education has also earned her prestigious fellowships, including those from the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and the Commonwealth Medical Fellowship.

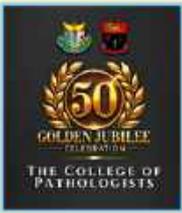
What sets Professor Datuk Dr. Ainoon Othman apart is not only her academic brilliance but also her unwavering dedication to mentorship and to advancing society through science. Among her notable contributions are:

- ❖ Vice President, College of Pathologist, Academy of Medicine:(2008-2013) (2016-2023)
- ❖ Founding Chairman, National Committee of Good Laboratory Practice MyGLPC, Standards Malaysia, MOSTI (2010-2017)
- ❖ Chairperson, Specialty Education Subcommittee for the field of Haematology, Medical Education Committee, Malaysian Medical Council (2020 to date)

So today, as we celebrate this remarkable journey, let us not only reflect on the achievements recorded in print but also on the countless lives she has inspired, mentored and forever transformed. Please join me in honouring and celebrating the extraordinary contributions of Professor Datuk Dr. Ainoon Othman.



Prepared by;
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eusni Rahayu Mohd. Tohit
Vice President, Chapter of Haematology
College of Pathologists, Academy of Medicine Malaysia
Department of Pathology
Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences
Universiti Putra Malaysia



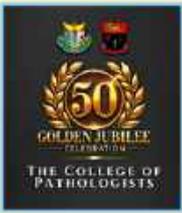
Acceptance speech by Professor Datuk Dr. Ainoon Othman

Praise be to the Almighty for His graciousness and blessings. My utmost gratitude to Him for His guidance always. I would like to express my thanks to all who had showered me with congratulatory messages, in person or otherwise.

I am deeply humbled and profoundly honoured to receive this Lifetime Achievement Award from the College of Pathologists, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia. Never in my wildest dream did I imagine being accorded such an esteemed recognition by the professional body that has been an integral part of my journey as a pathologist. To be recognised by my peers and fraternity is both an honour and privilege. This award is not just a celebration of my work but a testament to the many people and institutions that have walked this journey with me.

I still wonder how I ended up becoming who I am today, considering that as a little girl growing up in Tumpat, Kelantan, my ambition was simply to be a schoolteacher. Upon graduating from Universiti Malaya in 1979, I went along with the natural course expected of a medical graduate: housemanship, followed by a medical officer posting at the Blood Bank of Hospital Kuala Lumpur where my interest in haematology began to take root. The ambition to become a “teacher” urged me to apply for a Trainee Lecturer position at the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). In 1984, my journey as a full-fledged pathologist and academic began and little did I know then what lay ahead. Immersing myself in both academic and professional work, I was fortunate to be guided by a senior haematologist whom I consider a mentor and who was instrumental in shaping me into the haematologist and academician I am today.

My association with the professional body began in the early years of my career with the Malaysian Society of Pathologists. I remember vividly the excitement of those numerous early annual scientific meetings, where we gathered, worked together, and shared our work, drawing inspiration from one another and working towards the common goal of bringing pathology forward. To me, the Society became a place of fellowship, scientific exchange and inspiration. Those early meetings and activities shaped my values as a pathologist and instilled in me the importance of collegiality and service to the profession. Those formative years were crucial in cultivating the spirit of service that I have carried with me throughout my career.



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With the transition of the Society into the College of Pathologists under the Academy of Medicine Malaysia, we gained a stronger platform to influence professional standards, training and advocacy. I was privileged to contribute during those years of transition and growth. Throughout my years of service with the Society and the College, I always sought to contribute in whatever way I could, whether through participating in committees, organising scientific meetings or helping to shape policy discussions. The goal was always to strengthen the profession and to create opportunities for the younger generation of pathologists. Through the College, we advanced pathology specialty training, external quality assurance and continued education all of which raised the standard of pathology in Malaysia. I am especially proud of the role the College has played in all these aspects and being able to contribute to these initiatives has been a privilege.

Equally meaningful and most satisfying to me has been the opportunity to train and mentor younger colleagues. Being a teacher at heart, I find this aspect of my profession the most fulfilling. Just as I was guided by dedicated seniors in the early years of my career, I have sought to support and encourage the next generation so that excellence in pathology continues to flourish.

I would like to share this award with the many colleagues, mentors, collaborators and trainees who have walked alongside me. I thank my mentors for their guidance. To my colleagues, thank you for the fellowship, camaraderie and shared vision of advancing pathology in Malaysia. To my juniors, thank you for your aspirations for giving me purpose and for reminding me of the importance of nurturing the future. And to my family, who stood by me through and through, I am forever grateful for the love, patience and constant support.

Once again, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the College of Pathologists for the recognition and, more importantly, for the platform it has provided me to serve. I am confident that the College will continue to grow in strength, relevance and impact. May it always be a place where young pathologists find guidance and where the highest standards of professional integrity are upheld.

In closing, I accept this award with deep humility, not as a personal accolade but as a symbol of the collective journey we have taken as a profession. Thank you once again for this recognition, and may we continue together to serve with dedication, integrity and passion for the science and art of pathology.



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LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER 2025

Dr. Leslie Charles Lai Chin Loy MBBS, MSc, MD, FRCPath, FRCP, FAMB, FFSc(RCPA), EuSpLM



Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my distinct honour and privilege to present the citation for Dr. Leslie Charles Lai Chin Loy, Consultant Chemical Pathologist and Metabolic Medicine Specialist, a towering figure in our discipline and the recipient of the College of Pathologists, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia (CPath AMM) Lifetime Achievement Award in Pathology 2025.

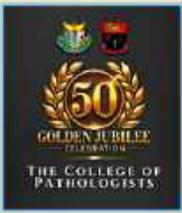
Shaping Medical Education and Advancing Clinical Pathology

Dr. Leslie Lai's career spans more than three decades, marked by deep integrity, intellectual rigour and an unwavering commitment to ethical practice and patient-centred care. Throughout this journey, he has been a beacon of excellence in chemical pathology, earning both national and international recognition.

His contributions to pathology have been both broad and transformative, encompassing clinical service, academic leadership, research and professional advocacy. Following two decades in the UK, Dr. Leslie returned to Malaysia at the invitation of the Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) to help establish the university's medical faculty in 1997. As Professor of Clinical Biochemistry and Metabolic Medicine and Deputy Dean for Academic Affairs, he was instrumental in shaping UPM's medical education framework. He subsequently served as Dean of Postgraduate Studies at the International Medical University from 2001 to 2004, where he established the Postgraduate Medical School, laying a solid foundation for the next generation of clinical leaders.

Commitment to Service Excellence in Chemical Pathology

Currently, Dr. Leslie serves as Consultant in Chemical Pathology & Metabolic Medicine at Gleneagles Hospital Kuala Lumpur and Laboratory Director at Premier Integrated Labs, Gleneagles Hospital KL Branch. His clinical acumen and commitment to service excellence have touched countless lives and helped elevate laboratory medicine standards.



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National and Global Leader

Beyond the hospital and classroom, Dr. Leslie has been an influential presence on national and global platforms. He has served as a Council Member of CPath AMM and the Malaysian Association of Clinical Biochemists, actively shaping policy and professional development. Regionally and internationally, his leadership has shaped the trajectory of laboratory medicine. Within the Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB), he served with distinction as Chair of the Education Committee, Vice President, President and Immediate Past President across two decades. On the global stage, he held pivotal roles in the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), including Chair of the Education and Management Division and currently serves as Chair of the IFCC Nominations Committee.

Commitment to science and clinical practice

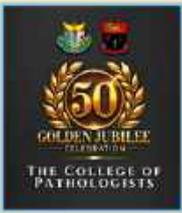
Despite a demanding schedule, Dr. Leslie continues to serve pro bono as Advisor to the Chapter of Chemical Pathology and Metabolic Medicine, CPath AMM as well as to local EQA providers MCPATH QAP and LABQAS. He often extends his support after working hours or over weekends. This quiet dedication reflects his selfless commitment to the ongoing advancement of our profession.

Dr. Leslie has also contributed significantly to the scientific literature, particularly in endocrine-related tumours and metabolic disorders. His editorial work includes longstanding roles with the Malaysian Journal of Pathology and several international peer-reviewed journals, reflecting his unwavering commitment to advancing evidence-based practice.

A Journey of Outstanding Achievement



His many accolades include the JCI Outstanding Young Malaysian Award for Academic Leadership and Accomplishment, the APFCB Distinguished Service Award and most recently, the UNIVANTS Top Elite Award, all of which are testaments to a lifetime of sustained excellence.



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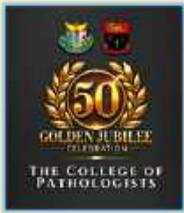
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On a more personal note, I have known of Dr. Leslie since my days as a Master of Pathology student back in 2004. I used to be in awe of him whenever I saw him speak at local conferences, so much so that I never dared to approach him. I never imagined that one day I would have the privilege of sitting beside him on a committee he chairs or working alongside him in the College. Now that I know him personally, I can say without hesitation that he is one of the most approachable, generous and humble individuals I have ever met. Always willing to teach, advise and share his knowledge, he embodies the spirit of collegiality and mentorship that our profession so deeply needs.

Dr. Leslie Lai is more than an accomplished pathologist. He is a visionary educator, a thoughtful leader and an enduring mentor. His impact on the field of chemical pathology, both within Malaysia and across borders is indelible. For all these reasons, we are immensely proud to honour him today with the Lifetime Achievement Award in Pathology. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Leslie Charles Lai Chin Loy, a true pioneer and pathfinder in chemical pathology.



Prepared by
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Subashini C. Thambiah
President,
Chapter of Chemical Pathology & Metabolic Medicine,
CPath AMM



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Acceptance speech by Dr. Leslie Charles Lai Chin Loy

Thank you, Associate Professor Subashini, for your generous and moving citation which moved me to tears, and also for nominating me for this honour. I am deeply touched and truly humbled to receive this Lifetime Achievement Award from my peers whom I respect and admire.

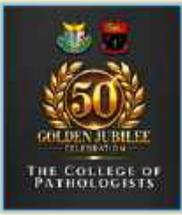
It is not easy to sum up a journey that began over four decades ago. When I graduated in 1983 from the United Medical Schools of Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals in London, I had no idea the path would be this long, this demanding or this fulfilling.

From a young age, I was drawn to Chemistry. In medical school, I excelled in Biochemistry and Chemical Pathology, winning prizes in both. So, after completing my house jobs in the UK in 1984, I plunged straight into training in pathology at St Stephen's Hospital in Chelsea, London, with a clear goal of becoming a Chemical Pathologist. I have never looked back since.

In 1986, I moved to St Mary's Hospital Medical School, Imperial College London. Under the mentorship of the late Professor Vivian Hector Trevor James, a true giant in the field, I completed my MSc, MRCPATH, and MD. I also immersed myself in research, mainly in breast cancer, including aromatase inhibition. Many late nights were spent in the research laboratory building the foundation of my academic career.

In 1990, I took up the post of Consultant Chemical Pathologist and Head of Clinical Biochemistry at Freeman Hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, and Senior Lecturer at the Medical School, University of Newcastle. There, I had the pleasure of teaching and mentoring BSc, MSc, PhD, and medical students, one of whom is now a Consultant Cardiologist at Gleneagles Hospital Kuala Lumpur.

Then, in 1996, came the turning point. I returned to Malaysia at the invitation of Tan Sri Syed Jalaludin, Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Putra Malaysia. That decision to come home has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. I had the rare opportunity to help build a new medical faculty at UPM, and later served as Dean of Postgraduate Studies at the International Medical University from August 2001 till February 2004. Every research grant I applied for was approved, unlike in the UK.



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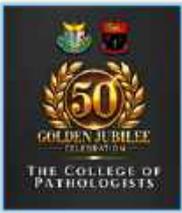
Since March 2004, I have been in private practice, based at Gleneagles Hospital Kuala Lumpur, managing patients with endocrine and metabolic disorders. I also serve as Laboratory Director at Premier Integrated Labs, Gleneagles Kuala Lumpur branch, and Head of Chemical Pathology at Sunway Medical Centre.

At the national level, I have had the privilege of contributing to the development of pathology services and undergraduate and postgraduate education. Internationally, I have been honoured to serve in leadership roles with the Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB) for a total of 24 years, including as President for six years, and with the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), on the Education and Management Division Executive Committee for 16 years, including 6 years as Chair. I am currently Chair the IFCC Nominations Committee from 2021 till 2026.

A special highlight for me was being Chair the Organising Committee of the very successful WASPaLM World Congress 2007 held in Kuala Lumpur where I was also the Secretary-General of the congress. There was such an incredible team effort filled with camaraderie, and a sense of shared purpose. I remember fondly the long hours that we spent together, including Distinguished Professor Datuk Looi Lai Meng, President of the Congress, and Academician Emeritus Professor Cheong Soon Keng, Chair of the Scientific Committee and the indomitable and ever stoic Miss Kong who provided the Secretariat Service. On my return to Malaysia, I was appointed Chair of the APFCB Congress Scientific Committee and member of the Organising Committee for the APFCB Congress held in Kuala Lumpur in October 1998. I now find myself, once again, Chair of the Scientific Committee and member of the Organising Committee for the upcoming APFCB Congress to be held in Kuala Lumpur in October 2027, coming full circle in the twilight of my working life.

It has been hard work, but I have enjoyed the journey. I have made lifelong friends through the College of Pathologists, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia, the Malaysian Association of Clinical Biochemists, the medical community and various international committees and organisations. I am grateful to my mentors and mentees, some of whom I have been privileged to publish with. I hope that I have always encouraged my mentees and helped them progress in their careers. To the young pathologists, the future of pathology is in your capable hands. Do not be afraid to be curious and ask questions, adhere to the highest standards of practice and ethics, and when the time comes for you to be mentors, please be generous in your mentorship. I am very grateful to all of you. This lifetime achievement award would not have been possible without all of us working together, constantly striving to improve the standards and practice of pathology which ultimately leads to the primary goal of improved patient care, safety and outcomes.

I would like to thank my family, especially my late parents and my incredibly patient wife, for standing by me through the long nights, the endless meetings, and the many overseas conferences and meetings. I could not have done this without your love, support, and understanding. And finally, my deepest thanks to God for His unfailing love, countless blessings and constant guidance throughout my life. Nisi Dominus Frustra.



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LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER 2025

Professor Dr Victor Lim K.E. MBBS, MSc, FRCPath, FAMM, FASc



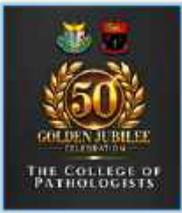
Dear members of the College of Pathologists,

It is indeed a great honour for me to introduce Professor Dr Victor Lim, Lifetime Achievement Award 2025 recipient. A towering figure and role model, he left a remarkable legacy not only in the world of microorganisms, but also at global platforms. His endeavors and achievements will continue to inspire next generations. I had the privilege of learning from him during my postgraduate training, and had precious, memorable journeys in the expert panel of the previous two editions of the Guidelines for Adult Immunisations (MSIDC) chaired by him. His wisdom and eclectic charm taught me invaluable lessons in leadership and humility.

Career Highlights & Early Academic Qualification

Dr VICTOR K E LIM, MBBS, MSc, FRCPath, FAMM, FASc, retired as the Pro-Vice Chancellor and Professor of Pathology at the Faculty of Medicine and Health, International Medical University (IMU) in Kuala Lumpur in January 2023. Before joining the IMU, he was the Director of the Infectious Diseases Research Centre at the Institute for Medical Research, Ministry of Health (2001-2004) and Professor of Microbiology at the Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM).

He obtained his MBBS from the University of Malaya in 1974, MSc in Medical Microbiology from the University of London in 1978 and passed the Royal College of Pathologists examinations (MRCPath) in 1981. He had academic leadership appointments in UKM and IMU, as well as leadership appointments in professional societies, among the long list in his CV.



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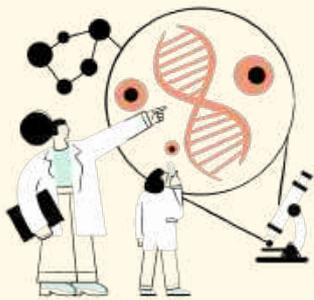
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A Pillar in Infectious Diseases Leadership and Medical Academia

He was the President of the Western Pacific Society of Chemotherapy from 2004-2008, Master of the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia (AMM) from 2008-2011, President of the Malaysian Society for Infectious Diseases and Chemotherapy (MSIDC) from 1999-2003, Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists, Fellow of the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia, Fellow of the Academy of Medicine of Singapore, Honorary Fellow of the Academy of Family Physicians of Malaysia, Fellow of the International Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy, Fellow of the Academy of Sciences of Malaysia and Editor-in-Chief of the Malaysian Medical Journal from 1991-1998.

Commitment to Research



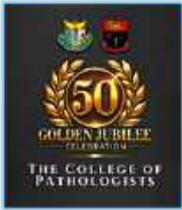
Prof Dr Victor Lim's fields of interest include clinical microbiology and antimicrobial chemotherapy, and he has published and presented over 350 scientific papers. He made exemplary contributions in research, and medical education in the public and private sectors. No doubt he made an outstanding impact in Medicine and in the field of medical microbiology, over a period of almost 50 years, at the national and international levels. His long-standing clinical service has contributed to the practice and development of clinical microbiology in the country.

On behalf of the clinical microbiology fraternity and Pathology in general, congratulations to Prof Dr Victor Lim, thank you and warm wishes for a very happy retirement, good health, new adventures, cherished moments and happiness always.



Prepared by
Associate Prof Datin Dr Zetti Zainol Rashid
MBChB (Manchester), MPath (Med Microbiology) (UKM)
Department of Medical Microbiology & Immunology
Faculty of Medicine
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

Committee Member
Chapter of Medical Microbiology and Immunology
College of Pathologists
Academy of Medicine of Malaysia.

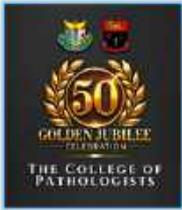


**Acceptance speech by
Prof Dr. Victor Lim**

I wish to express my utmost and grateful thanks to the College of Pathology for this profound honour. To be recognized by one's peers in this way is deeply moving and truly humbling. When reflecting on my nearly fifty years in the field of medical microbiology, I am struck not by my own journey, but by the countless shoulders upon which I have stood. My deepest gratitude goes first to my teachers in medical school, in particular those in the Department of Microbiology. Great teachers like Prof KH Chai, Prof SK Lam, Prof Puthuchery and Prof TS Soo-Hoo somehow ignited my passion for the invisible universe of microbes. They together with my mentors during the postgraduate years, like Prof JD Williams at the London Hospital and Dr JG Gray at the City Hospital in Edinburgh, taught me rigour, aroused my curiosity and instilled in me the profound responsibility that comes with studying the agents of infectious disease.

From the start I was captivated by the elegance and menace of the microbial world. That fascination has never dimmed. I have witnessed revolutions – in genomics, diagnostics, immunology – transforming our understanding and our ability to combat pathogens. Yet, the microbes continue to challenge us, adapt, and remind us of our vulnerability. The emergence of new threats, the persistence of old ones like antimicrobial resistance means that the work is never truly finished. The fight against infectious disease demands relentless curiosity, unwavering collaboration, and global solidarity. It requires investing in basic science, strengthening surveillance, and ensuring equitable access to the tools we develop. It is a fight we must wage together.

This award, while bearing my name, belongs equally to my all my colleagues, students, fellow doctors, scientists and technologists with whom I have had the immense privilege to work with over the decades. Science is a profoundly collaborative endeavour. In the laboratory, at the bench, in the clinics and hospitals, and in countless conference rooms – their intellect, dedication, and shared passion have been the engine of every idea, every published paper and every challenge overcome. I am ever grateful for their help, partnership and friendship.



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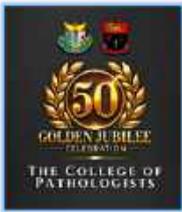
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I had the honour and privilege to serve in a few professional organisations such as the office of President of the Malaysian Society of Infectious Diseases and Chemotherapy, as the President of the Western Pacific Society of Chemotherapy and as the Master of the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia. This was not just a duty but were highlights of my career. These societies represent the vibrant, essential heart of our specialties and their commitment to advancing knowledge, setting standards, and fostering global cooperation inspired me greatly. I am grateful to these organisations for the trust they had placed in me.

My short tenure as the Director of the Infectious Diseases Research Centre at the Institute for Medical Research had been a particular joy as it had provided me an opportunity to build and nurture an environment where younger minds more brilliant than mine, tackle some of Malaysia's most persistent infectious diseases. It has been a privilege to be involved and watch how ideas come to fruition and projects flourish as the next generation of microbiologists find their footing.

My ever grateful thanks to my dear wife who have patiently tolerated, for nearly half a century, many missed weekends and family events due to deadlines, official obligations and international travel. But for her unwavering love, support, patience, and understanding, this journey would not have been possible and meaningful. This honour is hers as much as mine.

I thank once again the College of Pathology for this extraordinary honour. It is a privilege I will always cherish.



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LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER 2025

Professor Emerita Dr Nor Hayati Othman MBBS, MPath, MIAC, iFCAP, FAMM



Distinguished guest of honour, respected colleagues, friends, ladies and gentlemen,
Assalamualaikum wbr and salam sejahtera

I am greatly honoured to introduce the next recipient of the College of Pathologists Academy of Medicine Malaysia Lifetime Achievement Award: Prof Emerita Dr Nor Hayati Othman.

Guiding light in Pathology

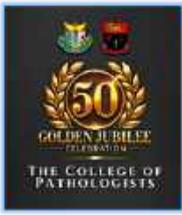
Prof Nor Hayati is a teacher to many of us, having taught Pathology for 38 years at USM. Thousands of doctors were her students, as well as hundreds of postgraduate students who later became pathologists or scientists, of whom 50 had the good fortune to have her as a supervisor, as I did.

She is indeed a great teacher, awarded the Exemplary Lecturer Award twice and Tokoh Citra Ilmu by the Alumni of USM Medical School in 2008. In USM, her leadership attributes have led to her appointment as Head of Department, the Deputy Dean of Research, the Research Dean, and the Director of Clinical Research, in succession.



WORLD'S TOP
2%
SCIENTISTS' LIST
STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Scientifically, she was ranked by Stanford University as one of the top 2% of scientists in 2002. Her H-index is 33, with a total of over 4,000 citations. She was involved in over 60 research projects. Her research interests include cancer prevention, particularly gynaecological cancer, and the use of honey.



From Vision to Victory

A collaboration with the USM engineering campus has led to award-winning inventions, including the Neuralpap, a cervical cancer diagnostic software; Mammopap, a breast cancer diagnostic software; and Datapap, a management system for cervical cancer. These inventions are ahead of their time, considering that they were made about 20 years ago. Indeed, they had won numerous awards nationally and internationally.

A Pillar of Malaysian and International Medical Communities

Professor Nor Hayati is the founding and current president of the Malaysian division of the International Academy of Pathology, a member of the Malaysian Medical Council from 2018 to 2025, and a past council member of the College of Pathologists.

She is a member of international academic bodies such as the MIAC, USCAP, ICSN, and INWES, which stands for International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists. She is a fellow of the Academy of Medicine, Malaysia and an International Fellow of the College of American Pathologists.

She is a long-standing examiner for the Royal Australian College of Dental Surgeons. A longstanding panel member for ISO15189 lab accreditation under Standards Malaysia and a longstanding panel for MQA/MMC medical program accreditation.

Sports Advocate, and Prolific Poet



She is active in sports and has served as an advisory board member of the Bangladesh Sports Council since 2005, as well as an executive council member of the Asia Pacific Exercise and Sport Science.

With all her responsibilities and achievements, she still has time to write poetry, which she also does prolifically. You can enjoy her work by clicking on this link: <https://www.poemhunter.com/noor-othman/poems/>

She was conferred the title of Prof. Emerita by USM in 2022.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please join me to congratulate my long-time mentor, friend, and constant source of inspiration, Professor Emerita Dr. Nor Hayati Othman.



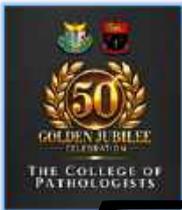
Prepared by
Prof Dr Effat Omar
Vice President, International Academy of Pathology, Malaysian Division.
Professor, Faculty of Medicine UiTM
Consultant Anatomic Pathologist
Hospital Al-Sultan Abdullah UiTM



**Acceptance speech by
Professor Emerita Dr Nor Hayati Othman**

When I was asked to write an article in the spirit of an acceptance speech for this Lifetime Achievement Award, I paused—not quite sure where to begin. After all, becoming a pathologist was never part of the plan. As a medical student at the University of Malaya, and later during my housemanship and early years as a medical officer in Hospital Kuala Lumpur in the early 1980s, my world revolved around General Surgery and Obstetrics & Gynaecology. So, when I was posted once again to General Surgery upon transferring to Hospital Pulau Pinang in the mid-80s, it felt like a natural continuation—not a detour. Little did I know, the real turning point was yet to come.

*Looking back, I truly believe that everything happens for a reason—though the reasons are often hidden in the moment. One such turning point came through a chance encounter on the grounds of Hospital Pulau Pinang. There, I ran into Dr. Sabariah Abdul Rahman, a pathologist and an old friend from secondary school, a few years my senior. Like me, she was an alumna of the University of Malaya. At that time, I was a busy General Surgery Registrar—immersed in a fast-paced environment that demanded maturity and resilience. By my third year at the hospital, I was entrusted with major procedures: gastrectomies, anterior-posterior resections, craniotomies, nephrectomies—operations typically reserved for seasoned surgeons today. Appendectomies, laparotomies, core biopsies, and wound debridement were routine. Recognizing my potential, my supervisor encouraged me to sit for the fellowship exam, which I did. I still remember receiving a book from my Head of Department titled *The Making of a Woman Surgeon* by Elizabeth Morgan. I was certain I was on a surgical path. But the Creator had other plans. That unexpected meeting with a pathologist quietly marked a turning point in my life. Years later, I would find myself as an established lecturer in the Department of Pathology at Universiti Sains Malaysia, after earning my Master of Pathology degree. And the rest, as they say, is history.*



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I am deeply honoured and humbled to receive this Lifetime Achievement Award in Anatomic Pathology. This recognition is not merely a celebration of one individual's journey, but a tribute to the many people who have guided, supported, and shaped the path I walked. As I reflect on how my journey into pathology began, I feel an immense sense of gratitude to the mentors whose wisdom and encouragement lit the way. Foremost among them is Distinguished Professor Datuk Dr. Looi Lai Meng. I first encountered her during an autopsy organ demonstration when I was a second-year medical student at Universiti Malaya. She stood before us, masked, anonymous in appearance but unforgettable in presence. We didn't know her name, nor what she looked like behind that surgical mask, but her mastery of pathology and the clarity with which she explained the changes in the organs she held left a lasting impression. Becoming a pathologist was never part of my plan then, but I remember thinking, 'If I ever become one, I want to be like her.' Her passion for teaching and depth of knowledge became the benchmark I quietly carried with me throughout my own academic and professional life. Another mentor who profoundly shaped my academic journey is Tan Sri Dato' Dzulkipli Abdul Razak, former Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Sains Malaysia. He nurtured my intellectual growth and broadened my view of what it means to be an academic. His leadership style—principled, visionary, and deeply human continues to inspire the way I lead, teach, and engage with others. Their influence has never faded, and I remain deeply indebted to both of them.

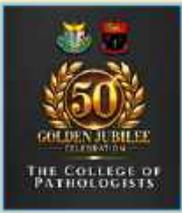
Pathology, to me, has always been more than a discipline. It is the unseen anchor of clinical medicine, where clarity is found in complexity, and answers lie quietly in the details. Over the years, I've had the privilege of witnessing the evolution of this field, from conventional microscopy to molecular diagnostics and digital innovations. Each advancement has only strengthened my belief in the power and purpose of pathology in guiding patient care.

Serving as a pathologist within an academic institution brings with it an added responsibility—the imperative to create new knowledge through research. In that pursuit, I've had the honour of working alongside brilliant co-researchers, many of whom come from fields far beyond medicine, including electronic and electrical engineering and other scientific disciplines. I am grateful for their collaboration and insights.

Throughout my journey, I have held fast to a personal philosophy I call 'Be BCD'—to Be Brave, Be Creative, and Be Different—in facing both professional and personal challenges. I also treasure the continuous inspiration I receive from my undergraduate and postgraduate students, such as Professor Effat Omar, who delivered the citation. Their curiosity, energy, and fresh perspectives continue to enrich my work, even long after they've completed their studies.

I dedicate this achievement to my beloved family, whose unwavering support has carried me through every season of my career. And above all, I dedicate it to the patients we serve, quietly, diligently, through our work in pathology. This award is not an end, but a gentle reminder of the shared responsibility we bear: to strive for excellence, to uplift the next generation, and to continue contributing to our field with humility, purpose, and heart.

I thank the College of Pathologists, Academy of Medicine Malaysia, for the Lifetime Achievement Award 2025.



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LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER 2025

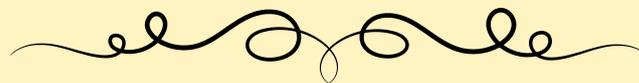
Professor Dr. Yasmin A. Malik MBBS MSc MRCPath FRCPath



Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. I am truly honoured to introduce our lifetime achievement award, Professor Dr Yasmin A. Malik.

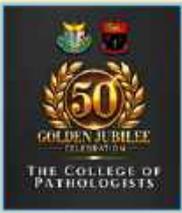
Academic Qualifications & Early Career

Professor Yasmin A. Malik earned her MBBS from the University of Malaya in 1982, followed by an MSc in Medical Microbiology from the University of London in 1986. She passed the MRCPath (Virology) examination in 1992, and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists (FRCPath) in 2000. She joined UKM in 1984, rising through roles including trainee lecturer, associate professor (1993), and professor (2003). She headed the Virology Unit, led the Department of Medical Microbiology & Immunology, and served as Deputy Dean of Academics and Senior Consultant at UKM Medical Centre. She later continued her academic contribution in IMU and UTAR, before her current part-time appointment at UM.



Curriculum Development & Educational Leadership (30+ Years)

Professor Yasmin has contributed extensively to undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum development in Pathology and Medical Microbiology over three decades. She has been an active member in national committees reviewing the Medical Microbiology curriculum and training program. Given her vast experience, she has been frequently invited as an educational speaker on viral diseases and vaccines, at both national and international forums.



Clinical & Institutional Role

With regard to her clinical roles, Professor Yasmin is a well-known consultant microbiologist (virology), with a long service at HUKM. She has also served as honorary consultant virologist at HTJ and HKL. Currently Professor Yasmin is a visiting clinical consultant (Medical Microbiology) at UMMC. She has played various key roles in national health technical committees on HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, SARS-CoV, STD surveillance, antibiotic resistance, and vaccines.

Accreditation & Quality Assurance Expertise

Professor Yasmin has been involved in the Medical Microbiology Specialty Subcommittee under the National Credentialing Committee for more than 20 years. She has also served as a technical assessor with SAMM, and member of the Laboratory Accreditation Evaluation Panel.



Research, Publications & Mentorship

Professor Yasmin's research focus include virology and infectious diseases, with both national and international grants support. She has mentored and examined PhD, MSc, and Biomedical Science students throughout her academic career. She held editorial roles for various national and international journals. Professor Yasmin has published and presented over 100 scientific papers globally. In 2023, she has been recognized by Stanford University's Elsevier dataset, placing her among the top 2% of scientists worldwide in her field.

Recommendation Summary

Professor Yasmin's over 35 years of contributions to medical microbiology and infectious disease practice, quality assurance, curriculum innovation, scientific research, and professional leadership undeniably qualify her as an outstanding recipient of the award. Her service reflects sustained excellence at institutional, national, and international levels.

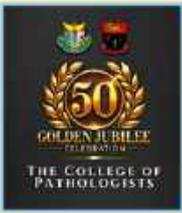
This award celebrates Professor Yasmin's remarkable achievements and applauds her extraordinary contributions. She serves as a shining example of excellence and a beacon of inspiration to all.



Prepared by:

Associate Professor Dr. Azian Harun

CPath-AMM Council Member 2024-2026



CPATH AMM NEWSLETTER

Merdeka Edition

31st August 2025



Acceptance speech by Professor Dr. Yasmin A. Malik

Honoured guests, distinguished award recipients, ladies and gentlemen.

I am deeply honoured and humbled to receive this Lifetime Achievement Award. To be recognised in this way, by colleagues and a community I hold in the highest regard, is both overwhelming and profoundly meaningful.

When I began my academic journey more than 30 years ago, I never imagined where it would lead. What I did know, even then, was that knowledge has the power to change lives - and that education, at its best, is not just about answers, but about continuously asking questions and updating oneself.

I would like to thank the College of Pathologists, Academy of Medicine Malaysia (CPath AMM) for this recognition. It means so much coming from those who understand what it truly means to dedicate a lifetime to learning, teaching, mentoring, and growing.

To my students - past and present - you have been the heart of this journey. Your curiosity, resilience, and passion have been my greatest inspiration. I may have been your teacher, but I've learned just as much from you.

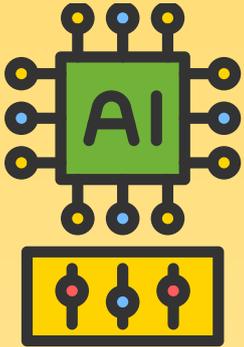
To my colleagues and collaborators - thank you for challenging me, supporting me, and walking this path with me. The best work is never done alone, and I've been fortunate to work with some of the brightest and most generous minds.

And to my family - thank you so much for your never-ending support. This recognition belongs to you just as much as it does to me.

This award is not just a look back - it's a reminder of why we do what we do. I hope it also serves as an encouragement for the next generation of medical microbiologists: never stop asking questions that matter. Remember, "Always document what you do, and only do what you have documented".

Thank you all for this extraordinary honour. I am truly grateful.





Workshop Recap: **Embracing AI in the Biotech Revolution**

Date: 20 July 2025

Venue: UTAR Sungai Long Campus



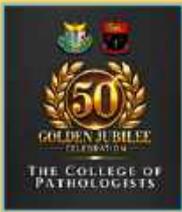
Group photo of workshop attendees, including seniors Prof Yap Sook Fan, Dr Leslie Lai, Dr Menaka Hariharan, and Prof Boo Nm Yun.

McPATH QAP Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of The College of Pathologists, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia (CPathAMM), co-organised a one-day workshop on the 20th July 2025 titled “Embracing AI in the Biotech Revolution” in collaboration with Cytovision Sdn Bhd and Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), the event took place at UTAR Sungai Long Campus and brought together a total of 30 healthcare professionals, researchers, and academics to explore practical applications and considerations of artificial intelligence (AI) in diagnostics, laboratory medicine, and education. The event was officiated by Academician Emeritus Prof. Dr. Cheong Soon Keng, President of CPathAMM, who stressed the importance of responsible and thoughtful implementation of AI in medical practice.



Academician Emeritus Prof. Dr. Cheong Soon Keng delivers the workshop's opening remarks.

Assoc Prof Dr. Lee Poh Foong (UTAR) led the start of the workshop by introducing the fundamentals of large language models (LLMs), demonstrating how the LLMs are used to analyse medical literature, support clinical decision-making, and assist with EMR summaries. Dr Lee addressed both opportunities and challenges, including privacy, transparency, and integration into current systems.



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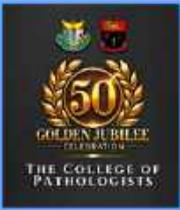
Dr. Alan Teh shares his clinical experience using AI tools

Dr. Alan Teh (SJMC) shared his clinical experience using AI tools to streamline workflows, support diagnostics in haematology, and reduce 75% administrative burden, highlighting both the benefits and potential risks such as data bias, hallucinations, and over-reliance. Importantly, he reminded participants that AI is a tool to support, not replace, clinical judgement.

Prof. Cheong Soon Keng returned to lead an interactive session on prompt engineering, ie guiding participants on how to structure their queries to AI systems for more accurate and relevant results. His practical examples, including zero-shot and one-shot prompting, showed how small adjustments in phrasing can influence the quality of AI-generated outputs. Dr. Tan Yuen Fen (Cytovision / UTAR) then addressed the limitations of LLMs. She presented real-world examples of how unchecked AI outputs can mislead decision-making and emphasised the need for human oversight, data verification, and the integration of domain-specific tools to maintain ethical standards in healthcare applications.

Dr. Avneet Kaur (UTAR) wrapped up the workshop by demonstrating how freely available AI tools—such as NotebookLM, Litmaps, Gamma, and Perplexity—can be combined with LLMs to support academic writing, literature reviews, data organisation, and presentation design. Her session provided a practical framework for researchers and educators to enhance productivity using accessible digital tools. The workshop offered a practical and balanced view of how AI is being used—and should be used—in healthcare. McPATH QAP Sdn Bhd extends its appreciation to all speakers, participants, and partners who made the event a success.





College of Pathologists
Academy of Medicine
Malaysia

**22nd & 23rd
July 2026**

Wednesday &
Thursday

Grand Renai
Kota Bharu
Kelantan

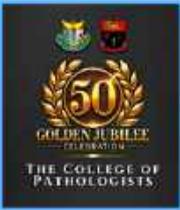
21st Annual Scientific Meeting

College of Pathologists
Academy of Medicine Malaysia
2026

(21st ASM CPathAMM 2026)

***Breaking Boundaries: Advancing the Next
Generation of Diagnostic Pathology***

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT



McQAS

Malaysian College Quality Assurance Scheme



EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAMME

EQA PROGRAMME

McPATH QAP SDN BHD
(1032288-D)



External Quality Assessment (EQA) with McPATH QAP

McQAS

Malaysian College Quality Assurance Scheme

External Quality Assessment (EQA) is how laboratories **verify the accuracy and consistency of their test results** against other labs. It's a vital tool for reliable patient diagnosis and overall laboratory quality.

MCPATH QAP is Malaysia's trusted EQA provider, established by the College of Pathologists, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia. We offer tailored quality assurance programmes under the name **McQAS – Malaysia College Quality Assurance Scheme**, designed to help laboratories uphold high standards and continually improve.

Why McQAS?



Tailored Programmes: We offer programmes specifically designed to help your laboratory meet and exceed high standards.



Global Network, Local Expertise: Through partnerships with **OneWorld Accuracy Inc. (Canada)** and **BioYuan (China)**, we bring world-class EQA right to you.



Certified Samples: Our EQA products are **ISO/IEC 17043 Accredited** and FDA-approved, covering over 200 products and 800+ tests for complete confidence.



Seamless Online System: Our user-friendly online system makes managing your EQA program, from submitting results to viewing reports, simple and efficient.



McQAS Programme Overview

Our Programme

Chemical Pathology

Chemistry EQA
Diagnostic Immunology EQA
Matrix Insensitive Chemistry EQA
Standardization EQA
Andrology EQA

Haematology & Transfusion Medicine

Haematology EQA
Coagulation EQA
Transfusion Medicine EQA

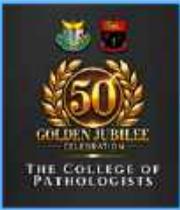
Medical Microbiology

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