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**MALAYSIAN ASSOCIATION OF  
CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTS**

# MACB NEWSLETTERS

JANUARY 2020- DECEMBER 2022 ISSUE

[www.macb.org.my](http://www.macb.org.my)

# ABOUT MACB

The Malaysian Association of Clinical Biochemists was formed when a group of like minded clinical biochemists got together to elect a pro-tem committee on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1990. The idea of forming an association of clinical biochemists was first put forward by Dr. Tan It Koon and Dr. Mohd Zaini in 1979. It was only in 1987 that serious discussions involving 21 biochemists and 1 chemical pathologist. It came into official existence shortly afterwards upon receiving its formal registration.

The first scientific meeting of the MACB was held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1991 and one has been held annually ever since. Members comprise of biochemists, medical doctors and scientists in related fields who have an interest in clinical biochemistry. To date the association has more than 600 members.



# THE CONTENT

President Statement	04
Editorial Column	06
MACB Objectives	07
Council Members	08
2021-2022 Activities	10
MACB Latest Updates	18
Welcome Page For New Members	20
Members Sections	21
MACB Journals	26
Auspices & Subscription Drive	27

# PRESIDENT STATEMENT

Dear friends and colleagues,

The last three years have been challenging for all of us. The Covid 19 which caused a global pandemic in 2020 brought hardship and loss of lives. We were all affected, one way or another. Despite the challenging times, the MACB has been able to adapt to the new norms and since 2020, has been conducting its meetings, trainings and conferences virtually. With the improving Covid 19 situation, the MACB was able to conduct three physical workshops in 2022. I am pleased that the newsletter has reported some of these activities. I hope that the newsletter will be a platform for the MACB to share information on its activities and to stay connected with its members.

It is the aspiration of the MACB council to see that the MACB continue to develop and expand its activities not only locally but internationally. For example, we are pleased that the MACB was able to host the IFCC Molecular Workshop in 2020. For the past 3 years, the MACB virtual conferences and webinars have attracted international participation. Likewise, the Young Scientist Award Competition which was held for the first time in 2022, also saw participation from India and Nepal. In 2023, we hope to see an increase in international participation. To move forward, we invite members to come onboard, join and play an active role in the various MACB committees.

2023 promises to be an exciting year. In addition to the annual conference, the MACB has planned many workshops and seminars. The MACB will also be co-organising an international Immunoassay Conference. So as not to miss out on these events, we encourage members to regularly visit the MACB website for news on its upcoming activities. A new and a more dynamic, mobile friendly MACB website is currently under construction and is expected to go live in early 2023.

All these activities would not be possible without a dedicated team that we have in the MACB. I take this opportunity to thank each and everyone who have contributed to the MACB. I also take this opportunity to congratulate Puan Rozila, the new chief editor of the MACB newsletter for producing this newsletter and to Firdaus for his creative input. I hope you will enjoy reading this issue.

Last but not least, I wish everyone a Happy New Year. May 2023 bring health, happiness and prosperity to you and your families.

*My best wishes, always.*

**YM DR RAJA ELINA RAJA AZIDDIN**

President,  
Malaysian Association of  
Clinical Biochemists



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For the past 3 years, the MACB virtual conferences and webinars have attracted international participation. Likewise, the Young Scientist Award Competition which was held for the first time in 2022, also saw participation from India and Nepal.

# EDITORIAL COLUMN

**ROZIELA ABU BAKAR**

2020-2022 MACB NEWSLETTER EDITOR

[zadrielz@yahoo.com](mailto:zadrielz@yahoo.com), [roziela@moh.gov.my](mailto:roziela@moh.gov.my)



We are pleased to present the final edition of MACB Newsletter for 2020-2022 as we conclude the year 2022. The MACB newsletter provides an avenue to showcase our growth as renowned association and highlight all the outstanding work being done by our members.

The editorial board dedicated plenty of time and energy towards improving the 2022 edition of the newsletter despite facing many challenges with the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic.

While Malaysia is facing the shift of the pandemic to endemic, MACB has continuously shown its commitment and resilience in handling its association capability.

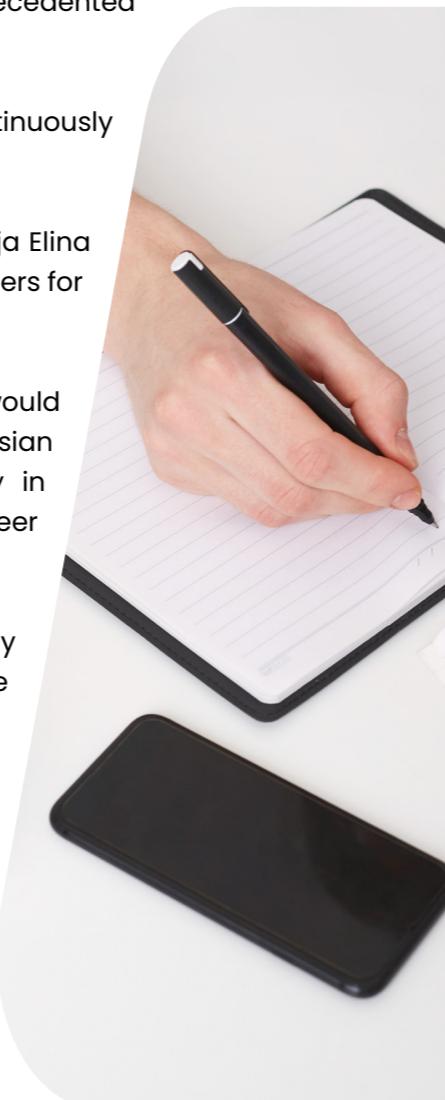
We would like to express our thanks and gratitude to our President, YM Dr Raja Elina Raja Aziddin, for her continuous support and guidance, and the council members for their dedicated input in publishing this newsletter.

Scientists are still perhaps unfairly stereotyped as hopelessly nerdy, we would really hate to reinforce this, but a look to our corporate move to join the Malaysian Society of Association Executives (MSAE) and a topic on "Cybersecurity in Healthcare" in one of our conferences and you will be impressed with our career diversity.

The diversity of achievement in scientific research and opinion is brilliantly complemented by the work of our creative team. We hope you enjoy the wonderful artwork which makes MACB newsletter a truly unique publication.

We welcome your feedback and hope that you would like to join our newsletter editorial next term, both the printed edition and online.

Please email MACB with your questions and comments – we look forward to hear from you!



# MACB OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the MACB is to disseminate scientific knowledge and promote good technical and clinical practice in the field of clinical diagnostics.

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*In 2013 the association co-hosted with IFCC a 6-day workshop on "Basic Molecular Diagnostics": This course was conducted by experts from six countries and is expected to benefit many sectors both in the service and research areas.*

MACB provides members with the latest information on new discoveries, current and future practices in clinical diagnostics. In addition the association is also a platform for members to exchange knowledge and ideas as well as network with experts in the scientific community, both locally and abroad. The association awards a Travel Grant to deserving members to assist them in presenting papers and posters at scientific conferences or to attend training abroad.

”

*The association has working groups comprising of experts who work on preparing guidelines for good clinical diagnostic practice. MACB published its first guideline on HbA1c reporting in 2012, Chronic Kidney Disease Guidelines 2019, and will continue its efforts in future.*

# COUNCIL MEMBERS



YM DR RAJA ELINA RAJA AZIDDIN

MACB PRESIDENT

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*The diversity of achievement in scientific research and opinion is brilliantly complemented by the work our creative team. We hope you enjoy the wonderful artwork which makes MACB newsletter a truly unique publication.*

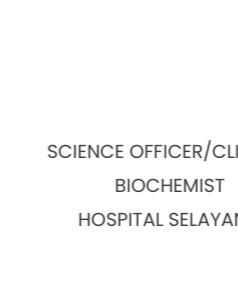
## COUNCIL MEMBERS

YM TUNKU MARINAH ASHRAF  
VICE-PRESIDENT

CLINICAL BIOCHEMIST

MDM CHEN BEE CHEN  
TREASURER

CLINICAL BIOCHEMIST

MDM CHUO PECK HAM  
SECRETARYCLINICAL BIOCHEMIST  
HOSPITAL KUALA LUMPUR  
(HKL)MDM SIVASANGAKARI  
ASST. SECRETARYSCIENCE OFFICER  
HOSPITAL TUNKU AZIZAH  
(HTA)MDM CHEW YEE YEAN  
COUNCIL MEMBERCHIEF SCIENTIFIC OFFICER  
UNIVERSITY MALAYA  
MEDICAL CENTREDR BADRUL AMINI  
EX-COUNCIL MEMBERCLINICAL BIOCHEMIST,  
PHYTOCHEMIST AND HEAD OF  
ANTI DOPING , ASIAN  
PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE,  
DIRECTOR OF ANTI DOPING AND  
TUE ASEAN PARA SPORTS  
FEDERATIONMISS VANY  
COUNCIL MEMBERSSCIENCE OFFICER  
HOSPITAL TUNKU AZIZAH  
(HTA)MDM ROZIELA  
COUNCIL MEMBERSCIENCE OFFICER  
INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL  
RESEARCHMDM CHEW YEE YEAN  
COUNCIL MEMBERCHIEF SCIENTIFIC OFFICER  
UNIVERSITY MALAYA  
MEDICAL CENTREDR NURULAMIN  
NEW COUNCIL MEMBERSCIENCE OFFICER/CLINICAL  
BIOCHEMIST  
HOSPITAL SELAYANGMR FIRDAUS AZIZ  
DESIGNER/ PUBLICITYSCIENCE OFFICER  
INSTITUT KANSER NEGARA

# MACB ACTIVITIES FOR 2020-2022



## VIRTUAL WEBINARS

Due to the unprecedented Covid-19 in early 2020, MACB was only able to conduct four online webinars supported by various company such as Roche Diagnostics, Abbott Diagnostics, Siemens Healthcare and BD. One of the webinars (The power of Laboratory Medicine to Achieved Measurable Better Healthcare) received auspices of the APFCB.



# MACB ACTIVITIES FOR 2020-2022

## ADVANCED MOLECULAR BIOLOGY WORKSHOP, UKM

In January 2020, MACB successfully conducted a 3-day IFCC-MACB Advanced Molecular Biology Workshop" in UKM just before the pandemic wave. It was aimed for experts and personnel handling molecular biology, and we were honoured to have reputable speakers who came from as far Italy and the United States.



# MACB ACTIVITIES FOR 2020-2022

## 30<sup>th</sup> VIRTUAL MACB CONFERENCE 26-28<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020

With strong teamwork and support from our members, MACB successfully conducted our first-ever virtual 30th MACB conference themed "Innovative Solutions : The Way Forward in Laboratory Medicine". Speakers included local experts such as Professor Khor Swee Kheng and Pn Fariza Wan Abdullah to Dr Tony Badrick and Dr Helen Martin from Australia and Dr. Sten Westgard from the USA.



# MACB ACTIVITIES FOR 2020-2022

## MACB 2021 & ACBRLM 2021 E-POSTERS & ORAL PRESENTATIONS WINNERS

### E-POSTERS WINNERS

- Dr Delini Devi Ramadras  
Title: Levothyroxine Absorption Test: An Underutilized Tool
- Dr Hani Ajrina Zulkeflee  
Title: A Case Series: Thyroid Function Test Interference by Atellica Platform in Hospital Ampang, Malaysia
- Mrs. Raja Hasyah Raja Bongsu  
Title: Verification of Precision, Linearity and limit of quantitation of anti-Mullerian Hormone: Towards a better diagnostic services
- Dr Azzah Hana Abu Yamin  
Title: Late Onset Glutaric Aciduria Type II in Adult Presenting as Myopathy
- Mrs Norzahidah Khalid  
Title: A case of Infantile Methylmalonic Aciduria (MMA) in Acute Crisis

### ORAL PRESENTATION WINNERS

- Mr Chan Kam Soon  
Title: Chemopreventive Activity Of Methanolic Leaves Extract From Canarium Odontophyllum Miq. (Dabai) Against Uvb Induced B16 Melanoma Cell
- Dr Nurul Izzati Hamzan  
Title: Three years study of rare genetic disease of Congenital Disorder Glycosylation (CDG) in Malaysia by transferrin isoform analysis

# CONGRATULATIONS



# MACB ACTIVITIES FOR 2020-2022

## 31<sup>st</sup> VIRTUAL MACB CONFERENCE JUNE 2021

Once again, MACB successfully conducted our annual 31st MACB Conference via virtual platform. This year's theme was "Empowering Laboratory Services in Keeping with Technology Advancement". However, this year MACB delegated the hosting to UKM in order to train and hone hosting skills to our members.

- 9 lectures
- 2 scientific forums
- Multi-disciplinary topics provided latest updates on laboratory methods, technologies, laboratory quality and services

**OUTCOME** : a great platform for biochemists and laboratory personnel to share and learn each other's experiences, especially with the global pandemic wave.



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### ALL ABOUT METHOD VERIFICATION

**AINON FAUZIAH: "INTERESTING DISCUSSION ON THIS TOPICS AND VERY HELPFUL" -**

**KATHELEEN NG LI FONG: "THE TIME MANAGEMENT OF EACH SESSION WAS BETTER THIS YEAR. THE FORUMS WERE VERY HELPFUL AND HOPE THAT MACB WILL MAINTAIN THESE FORUMS IN THE COMING CONFERENCE"**

**CYBER SECURITY IN  
HEALTHCARE: DIAGNOSTIC  
LABORATORY PERSPECTIVE**

**DR FARHI AIN JAMALUDDIN:  
"EYE OPENING LECTURE.  
GOOD JOB"**

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# MACB ACTIVITIES FOR 2020-2022

## ASIAN CONFERENCE ON BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH & LABORATORY MEDICINE ACBRLM 2021 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2021

MACB collaborated with MYBIOMED and ASOMH to host the Asian Conference of Biomedical and Research Laboratory Medicine with the theme "Revolutionising Laboratory Through Research and Innovation". The conference via Zoom platform was gracefully officiated by none other than our Director-General of Ministry of Health, Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Noor Hisham bin Abdullah who gave a very inspiring and encouraging opening speech on the important and upcoming future role of lab scientists during COVID testing.

- More than 400 participants from China, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Australia, German, local universities & MOH staff
- 2 plenary lectures
- 16 regular talks and webinars
- A collection of 70 posters and 22 oral posters
- 15 invited local and international speakers



## ASIAN CONFERENCE ON BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH & LABORATORY MEDICINE

24<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2021



www.asianbrlmconference.net

*Online (Worldwide)*



# MACB ACTIVITIES FOR 2020-2022

32<sup>nd</sup> VIRTUAL MACB CONFERENCE  
SEPTEMBER 2022



# LATEST UPDATES AND AFFILIATIONS NEWS

WE ARE HOSTING APFCB 2026 IN KUALA LUMPUR!

MACB is delighted to announce our successful bidding to host the Asia Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemists (APFCB) Conference in 2026 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. MACB council members put in great effort to ensure the bidding would be awarded to Malaysia. The bidding took place in November 2019 during the 15th APFCB Conference in Jaipur, India, with 10 out 16 countries voting for Malaysia to host the prestigious conference. MACB has set up a working committee in preparation for this and we welcome all MACB and corporate members to actively volunteer to help make this international conference a success.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE APFCB COMMITTEE!**



# LATEST UPDATES AND AFFILIATIONS NEWS

## MACB-NOSS UPDATES

MACB-NOSS (National Occupational Skills Standard) activities were also put on hold temporarily due to Covid-19 pandemic wave. However, all subcommittees have successfully contributed to the ongoing process. The examination committee has finally completed the examination module and logbook. MACB will soon resume to meet by end of 2022 with all subcommittees to have all contents and modules presented to the SLDN for approval. We are hoping to kick off the course with Kuala Lumpur Hospital as our first training platform.

## UPDATE STATUS ON CKD TASK FORCE GUIDELINES

The CKD Task Force has come up with a recommendation and has successfully published a paper. Currently the committee are in 2nd cycle of reviewing and re-auditing the guideline.

## Malaysian Society of Association Executives (MSAE)

MACB is proud to announce that we will be a part of the Malaysian Society of Association Executives (MSAE) beginning 2022.

## EFLM E-Academy 2022

In appreciation of our members who are always actively supporting and joining MACB Conferences, MACB is proud to give away FREE REGISTRATION to participants who won poster/oral presentations in the 31st MACB Virtual Conference in June 2021.

They will be entitled to free enrolment in EFLM E-academy with unlimited access to CMEs and events for one year.

# LATEST UPDATES AND AFFILIATIONS NEWS

## IFCC MEETING AT BRUSSEL, OCTOBER 2022



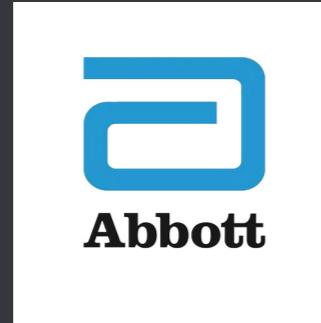
The IFCC General Conference 2022 which took place in Brussels, Belgium from 28 to 31 October 2022, was attended by MACB representatives. The MACB President also attended as one of the IFCC Clinical Lab Management committee whereas the national society represented by the MACB Secretary. This year, the IFCC is celebrating its 70th birthday celebration (1952 – 2022) together with all national societies, regional federations, corporate members and IFCC officers.

## MACB CONTRIBUTION TO BSKB

Our Head of Profession, En. Rusli Ibrahim has appointed two MACB council members (Pn Chuo Peck Ham & Pn. Rozila Abu Bakar) and two active members (En Syafiq Akram Suhaymin & Pn. Noor Aishah Md. Dawi) to design an infographic content of the biochemist profession in the Bahagian Sains Kesihatan Bersekutu (Allied Health Professions). This content will be displayed in the AHP website for public viewing, and will provide all the information needed to know about our profession as biochemists and how we contribute to the society and the country.

# WELCOME TO MACB CORPORATE MEMBERS

As of May 2021, there are currently 12 corporate MACB members. MACB would like to express our gratitude and thanks for their continuous support in our association progress and activities.



# MEMBERS SECTION :)

## 621 MEMBERS & GOING STRONG!

We welcome with open hands to all new biochemists and scientists in the medical laboratory industry to join us in the coming months. We also hope that you can extend and convey the Association's aims and privileges to new officers and personnel so they can join MACB.

Currently, our members Siti Suhana (UITM Sg Buloh), Siti Zuleha Idris (UPM) and Nora Shareena Mohd Shakirin are pursuing their PhD studies. MACB would like to wish them the best of luck in their studies. Read Siti Zuleha's & Siti Suhana's journeys to their PhD (Pg. 22-23).

We would like to congratulate our President, Dr Raja Elina Raja Aziddin on the appointment as Adjunct Professor at the University Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM).

It is truly a recognition for her contribution to the professional practice with more than 30 years experience in the field. She played an important role in planning the scientific program for MACB conferences and events. Congratulations once again for the achievement! Good luck and we wish you all the best!



# MEMBERS SECTION :)

## SZI'S PhD JOURNEY



I am Siti Zuleha Idris, before my study leaves, I was working as a Scientific Officer at National Blood Centre from 2013-2018. I started my PhD journey on September 2018 at Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universiti Putra Malaysia under supervision of Prof. Dr. Maha Abdullah.

My study is about how immunogenetic influence could induce leukaemia cells survival. In this study, the subject are Allergy Rhinitis patient and healthy control individual with selected HLA-DR background will be screening and choose. During this, I learnt how to make lentivirus carrying the pluripotent factor (example: OCT3/4, KLF4, SOX2 and etc) and leukaemia translocation genes at Hospital Canselor Tunku Muhkhiz (HCTM), Cheras and Inborn Error

Metabolism Unit, Institute Medical research, National Health Institute, Setia Alam. These lentiviruses will be transduced into selected B cells to induce cells become leukaemia and determine the survival of the induced cells. Never cross in our mind the pandemic Covid-19 will occur in this world. Therefore, most of my experiments need to rescheduled and replan accordingly. Throughout this study I feel excited and of course I enjoy it although a lot of obstacles especially during the Movement Control Order Period. Despite, I'm so lucky because the progress of this study is still within the plan. I'm hoping to finish off the experiments before the study leave over. I believe the result I got could help other scientist or researcher to understand better on how normal blood cells can become leukaemia.

## Obituaries

MACB is saddened to announce the demise of our members Puan Siti Gayah bt Loman (C52) and Puan Norashikin bt Abd Razak (C41).

Puan Siti Gayah has been an integral part of Scientific Officers career progress. Her contributions will always be valued and remembered. Her hard work, commitment and dedication to work are worthy of admiration. Pn Norashikin was in the service for 11 years, with 8 years in HKL and 2 years in HQE. She has been a MACB member since 2009 before her passing in 2020.

*They will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers to their family members. Al-Fatihah.*

## Siti Suhana 'S PhD JOURNEY

Siti Suhana Bt Abdullah Soheimeri is a Science Officer (Biochemistry) who is currently pursuing her PhD on Biochemistry in the Faculty of Medicine, UiTM Sungai Buloh. She was awarded Hadiah Latihan Persekutuan scholarship by the Ministry of Health. Her PhD work is entitled 'The Impact of Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) Exposure on the Expression of Cardiac MicroRNA's and Development of Hypertrophy in Cultured Cardiomyocytes'. She aims to investigate the effects of PFOS on heart development with the hypothesis that PFOS exposure lead to the left ventricular hypertrophy development by altering the expression of cardiac miRNA using newborn heart model. Her initial finding demonstrated abnormal cardiomyocyte beating rate upon PFOS exposure with high expression of Brain Natriuretic Peptide protein (hypertrophy marker).

These findings provide an insight on the impact of PFOS on cardiomyocytes development.

Numerous epidemiological studies on humans demonstrated the exposure to PFOS will increase the risk of developing cardiovascular diseases (CVDs). Thus, Siti Suhana research findings are important in reporting the impact of PFOS on human heart as early as newborn stage. Recently, she had presented part of her PhD work in YSN-ASM International Conference & the 4th International Conference of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology. In addition, she has published a systematic literature review article entitled 'Understanding the Impact of Perfluorinated Compounds on Cardiovascular Diseases and Their Risk Factors: A Meta-Analysis Study' in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.



## MEMBERS RETIREMENTS



In the year 2020-21, we have 6 retired members who maintain as active members. We would like to thank them for their continuous support to our association.

We also had to bid farewell to Dr Badrul Amini, our council member and MJCB head of committee, who submitted his resignation to focus on Paralympics organising committee. MACB is grateful for his full commitment and contribution towards making the MJCB a success.

# MEMBERS SECTION :)

## MACB AWARDS 2021

The MACB-ACBRLM Awards was announced to all MACB members on 1 July 2021. MACB had allocated ten (10) FREE registrations for their members to attend Asian Conference on Biomedical Research & Lab Medicine (ACBRLM) 2021 Virtual Conference on 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021, as well as the post conference workshop on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

### Eligibility

- Active MACB membership (no outstanding fees in current year)
- Outstanding contribution and involvement in MACB activities

The MACB Councils had awarded to the following recipients:

~Dr Mohd Izani bin Othman  
~Rohaznida Baharudin  
~Nurul Atiqah Azmi  
~Nur Nadiah Yusoff  
~Noradilah Abd Hamid

~Siti Suhana Soheimi  
~Lim Kee Kee  
~Nor Idayu Razali  
~Kiing Sie Cheong  
~Dr Chan Mook Kwai

# MEMBERS SECTION :)

## MACB YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD (YSA) 2022

We had successfully carried out MACB-YSA 2022, and 5 recipients had been conferred with the financial award of RM500 each along with free conference registration. These five recipients had also successfully delivered their winning title during 32nd MACB Conference on 12-13 Sept 2022.

It was also suggested to include Outstanding Education Awards In Clinical Biochemistry (OEA) to acknowledge and recognize scientists and clinicians who cumulatively have outstanding contributions to education in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine.



# MACB JOURNAL

We would like to express our gratitude to the Journal Subcommittee led by Dr Badrul Amini and his 8 team members for continually working for our articles and journal activities. The subcommittee has agreed to publish all abstracts from MACB Conference from 2015 to 2019 and submit to Malaysia Citation Centre to initiate the MJCB journey towards our indexed journal. MJCB has set index goals initially for myCite, then Scopus and WoS. The subcommittee also plans to invite International Advisory Board and Reviewers to strengthen the recognition of our MJCB.

Currently, we have accepted 22 confirmations from universities and MOH to be in MJCB pool of reviewers.

Well done, MJCB team!

These are all a combined effort of MACB subcommittees as an encouraging initiative in achieve MACB indexed journal. MACB would like to call for all members to actively participate in this activity to achieve this goal.

## AUSPICES & SUBSCRIPTION DRIVE

### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS DRIVE 2020-2022

Due to increase overdue membership subscriptions over the years, our council members unanimously decided to form a subcommittee of MACB Membership Subscriptions drive from year 2020 till 2022, whereby our team sent out reminders to members and non-active members who have not been paying their overdue subscriptions. As of Sept 2021, the team has successfully collected an amount of RM 45,650 from renewal subscriptions over the two-year periods. We would like to call upon all members who have not been active in the association to maintain their membership in order to enjoy one of the many benefits and privileges including awards and travel grants to many prestige international and local conferences.

MACB would like to thank the active members who responded to us and paid up the overdue subscriptions. Not to forget, our heartfelt thanks to corporate members who renewed their membership subscriptions and entrusted us by continuous partnerships and supported us.

### MACB AUSPICES NEW PRIVILEGES

MACB Auspices privilege is created and designed specifically for our corporate members, where they can organise events at no cost, with approval by MACB Council. However, not forgetting our non- corporate members, there will be a slight fee incurred.

**REGISTER ONLINE NOW!**

