

# MySOMOI: An interdisciplinary platform that promotes wholesome oral health

Mohd Hafiz Arzmi<sup>1\*</sup>, Intan Azura Shahdan<sup>2</sup>

Dear Editor,

As a customary practice, oral health promotion is often carried out by dentists themselves, whose practice are regulated by Act 51, Dental Act 1971 - an act that ensures the safety of the patients in Malaysia. However, non-dentists who are working towards promoting good oral health practice are almost scarce or even nonexistent at the national level. Therefore, the idea to have an interdisciplinary platform for Oral Microbiologists and Oral Immunologists was mooted and eventually turned into the formation of the Malaysian Society of Oral Microbiologists and Oral Immunologists (MySOMOI) (<https://mysomoi.org>).

On 13th of April, 2018, the constitution of MySOMOI was endorsed during the formation meeting held at the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Malaya which was attended by 29 members from various universities in Malaysia. A Protem Committee was formed on the same day who worked for the registration of the proposed society, subsequently on 17th of July, 2018, MySOMOI was registered as one of the professional body in Malaysia by the Malaysian Registrar of Societies Department. Currently, MySOMOI has more than 50 life members from Malaysia and abroad.

The mission of the society is to unite academicians, researchers, practitioners, industrialists and policymakers in promoting awareness and best practices in oral health with a vision of achieving oral health for a healthy life.

MySOMOI upholds the spirit, morals, and motivation to ensure holistic healthy living for today and tomorrow. Hence, the core values of the society are comprised of: Sincerity, Commitment, Innovation, Empathy, Networking, Trust, Integrity, Fairness, Intellectuality and Creativity, representing the acronym "SCIENTIFIC".

The specific objectives of MySOMOI are to:

- promote and facilitate the advancement of the Immunological and Microbiological aspects of oral health.
- share, disseminate, and exchange of information relating to Oral Microbiology and Oral Immunology (OMOI) at both national and international levels.
- facilitate ethical standards in fundamental and applied research as well as product development and commercialization in the field of OMOI in Malaysia.

Given the need for a more effective integration in the field of Oral Immunology and Oral Microbiology, MySOMOI has co-organized (with Faculty of Dentistry University of Malaya) the first International Conference on Oral Microbiology and Oral Immunology (ICOIOM), held on 14-15th of August, 2018. ICOIOM 2018 was participated by about 80 participants from Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, India, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, UAE, USA and Malaysia. In addition to oral and poster presentations, ICOIOM was also unique as it provided a platform for participants, not able to attend the conference, to present virtually, via e-Poster and Google hangouts.

Notably, members of MySOMOI seized the opportunity during ICOIOM to conduct the first Biennial General Meeting immediately after the official launching of the society by Datuk Ir. Dr Abdul Rahim Hashim, the Honorable Vice Chancellor of University of Malaya.

It is our greatest pleasure to invite all the readers to become the members and supporters for MySOMOI. In near future, we plan to do programs engaging the community, hence are looking forward to collaborating with all parties interested in encouraging good oral hygiene.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup>Kulliyyah of Dentistry, <sup>2</sup>Kulliyyah of Allied Health Sciences, International Islamic University Malaysia, Kuantan Campus

\*Correspondence: hafizarzmi@iiu.edu.my