



# UP VOICE

The Official Newsletter of the University of Puthisastra (UP)



**Awards  
Asia 2024**

**Shortlisted**

## Leadership and Management Team of the Year

Universitas Airlangga  
Burapha University

Izmir Institute of Technology

Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology

National University of Singapore

O.P. Jindal Global University

University of Puthisastra

Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology (UNIST)

## UP SHINES IN THE AWARDS ASIA 2024

The Times Higher Education (THE) Awards Asia - often considered to be the Oscars of higher education - have once again captured the imagination of the higher education community across the continent. With over 600 entries received this year, the excitement, enthusiasm and dedication of educators and universities are evident.

Amidst this vibrant landscape celebrating the very best of higher education in Asia UP now takes its place. UP has achieved a remarkable feat by securing a spot on the prestigious shortlist – a Top 8 finalist from over 600 of Asian top universities.

The inclusion of UP in the Leadership and Management shortlist is a testament and celebration of to the university's commitment to excellence and innovation. Despite the many challenges faced by universities worldwide and the many, many challenges in Cambodia as a developing nation, UP's dedication to pushing boundaries and fostering groundbreaking ideas stood out.

UP finds itself among the elite finalists, competing alongside top universities from 17 countries and territories. UP's presence is a key spot light for Cambodia and Southeast Asia – putting Cambodian education on the world stage – making Cambodia very proud. An incredible achievement for a small university and an incredible achievement for a developing country. Notably, the National University of Singapore, the best university in Asia, is competing with UP in the Leadership category showcasing the caliber of talent across the region.

As we eagerly anticipate the awards ceremony, set to take place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on April 29, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to UP and all the finalists. The THE Asia Universities Summit will provide a platform for celebrating outstanding work, sharing insights, and fostering collaboration. It is a moment to honor the tireless efforts of those at UP and across Asia who shape the future of higher education.



# UP WELCOMES ACTING DEAN OF DENTISTRY PROFESSOR RODRIGO MARINO



**Prof. Rodrigo Jose  
MARINO**  
**Acting Dean of  
Dentistry**

With the departure of former Dean of Dentistry Prof Callum Durward, UP has appointed Prof Rodrigo Marino as Acting Dean until a permanent replacement arrives in May 24. Prof Rodrigo was previously a Professor at Melbourne University and is an world expert in Dental Public Health. He has published over 50 books and book chapters, and 177 papers in scientific journals. He is on the editorial board of several top international dental journals. Professor Rodrigo is working closely with Deputy Dean Assistant

Prof Soeun Sopharith and the dental team to ensure a smooth transition. We wish Professor Rodrigo all the best during this period of transition.

## UNIVERSITY OF PUTHISAstra (UP) ACTIVATES EXCITING POP-UP CAMPAIGN AT ÆON MALL SEN SOK



The University of Puthisastra (UP) recently launched an exhilarating Pop-UP Campaign at ÆON Mall Sen Sok, captivating the attention of visitors, especially teenagers. This innovative initiative provides a unique opportunity for potential high school students and their parents to engage directly with UP in an immersive and interactive environment.

The Pop-UP Campaign aims to bridge the gap between aspiring students and higher education. By setting up a vibrant booth at ÆON Mall Sen Sok, UP invites curious minds to explore its academic offerings, campus life, and vibrant community. Visitors can interact with faculty members, current students, and alumni, gaining valuable insights into UP's programs, scholarships, and extracurricular activities.

The campaign space is thoughtfully designed to create an immersive experience. Colorful banners, interactive displays, and engaging multimedia presentations showcase UP's commitment to excellence. Prospective students can visualize themselves as part of the UP family, envisioning their future within its supportive and dynamic ecosystem.

The campaign is scheduled for two exciting days: January 27 and 28, 2024. Located at ÆON Mall Sen Sok (St. 1003, Village Bayab, Sangkat Phnom Penh Thmey, Khan Sen Sok, Phnom Penh), the venue buzzes with energy as visitors explore UP's offerings, ask questions, and participate in fun activities.

UP recognizes the important role parents play in shaping their children's educational journey. The Pop-UP Campaign encourages parents to join their teenagers in this exploration. Whether it's discussing career paths, scholarship opportunities, or campus facilities, UP's representatives are eager to engage with both students and their families.

The response from visitors has been overwhelmingly positive. The campaign has sparked interest, and many attendees have expressed their eagerness to learn more about UP's academic programs and campus life.

As the Pop-UP Campaign continues, UP remains committed to fostering connections, answering questions, and igniting passion for higher education. Whether you're a high school student with dreams of a bright future or a parent seeking the best opportunities for your child, UP invites you to join the excitement and explore the possibilities.

For more information, visit UP's website or follow us on Facebook page: University of Puthisastra (UP).



# UP CONDUCTS “SURGICAL WISDOM TOOTH REMOVAL - HANDS-ON COURSE” FOR INTERNATIONAL DENTISTS



Last week the Department of Dentistry held a 4 day hands-on course for 12 overseas dentists on wisdom tooth removal. It was conducted by the acclaimed oral surgeon Dr. Anthony Goh from Singapore (course director). He was assisted by UP lecturer and oral surgeons Dr. Sam Sovatdy and Dr. Som Sochenda (course supervisors).

The course involved one-half day of lectures, followed by hands-on practice in the lab where surgical techniques were practiced on animal jaws. Then each dentist performed wisdom tooth surgery on up to 8 patients in the UP Dental Hospital under the watchful eye of course director and supervisors.

Each patient offered their informed consent (who were mainly UP students) and received free wisdom teeth treatment. UP dental students acted as interpreters and support in addition to our excellent full time permanent staff of receptionists and assistants. Everything was coordinated by Dr. Bhavna Nahata.

The overseas dentists were treated to wonderful hospitality which included a comfortable hotel stay, evening river cruise, city tour, and a farewell dinner at Courtyard by Marriott. UP also provided lunch, snacks, and refreshments each day. Their feedback was overwhelmingly positive. 100% of participants said they'd recommend the course

We are planning to hold another course in August this year - so if you need your wisdom teeth removed, please make an appointment to see Dr Choun Lina at the UP Dental Hospital.

## FLUORIDE VARNISH AT NATIONAL BOREY FOR INFANTS AND CHILDREN



UP's Collaborating Centre for Innovation in Population Oral Health (CIPO) recently took 4 dental students to apply Fluoride Varnish to Special Needs children at the National Borey for Infants and Children. This is a routine activity which is provided every 3 months to help prevent dental caries. Those children who need simple dental treatment are provided with this at the school.

In recent months we have been arranging for a few children with more extensive treatment needs and who cannot be treated "in the chair" to have their treatment carried out under general anesthesia by UP dentists Dr Yos Chantho and Dr Magnus Wilson.



# STUDENT SUPPORT TRAINING



On January 19, 2024, the Student Services Unit organized the whole day of training sessions for our beloved UPers, especially students. There are 58 students from each faculty who have joined this training session. The overall objectives of this student support training are to:

- Get our students' engagement with UP activities
- Get new tips to improve student's learning
- To improve their social communication
- To provide good experiences to UPers

We value the insightful topic our trainer presented:

1. "Mastering Presentation Skills" by Assoc. Prof. Dr. CHUM Chandarin
2. "Developing Self-Discipline: From School to Workplace" by Asst. Prof. Dr. PROM Vireak
3. "Effective Learning Strategies" by Mr. SOK Sarin
4. "How to Not Procrastinate" by Ms. KEATH Meng Puthyda
5. "Learning How to Learn" by Mr. HEIM Mengkhim

With the help of this student support training, UP hopes to see a good impact in the UP community. Students will be able to light their path more brightly.

## CIPO PROVIDES LEVEL 1 DENTAL TREATMENT AT HUN NEANG TOUL TOMPONG 2 SCHOOL




This semester UP dental students from year 4 have been providing oral health care to the primary students at Hun Neang Toul Tompong 2. The project is part of the Healthy Kids Cambodia program and students are supervised by Dr. Im Puthisa and several CIPO staff.

Students provided oral health education and each child received a toothbrush and participated in group brushing. Each child had a dental checkup and Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) was applied to decayed primary teeth to stop the progression of dental Caries. So far we have completed treatment on 268 children.



# UP JOINS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BIOINFORMATICS IN QUANTUM LEAP OF DRUG DISCOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT



**DEVAKI AMMA MEMORIAL COLLEGE OF PHARMACY**

Dear Prof. Chea Sin,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing on behalf of Devaki Amma Memorial College of Pharmacy to extend an invitation to you as a guest speaker at our upcoming International Conference on "Bioinformatics in Quantum Leap of Drug Discovery and Development". The conference is scheduled to take place from January 26, 2024 to Jan 30, 2024.

The International Conference on Bioinformatics in Quantum Leap of Drug Discovery and Development is a paradigm event that brings together experts, thought leaders, and delegates from diverse parts of the country, to discuss and share insights on the latest trends, research, and developments in the field. I strongly believe that your expertise and contributions in this field make you an ideal candidate to address our diverse audience and enrich the conference program. Your presence as a speaker at our conference would offer our audience a unique opportunity to learn from your experienced and great research findings.

I kindly request you to accept this invitation and share your valuable insights with the experts, researchers, and professionals. Your talk can be approximately 40 minutes, followed by a 15 minutes interactive session.

In addition to providing an engaging platform for knowledge sharing, we will cover all expenses related to your participation, including travel, accommodation, and food expenses.

We are eagerly looking forward to your response and hope that you can join us for this momentous event. To confirm your availability and discuss further details, please contact us at [devakiamma@gmail.com](mailto:devakiamma@gmail.com).

Thank you for considering our invitation. Your presence on a speaker would greatly enhance the quality of our conference, and we would be honored to have you as part of our event.

Sincerely,  
Prof. Dr. G. Balaji  
Principal

**PROGRAMME SCHEDULE**

Day 1 - 26/01/2024	WEDNESDAY
09:45 AM to 10:45 AM	Inauguration
10:45 AM to 11:00 AM	High Tea
11:15 AM to 12:30 PM	Prof. Chea Sin Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Puthisastra, Cambodia
Session 1	The future of drug development with quantum computing: challenges, opportunities and the way forward.
12:30 PM to 01:00 PM	Lunch
02:00 PM to 03:15 PM	Dr. Ling Shing Wong Deputy Vice Chancellor of Research, UP International University, Malaysia
Session 2	In silico prediction of ADMET properties and drug likeness of promising compounds using various software.
03:15 PM to 03:30 PM	High Tea
03:00 PM to 04:30 PM	Dr. Murugesan Anumagam Assistant Professor, Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education & Research, Chennai
Session 3	Importance of Receptor binding studies in drug discovery: An industrial perspective.

**ABOUT THE SPEAKERS**

**DR. LING SHING WONG**  
Dr. Ling Shing Wong is a distinguished academic and researcher currently holding the position of Deputy Dean and Dean of the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences at UP International University in Malaysia. His impressive research career includes the successful completion of over 20 research projects and the publication of numerous research papers in international journals. He has also been honored with the Vice Chancellor Award for Innovative Teacher and has been recognized as the Most Inspiring Young Researcher.

**DR. CHEA SIN**  
Dr. Chea Sin is a highly accomplished academic professional currently serving as the Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Puthisastra SRI, Cambodia. He has a strong research background with 40 published papers to his credit, contributing valuable knowledge to the field. He has played a pivotal role in overseeing and managing research projects, demonstrating his commitment to advancing scientific knowledge. Dr. Chea Sin has received multiple prestigious awards, including the Royal Sam Peou Award, the Cambodian Youth Role Model Award, a Gold Medal from Prime Minister Hun Sen, and the 2020 Global Research Champion Award.

**DR. SURESH KANTH GOPINATHAN PILLAI**  
Dr. Suresh Kantan Pillai is currently serving as Project Scientist-II at the Department of Applied Biology, CIB Research Institute of Chemical Technology (CTI) Hyderabad. He holds membership in the prestigious Royal Society of Chemistry in the United Kingdom. Dr. Pillai also contributes as an Associate Editor for Frontiers in Cellular and Infection Microbiology in recognition of his scientific contributions. He was honored with the 2022 Young Scientist Award from the SCSTI Research Trust in Chennai, India. Dr. Pillai has numerous research papers published in international journals, contributing to the field of drug discovery and development. He is an active member of professional societies such as the International Society for Analytical Research, Indian Pharmaceutical Society, and the American Society of Biotechnology and Bioprocess Engineering. His multidimensional involvement demonstrates a comprehensive and vibrant approach to his research and academic endeavors.

UP's Professor Chea Sin, Dean of Faculty of Pharmacy, traveled to India to join an international conference on 'Bioinformatics in Quantum Leap of Drug Discovery and Development' as a keynote speaker and a guest of honor from January 22 to January 29, 2024. During that conference, Prof. Chea Sin was invited to make a speech as a guest of honor during inaugural ceremony and to be a keynote speaker of the conference on a topic entitled "The future of drug discovery and development with quantum computing: Challenges, Opportunities, and Way Forward".

## FIELD STUDY FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT IN MONDULKIRI PROVINCE



As the Community Outreach project in Mondul Kiri will be held in February 5-8, 2024. From January 10-12, 2024 Staff and Pharmacy students from faculty of Pharmacy of University of Puthisastra conducted field study for the project. First day, they went to KV Hospital and had a small meeting with the hospital Pharmacy manager and Admin officer. The discussion went smoothly and KV Hospital was pleased to agree with their request of visiting the hospital and providing place for having lunch there on the day of the project. Second day, after arriving Mondul Kiri province they went to meet the Provincial Admin, Town Mayor, District Mayor, and Local School Directors to introduce them about UP and Community Outreach project especially, the objective of the project and request for the approval and the support from local authorities to conduct the project. In the same day, they went to visit resorts and find few restaurants, and went to some places to find the proper places for conducting research activities.



# MOU SIGNING BETWEEN UNIVERSITY OF PUTHISAstra, PHARMACIE DE LA GARE, AND ADVANCE EUROPEAN MEDICARE CENTER (AEMC) TO ENHANCE HEALTHCARE COLLABORATION



In a significant step towards strengthening healthcare capabilities, the University of Puthisastra, Pharmacie De La Gare, and the Advance European Medicare Center (AEMC) came together to formalize their commitment. On this auspicious day, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed, marking the beginning of a collaborative journey aimed at elevating human resources in the health sector.

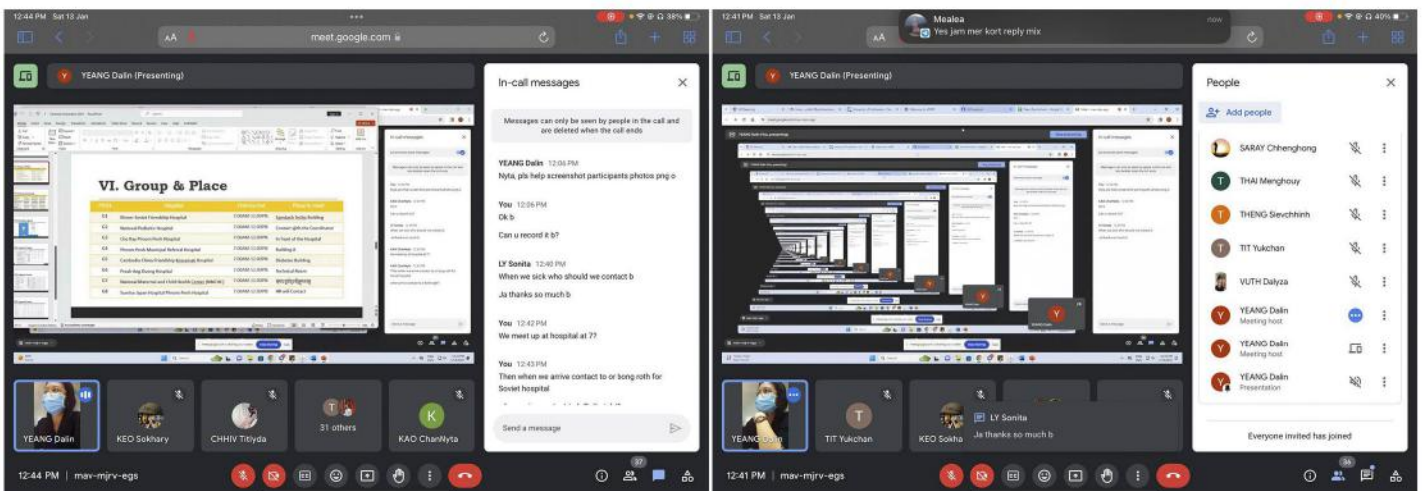
Under the provisions of this MoU, students, professors, and staff from the University of Puthisastra will have the opportunity to engage in various activities. These include research endeavors, workshops, and joint conferences. By fostering such interactions, the three institutions aspire to create a dynamic ecosystem that promotes knowledge exchange, innovation, and professional growth.

“Our shared vision is to transform the health sector in Cambodia and the broader region,” stated Prof. Ian Findlay, President and Vice Chancellor of the University of Puthisastra. “Through this strategic partnership, we aim to nurture skilled healthcare professionals, enhance research capabilities, and ultimately contribute to better healthcare outcomes.”

The MoU signing ceremony was attended by representatives from all three organizations, signifying their collective commitment to advancing healthcare education, research, and practice. As the region faces evolving healthcare challenges, this collaboration promises to be a key highlight of progress and excellence.

With this MoU in place, the stage is set for meaningful collaborations that will shape the future of healthcare delivery in Cambodia and beyond. Together, these institutions are poised to lead the way, ensuring a healthier and more resilient society for generations to come.

## CLERKSHIP ORIENTATION FOR YEAR 3



January 15, 2024 year 3 group 1 Pharmacy Students have received an online orientation course on hospital pharmacy clerkship.

The orientation course provided them to understand the basic knowledge about the tasks in the hospital pharmacy, the objective of clerkship, discipline and the preparation before conducting clerkship so that they will be able to be well prepared and know exactly what they have to practice and learn during the clerkship.



# SHARING INFORMATION ON SCHOLARSHIPS AND STUDIES IN SOUTH KOREA



On January 5, 2024, Dr. Khim Koemchhoy shared his experiences regarding living, studying, and receiving scholarships in South Korea in University of Puthisastra Hall B. Furthermore, Dr. Khim discussed pursuing master's and doctoral degrees in South Korea, as well as providing an overview of scholarships, including how to apply for them, what paperwork to gather, and how to fill out the application. Furthermore, he exhorted students to engage in responding to inquiries from peers who are considering studying overseas.

In this special occasion, we would like to thank Dr. Khim Koemchhoy for sharing the important information for UP's students. We sincerely appreciated his presence in the Pharma-Career.

## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FROM CLINICAL PHARMACY CLUB MEMBERS TO STUDY AT UCARE PHARMACY'S HEADQUARTERS



During a visit to Ucare Pharmacy's head office on Monday, December 11, 2023, members of the Clinical Pharmacy club shared their experiences and personal interests. Furthermore, study club participants shared a variety of perspectives regarding their viewpoints, including:

1. Recognize and comprehend staff recruitment techniques as well as regular pharmaceutical procedures.
2. Understand and be aware of how medications, medical supplies, and cosmetics are stored in typical pharmacies.
3. Recognize and comprehend the function of pharmacists in typical pharmacies.



# HANDS-ON SKILL PRACTICE IN PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY



Pharmaceutical laboratory covers year 4 and year 5 students. The subject is referred to as hands-on skills laboratory course. Students enjoy practicing pharmaceutical forms such as tablets, syrups, balm, and cream. All the forms were made based on the SOP. After that, students in each group start to design the packaging in order to make it more attractive. Beside this, students tried to catch up with the theory and use of all pharmaceutical machines so they could prepare their report well during the class.

## UP PHARMACY STUDENTS IN THE FINAL EXAM IN THE LABORATORY



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## FOSTERING INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION AT THE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CLUB

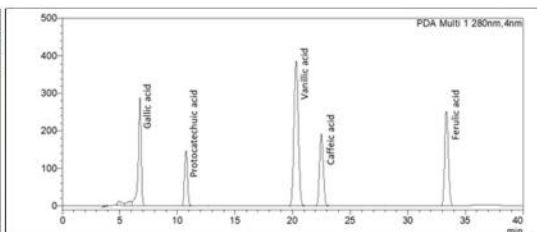


The UP Research and Innovation Club recently witnessed an exhilarating day of intellectual exchange and forward-thinking discussions. Participants gathered to explore the intricacies of research proposal development. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to each attendee who contributed to this vibrant dialogue. Their insights, passion, and probing questions transformed what could have been a routine session into an intellectually stimulating experience. From seasoned researchers to eager newcomers, every individual brought a unique perspective to the table, enriching our collective understanding.

As we embark on this exciting journey of innovation and discovery, we invite you to stay tuned for more engaging sessions. The Research and Innovation Club is just beginning to unlock its potential, and together, we will shape the future of groundbreaking ideas and collaborative endeavors.



# QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF PHENOLIC STANDARD COMPOUNDS BY HIGH-PERFORMANCE LIQUID CHROMATOGRAPHY WITH DIODE-ARRAY DETECTION (HPLC-DAD)



Recently, the Pharmacognosy laboratory of the Faculty of Pharmacy conducted a quality assessment on Phenolic standard compounds such as gallic acid, protocatechuic acid, vanillic acid, caffeic acid, and ferulic acid. Those compounds are well known for the phenolic group which provide a great potential activity to our

health including antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anticancer, anti-aging, antibacterial and antiviral.

Gallic acid, protocatechuic acid, vanillic acid, caffeic acid, and ferulic acid were classified in phenolic group found in various plants. Here are some examples of their present in plants:

- Gallic acid: Found in the leaves of bearberry; pomegranate root bark, gallnuts, witch hazel, sumac, tea leaves, oak bark, and many plants.
- Protocatechuic acid: Present in many foods plant such as olives, white wine, grapes, roselle, du-Zhong, calamondin, and other.
- Vanillic acid: Found in various plants and foods such as tea plant, tomato, and herbal medicine.
- Caffeic acid: Synthesized by all plant species and present in food including coffee, wine, tea, and popular medicines such as propolis.
- Ferulic acid: Found in various plants, including sorghum, and is one of the most abundant phenolic compounds in the plant kingdom.

After this quality assessment, we are planning to train the students in this experiment and further conducting the research and quality control.

Figure 1. peaks of standard compounds present on a HPLC chromatogram

## FROM NEWBIES TO ENTREPRENEURSTHE TRANSFORMATION OF STUDENTS IN UP'S HEADSTART PROGRAM



The very important transition from high school to university can be chaotic if the proper preparation has not been made. Responding to the anticipated challenges, UP organized the Headstart program with assistance from the faculties. UP's Faculty of English Excellence and Employability has embedded an Introduction to Business course, which is one of the courses in the Bachelor of Arts in English, Business, and Entrepreneurship, into a Headstart Program (6-week course). It is a great opportunity for fresh high school graduates to feel welcome and to become familiar with the university journey through various working arrangements, classroom activities, teaching and learning approaches, assessments, and technology integration in the class provided by this course. Aside from academic skill development, the course has provided a basic insight into business, which is significant for future applications.

We have seen the progress of the students from not being able to look directly into their lecturer's eyes to transition to quickly sharing ideas, asking questions, working in groups, and voicing their concerns. This is a positive approach for supporting students to become accustomed to the university environment and grasp the basic concept of a business setting.

"The purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows." —Sydney J. Harris.



# WHAT IS COMING UP IN UP'S FOUNDATION YEAR?

The Foundation Year Office at UP is very excited to welcome our students for the new academic year 2023-2024. Student Services will kick things off with the Big Launch on 4 March 2024. Then Foundation Year will host Orientation Week for all domestic and international students on 5-7 March. New students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of use-fun activities, from educational workshops to social events, which will prepare them for their studies.

Ready to sign up? Registration will be open from 19 February through 3 March. Semester 1 classes will start on 11 March! Save these dates in your calendar and join us!

## MEET OUR NEW FY LECTURER



Ms KONG Chhorvy is UP's newest Foundation Year lecturer. She graduated with a Master of Science in Chemistry from King Mongkut's University of Technology in Thonburi, Thailand (KMUTT).

She has had over five years of experience in teaching high school students. She also worked as a teaching assistant, while she was studying her Masters. During her 2 years in Thailand, she gained extensive experience in crafting proposals, thesis, research, and laboratory procedures. Consequently, she is delighted to impart this knowledge to students at UP.

FY and UP as a whole are happy to welcome her onboard. Please come to the FY Office (E Block, Ground Floor) to say hi!

## BUILDING GREAT MINDS: MEET HORKHENG AN HIS VISION FOR ENGAGING, CROSS-CULTURAL EDUCATION

Hokheng holds a Bachelor's Degree in Education from the Institute of Foreign Languages (IFL), Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP), and is pursuing a Master of Education at RUPP.

He has five years of teaching experience at the Australian Centre for Education (ACE), where he took on other roles as an event coordinator, teacher observer, mentor, and level moderator. Besides these, he got actively involved with school events and projects related to curriculum design, educational technology, and school policies. He enjoys attending professional development opportunities by attending educational workshops and presenting at CamTESOL on multiple occasions.

His passion lies in making learning interactive and fun by incorporating a variety of teaching methodologies with a blend of physical and online learning activities and materials to cater to the different needs and learning styles. He believes that education is

a catalyst to develop great minds. He aims to achieve this by adopting critical thinking and analytical skills in this teaching through communicative language, problem-based, and project-based learning.

Moreover, he works well with a diverse collective of people and in a cross-cultural setting. He is eager and excited about working with highly qualified and talented lecturers and staff at the University of Puthisastra to help students attain their academic success and achieve the vision of UP.





# HAND-ON PRACTICE IN TECHNICAL PRACTICE ROOM OF STUDENTS IN BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING YEAR 2, BATCH 9



Entering a hospital setting is a big challenge for patients to understand processes in order to receive the effective care in the healthcare system and nurses play an essential role to coordinate a patient's conditions including admission, transferring, and assessing vital signs. To strengthen these skills, role play is one of the communicative teaching methods which allow students to engage in the various type scenarios and apply critical thinking created by the lecturers.

Students of bachelor of science in nursing year 2, batch 9 have hands-on practice in the lab by applying role play on the checklist of admitting, transferring, and assessing vital signs.

SBAR is an acronym that stands for Situation, Background, Assessment, and Recommendation/Request has been introduced to students as a communication framework during assessing the patient.

## ICT STUDENTS ATTENDED SEMINAR CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND ENERGY TRANSITION AT THE OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS



ICT students attended Climate Resilience and Energy Transition at the Office of the Council of Ministers. The event, brought together stakeholders, experts, and students in the field of climate resilience and sustainable energy. This Seminar aimed to foster discussions on emerging challenges, innovative solutions, and the role of technology in addressing climate-related issues.

The Climate Resilience and Energy Transition event was an enriching experience, providing a comprehensive understanding of the current landscape and future directions in climate and energy solutions. The event successfully facilitated knowledge exchange and networking opportunities.



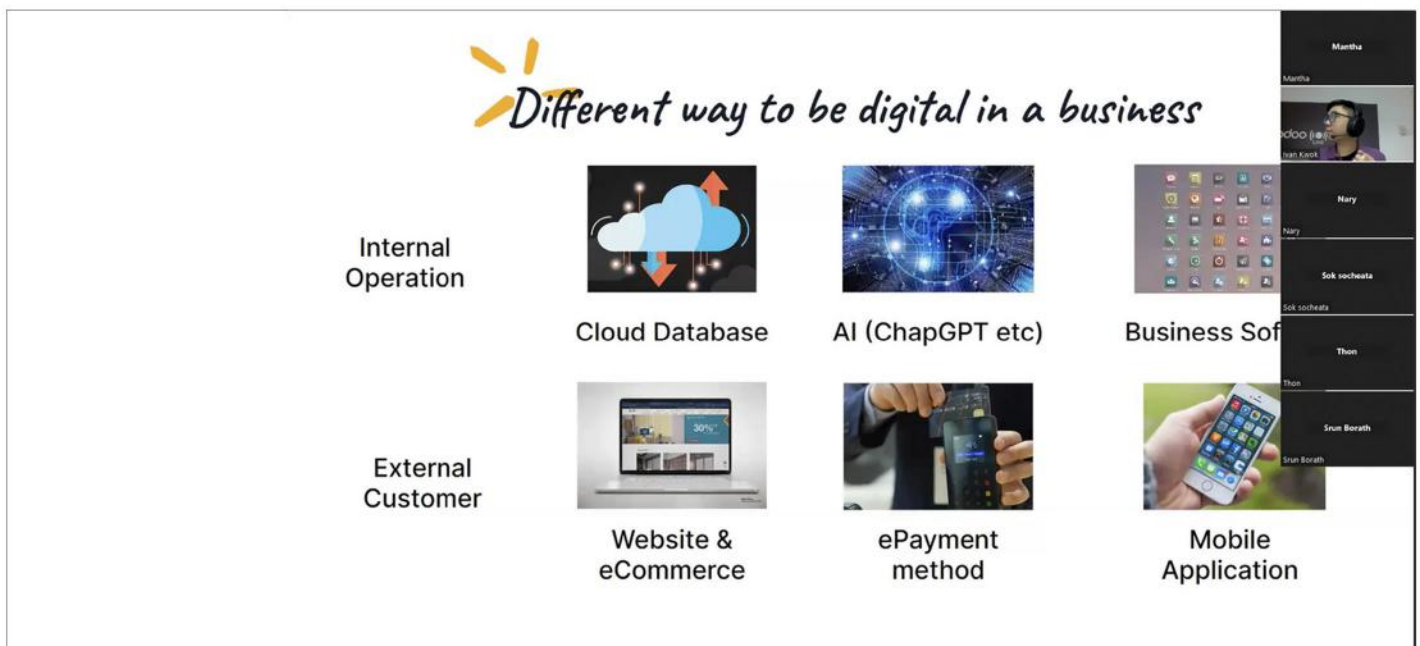
# GCIP CAMBODIA ACCELERATOR PROGRAM COHORT 1



The Faculty of ICT was invited to join GCIP Cambodia Accelerator Program Cohort 1, Final Judging and Award Ceremony at OAKWOOD PREMIER PHNOM PENH. GCIP Cambodia is developed as a child project of the GEF-UNIDO Global cleantech Innovation Programme Framework (GEF ID 10460).

Participating in such accelerator programs was a transformative and enriching experience that provide valuable opportunities for networking, learning, and support for startups and innovative projects

## ODOO EDUCATION WORKSHOP: DISCOVERING ODOO ERP SYSTEM



The Faculty of ICT organized the workshop "Discovering Odoo ERP System". Our speaker, Ivan Kwok from Hong Kong. This workshop was conducted via online. The primary objective of the workshop was to introduce participants to the features, functionalities, and applications of the Odoo ERP system, a comprehensive suite of business management tools. The workshop agenda included the following key topics: Digital Transformation & ERP, About Odoo, Scale up game and Demo, Next step and Q & A session. The workshop on "Discovering Odoo ERP System" successfully achieved its goal of providing participants with a comprehensive understanding of Odoo's capabilities. The interactive nature of the sessions fostered a collaborative learning environment, and participants left with actionable insights to leverage Odoo for their organizational needs.



## OUR ICT NEW COORDINATOR



Welcome Mr. Ngeth Bunjames to ICT Family!

The Faculty of ICT was excited to introduce a new member, Mr. Ngeth Bunjames. His background is in Marketing Copywriter. He graduated from Royal University of Phnom Penh in Bachelor Degree of Computer Science. Welcome to ICT, University of Puthisastra.

We are thrilled to have you join us and look forward to working together towards our common goal of providing an exceptional education to our students.

## A DELEGATION FROM THE ASIA-PACIFIC CHINESE MEDICAL GLOBAL UNION (APCMGU) VISITED THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE



A delegation led by the Chair of the APCMGU visited UP campus and met with Prof. Sandro Vento, Dean of Medicine, to examine the cooperation between the Faculty and the Union. Exchange of medical students and staff was examined, and the possibility of a partial sponsorship for medical students who would like to enroll in residency programs or to study for a master's degree in Taiwan was discussed.

The Chair of the APCMGU also suggested that our medical students join missions with doctors from Taiwan to provide free medical check-ups and training in remote areas of Cambodia. The delegation had also the opportunity to tour the UP Campus, the simulation rooms, and the Health Center.

A MOU will be developed in the near future.

## MEDICAL STUDENTS PROVIDED HEALTH CHECK-UP DURING THE SOMA GROUP RETREAT IN KOH KONG PROVINCE



Three medical students (Chheanghong Yen, year 7, Phalkun Roth and Thearanid Ay, year 8) volunteered to participate in the Soma Staff Annual Retreat. The event was led by Lok Chumteav Cham Krasna, CEO of Soma Group and Chairman of Soma Initiatives.

The students conducted basic health assessments and basic health check-up to local villagers at Kirsakor Health Center on the King Island of Kirsakor District, Koh Kong province. Approximately 200 people received a medical check-up during the mission.

The students were inspired by the Soma Initiative and are grateful for the opportunity to give back to the community through a humanitarian mission.



## TWO MD STUDENTS SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED THEIR THESIS



On 17 January 2024, Ms. Nhek Pichponreingsey and Ms. Seng Moonthida successfully defended with credit their thesis entitled “A Narrative Review on Crusted Scabies: Pathogenesis, Clinical Manifestations, Diagnosis, and Treatment Options”.

The thesis was supervised by Ms. Pol SreyMom. The Thesis Examination Committee, chaired by Prof. Sandro Vento, included Prof. Anand Marya, Dr. Ethan Helm, and Dr. Suk-Kyu Oh.

## SHARING CARES TO PHNOM PENH TMEY ORPHANAGE



On January 24, 2024, students from the faculty of dentistry joined a community service to Phnom Penh Tmey Orphanage coordinated by the Student Services Unit. In this mission, our DD students have provided health education, OHI, teeth checkups, hand hygiene, how to brush teeth, and eye care to children at Phnom Penh Tmey Orphanage.

This was the Student Services Unit's second task for 2024 and the 2nd time to visit there. In the future, we will endeavor to disseminate healthy lifestyle practices throughout Cambodia.

## MOU SIGNING CEREMONIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PUTHISAstra WITH ABT ASSOCIATES INC- CAMBODIA BRANCH, PMI EVOLVE PROJECT



On January 18, 2024, there was a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing ceremony between the University of Puthisastra (UP) and Abt Associates Inc- Cambodia Branch, PMI Evolve Project, which was held at the UP.

Mr. Chanry Im, Chief of Party, PMI Evolve Cambodia with Professor Ian Findlay, President, and Vice-Chancellor, of UP agreed to sign the MOU and work hand in hand together in terms of technical training and exchange experiences through this MOU. The purpose of this Agreement is to reflect the mutual intent of the parties to cooperate in carrying out the molecular analysis by the Abt-Evolve Unit within the UP premises and to build the capacity of UP's students and laboratory staff in molecular analysis.

Abt-Evolve Unit will collaborate with UP to implement joint activities (as mentioned in roles and responsibilities) for a period of 14 months from August 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024.



# YEAR 3 GROUP 1 PHARMACY STUDENTS START CONDUCTING CLERKSHIP AT THE HOSPITAL PHARMACIES IN PHNOM PENH



Year 3 Group 1 Pharmacy students at University of Puthisastra started their semester 1 clerkship at the hospital pharmacies in different hospitals including Khmer-Soviet Friendship Hospital, National Pediatric Hospital, Choray Phnom Penh Hospital, Phnom Penh Municipal Referral Hospital, Cambodia-China Friendship Preah Kossamak Hospital, Preah Ang Duong Hospital, National Maternal and Child Health Center, and Sunrise Hospital Phnom Penh.

They will have opportunity to identify drug information (Therapeutic Class, Generic name, Indication, Interaction, Dosage, Contraindication, Administration, Precaution, side effects, Storage, and etc.), practice inventory management, and validate medical prescription.

## INVITATION TO JOIN THE WORKSHOP ON “RECOVERY OF COLLAGEN/ GELATIN FROM FISH WASTE WITH CARBON DIOXIDE AS A GREEN SOLVENT”

The Faculty of Health Sciences and Biotechnology of the University of Puthisastra would like to invite UP students and staff to join in a special introductory workshop on the topic of “Recovery of Collagen/Gelatin from Fish Waste with Carbon Dioxide as a Green Solvent”. This workshop is organized to assist undergraduate and graduate students to learn more and have a better understanding of scientific research for a bachelor student and be familiar with recovery methods of collagen/gelatin from fish waste.

The guest speaker is Mr. Phon Sophat, Ph.D. candidate in Analytical Chemistry from the King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT), Thailand, and Ms. Chhun Sreynich, UP Science Research Lecturer as the facilitator.

Registration is free via the link:

<https://forms.gle/oAd4BJVXYiRikrzR9>

Date and Time: February 07, 2024, 9:00 – 11:00 AM Venue: Google Meet

សាកលវិទ្យាល័យ ពុទ្ធសាស្ត្រ  
UNIVERSITY OF PUTHISASTRA

បរិញ្ញាបត្រវិទ្យាសាស្ត្រស្រាវជ្រាវ  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE RESEARCH

### SPECIAL SEMINAR

TOPIC: Recovery of Collagen/Gelatin from Fish Waste with Carbon Dioxide as a Green Solvent

**MR. PHON SOPHAT**  
GUEST SPEAKER

PhD Candidate in Analytical Chemistry, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT), Bangkok, Thailand.

**MS. CHHUN SREYNICH**  
FACILITATOR

FREE OF CHARGE **FREE**

**REGISTER NOW:**

WEDNESDAY  
07 FEBRUARY, 2024

TIME  
9:00 - 11:00 AM, Online

TELEGRAM CONTACT: +855 81 97 97 94  
Email: csreynich@puthisastra.edu.kh

GOOGLE MEET



# UP'S SECOND AND THIRD YEAR STUDENTS OF MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY START THEIR CLERKSHIP



On January 29, 2024, second and third year students of Medical Laboratory Technology, the Laboratory Science Department, University of Puthisastra began their clerkship in the Medical Laboratory of private and public hospital located in Phnom Penh, which is led by staff of the Faculty of Health Sciences and Biotechnology as mentioned below:

- Second Year students of Medical of Laboratory Technology start their clerkship at Cho Ray Phnom Penh Hospital, National Pediatric Hospital and Preah Ang Duong Hospital.
- Third Year students of Medical Laboratory Technology start their clerkship at Sunrine Japan Hospital Phnom Penh, Preah Ket Mealea Hospital, Preah Kosamak Hospital, Khmer Soviet Hospital and N Health Cambodia of Royal Phnom Penh Hospital

The clerkship will last for one month (Full-Time Shift) which started from January 29 to March 01, 2024.

## UP DENTAL GRADUATES SUCCESSFUL IN THESIS DEFENSE



On the 11th of January the Faculty of Dentistry hosted a thesis defense for Batch 4 graduates THAN Vuthy, DY Sovanrith, CHIN Lyhok on the topic of "Dental Student Perceptions of and Experiences in the University of Puthisastra Dental Hospital (UPDH)" supervised of Dr. KONG Kalyan. The thesis chair of examiners was Asst. Prof. SOEUN Sopharith and examiners were Dr. SAM Sovatdy and Dr. HORN Sereybot. The thesis was Passed with Credit. Congratulations.

### ABSTRACT

**Aim:** To explore student perceptions of and experiences in the University of Puthisastra Dental Hospital (UPDH).

**Methods:** This was a cross-sectional study using a mixed methods design. The study population included all year 6 and year 5 dental students who consented to participate (total number = 90). These senior students had been actively treating patients for 1 to 2 years. For the first part of data collection, a questionnaire was administered to all consenting students and collected information on their experiences and perceptions using a Likert scale. The data was analyzed using Microsoft Excel software program. The second part of data collection involved focus group interviews of 4 small groups of students from year 6 and 3 small groups from year 5. **Results:** 90 students (92.8%) agreed to participate in this study; 63.3% were male and 55.6% were from year 5. The average age of the participants was 23.5 years (range 21-28). Most (93.3%) agreed that their clinical experience at UPDH will make them competent dentist. Most (95.6%) agreed that they had treated elderly patients and special needs patients, and that they had also learnt dental assisting skills in the UPDH (90%). When asked about staff, most (95.6%) agreed that UPDH had enough tutors who were knowledgeable, skillful and helpful, and that the reception and dental assistant staff were helpful (64.4%).



However, students indicated that they had to wait long time to take an X-ray (95.6%), get instruments or materials (76.6%), get tutors to see their patients (90%) and to get their competency assessment sheets signed off (85.6%). Many students disagreed with the statement that UPDH has enough dental chairs (88.9%), dental instruments (66.7%) and dental materials (67.8%). Regarding the environment in the dental hospital, most students reported that it was too crowded (77.8 %), too noisy (54.5%) and that there were too many students in the clinic at one time (93.3%). However, the infection control in the hospital was considered by most to be good (74.5 %).

Most agreed that they had good experiences in Endodontics (60%), Periodontics (52.2%), Oral Pathology (80%) and Restorative Dentistry (90%). However, students perceived that they lacked enough experience in Prosthodontics, Orthodontics and Oral Surgery. When asked if they had any additional comments, students requested to have more dental chairs, materials, instruments and X-Ray machines. They also suggested more sessions supervised by prosthodontists, and requested more patients. Since the study was done, UP has build a new dental hospital, and addressed almost all the issues raised.

**Conclusion:** Following the reopening of the UPDH after Covid-19, dental students have generally given positive feedback toward UPDH in terms of their clinical experience, guidance and assistance from tutors and other staff. However, students did not think there were enough materials, instruments and dental chairs and believed that some processes need improvement. **Key words:** perceptions, experiences, dental students and University of Puthisastra Dental Hospital.

On the 12th of January 2024, department of dentistry hosted the thesis defense for batch 3 group 31 students name SY Chanrithy, DUONG Pechdara, SENG Mawin on the topic of "Perceptions and Experiences of Cambodian Graduates from Overseas and Local Postgraduate Dental Education" Under the supervision of Dr. KONG Kalyan and Co-supervisor Prof. Callum DURWARD. The thesis chair examiner Asst. Prof. SOEUN Sopharith and member committee are Dr. SOK Chanh Chhean, Dr. CHHE Phearom. The result is PASS with Credit. Congratulation.

#### Abstract

##### Background:

Postgraduate dental training towards specialization in Dentistry is very important for every country. Specialists are able to provide not only more advanced treatment, but also contribute to a high-quality education for undergraduate students. It is therefore important to understand the perceptions of dentists with postgraduate qualification about their careers as well as their attitudes toward studying a specific dental specialty.

##### Aim of study:

to explore the perceptions and experiences of Cambodian dentists with postgraduate qualifications following completion of postgraduate studies.

##### Methods:

A qualitative study was done on 27 participants using snowball sampling technique. The participants were dentists with postgraduate qualifications who had successfully completed their studies for Master or PhD degrees locally or abroad. After informed consent was obtained from each participant, an interview was conducted by the three investigators. The interview was conducted using a semi-constructed questionnaire individually face-to-face at each participant's clinic, home, restaurant or coffee shop. The interviews were recorded on a Smartphone a few interviews were done via video call. The quantitative data were written on the by questionnaire, and then entered into Microsoft Excel and the SPSS for analysis. The responses to the open questions were transcribed in Khmer language in Microsoft Word. After content and thematic analyses, the results were translated in English.

**Results:** 77.8% of postgraduates had studied abroad and 22.2% received postgraduate education locally. 77.8% of those overseas studies were financially supported by scholarships. Supported scholarships mostly came from Thailand, with several other from Australia, Japan and Korea. Those who studied overseas faced many challenges in the host country, however they also gained valuable experiences as well as new and comprehensive knowledge. Most of the participants recommended postgraduate study to fellow dentists and dental students whether it be overseas or locally. Overseas dental postgraduate study was more highly recommended than local if students had that opportunity. Respondents suggested that the most suitable time to start a post graduate course was 3 years after graduation. Respondents talked about certain documents that candidates needed to prepare for their study, and emphasized the importance of having a good IELTS score, especially for study abroad. Some participants reported that they had experienced discrimination, culture shock, food, transition difficulties, and language issues. They suggested that students need to be well prepared for overseas dental post-graduate study, in terms of English skills, academic skills, and adaption for living abroad.



Conclusion: Cambodian dental postgraduates had mostly done their Masters or PhD degrees abroad. The number of local postgraduates is very small mainly because few postgraduate courses are available. Most of the participant strongly recommended postgraduate study to fellow dentist.

According to the participant recommended that the suitable time to start postgraduate study should be around 3 years after finishing the DD. Candidates have to prepare themselves well and provide documents related to their undergraduate studies and English proficiency. They also need to be prepared challenges.

Keywords: postgraduate study, perceptions, Cambodia, dentist, studying abroad.

