



6 December 2023

**Professor Shinji Uemoto,**  
President  
Shiga University of Medical Science  
Japan

Dear President Shinji Uemoto,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter to commemorate the prestigious occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Shiga University of Medical Science. Heartiest Congratulations from us in University Kebangsaan Malaysia! We at UKM have enjoyed and appreciated very much the collaboration with SUMS which started way back in 2011 and has grown from strength to strength. Researchers in UKM and SUMS have collaborated in research and postgraduate training starting with research in the field of Neuroscience with Professor Ikuo Tooyama. Together with Professor Musalmah Mazlan, a grant was obtained titled Neurodegeneration: Towards Useful Ageing under the Long term Grant Research Scheme (LRGS) awarded by the Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE). This collaboration resulted in the graduation of 4 PhD graduates co-supervised by researchers from both UKM and SUMS. The collaboration grew with many other students from UKM continuing their studies to PhD funded by both MEXT and SUMS in other fields of research as well as Neuroscience. The collaboration in research continued with younger lecturers from UKM applying for grants together from MOHE particularly in the field of Neuroscience.

The collaboration was not limited to postgraduate students only. There were also undergraduate students training with exchange of students from both Medical and Nursing disciplines which started in the year 2016 and restarted in 2020 after a break due to the COVID pandemic. For example, SUMS medical students spent time in the Departments of Community Medicine, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Emergency Medicine while UKM medical students were in Departments of Legal Medicine and Neuroanatomy. There was also students' mobility amongst the Nursing students. The UKM students who went in October 2023 appreciated very much the warm and lovely hospitality they received while in SUMS and benefited greatly in terms of learning and exposure to the Japanese culture.

Other activities included invitation to SUMS professors and associate professors from SUMS to deliver plenary talks at conferences and symposiums organized by UKM and similarly UKM academics have been invited to deliver talks at SUMS.

UKM appreciates very much the fruitful and successful relationship with SUMS spanning more than 12 years now, providing opportunities in research and students training which has enriched both students and academics experiences. We look forward to continued collaboration, growth and strengthening of the relationship between UKM and SUMS in the future.

Finally, again heartiest congratulations on SUMS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and may SUMS success continue to flourish.

Best regards,

**PROFESSOR DR ABDUL HALIM ABDUL GAFUR**  
Dean  
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