

Title:

The Brain Apprentice

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ABSTRACT

Background/Objective: In an attempt to achieve the country's vision of becoming a developed nation by year 2020, Malaysia is currently undergoing a major economic transformation from manufacturing and service sectors into a knowledge-based economy. Therefore, Malaysia requires more intellectual capital in each sector as its prime mover. The shortage of scientists and techno-experts in Research and Development (R&D) is the prime limitation for our country to move forward in the field of scientific discovery. Textbook-based Science teachings in school may provide basic scientific knowledge to the children. However, in reality it is still inadequate in developing their passion towards health and medical fields. In this realization, our project aims to promote Science and Neuroscience beyond the conventional classroom teachings while guiding students' creativity and innovation, and at the same time assist the delivery of Neuroscience knowledge with the involvement of Graduate Interns as the teaching facilitators.

Methods: In this project, Neuroscience Club was established in two selected schools which are Sekolah Kebangsaan Kubang Kerian 3 and Sekolah Menengah Sains Tengku Muhammad Faris Petra. Various activities such as theoretical and practical introduction to brain dissection, My

Brain Invention (MBI), National Brain Bee (National BB) Championship, and mini Brain Bee (MBB) Championship were carried out throughout the one-year period of the project.

Results: Our project has successfully chosen and sent the first Malaysian representative to the annual International Brain Bee (IBB) Championship held in Cape Town, South Africa. Participation in a series of the National BB Championship and IBB Championship has allowed the student to compete in world platform and meeting world-class challengers. Additionally, this project has provided first-hand experience to both primary and secondary school children, about neuroscience and successfully boosted up students' interest and knowledge in science. Besides, this community-based project has also enhanced soft skills and confidence levels amongst Graduate Interns as well as encouraged a culture of innovation and creativity.

Conclusion: In conclusion, this project has promoted neuroscience as well as the “neuroscientist career” to the Malaysian community and has thus sowed the seed of interest in life, natural sciences and medicine.

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