

UMS to hold neuroscience symposium

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KOTA KINABALU: The Department of Biomedical Sciences and Therapeutics of the School of Medicine of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), will for the first time, organise an International Neuroscience Symposium 2012 on July 23-25.

The organising chairman of the symposium, Professor Dr Perumal Ramasamy, told a press conference yesterday that the symposium is organised in collaboration with the Brain Research Institute of Monash Sunway (BRIMS) and the Neuro Malaysia Society.

"This will help us to showcase UMS as a centre of excellence in research in the country and the three-day symposium is themed "Trends in Neuroscience: Bench-to-bedside-Translation of basic science findings to clinical practice", he disclosed.

Ramasamy further explained that the symposium will have a total of 15 plenary lectures by distinguished neuroscientists ranging from basic scientists to clinicians, who will share their exciting knowledge with the participants.

"Those speakers will enlighten us more about neuroscience research, covering a range of topics from genes to behavioural and neurological disorders," he said, adding that the speakers include those from Australia, Japan as well as from the local institutes of higher learning.

About 200 participants consisting of clinicians, academicians, lecturers, researchers and postgraduate students from the various schools in UMS and also those from the various walks of life in the country, are expected to attend the symposium.

"We would like to invite you to register and participate in this symposium which will be held at the School of Medicine of UMS," Ramasamy urged.

Meanwhile, the acting dean of the School of Medicine,



Ramasamy (centre) and Kamarudin (second right) at the press conference yesterday.

Professor Dr D. Kamarudin D. Mudin, disclosed that some medical students who graduated from UMS, have now become specialists.

"This is considered quite good. Since we first started about 10 years ago, some of the first batch of medical doctors from the university have now become specialists," he disclosed.

Kamarudin was commenting on a statement made by former Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek, who opined 'that some housemen (medical interns) just could not cope up because they were not cut out to be doctors and many just wanted to do medicine for glamour'.

Chua was quoted to have said further that, "I have already said that by 2012, there will be no jobs for them because this country is training too many doctors. They just go all over the world to do medicine," when he comment

on the revelation by the director of health Dr Mohd Yusof Hj Ibrahim that about half of the 500 housemen in Sabah could not cope up with their duties and had to repeat their housemanship.

Kamarudin clarified that the school had in the past advised two or three of their students to pursue courses that are best suited to them.

"We can't force them. We always communicate with our students. There were those who did extremely well academically but only to discover later that they were not meant for this discipline ... so they changed to other courses," he explained. "Conversely, there were also students whose academic performance was not up to the standard and those who displayed no interest at all. For that very same reason, we have also advised them to pursue other courses," Kamaruddin said.