

Headline **Studying nutritional patterns**
Date **29. Jun 2008** Language **ENGLISH**
Media Title **Sunday Star** Page No **E20**
Section **Star Education** Article Size **91 cm2**
Circulation **320964** Frequency **Weekly**
Readership **1072000** Color **Black/White**



Studying nutritional patterns

UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA (UPM) has been awarded a RM40,000 research grant by the Fernleaf Institute to study parents' approach towards their children's nutritional intake in the early years.

The findings will provide useful evidence in developing a relevant nutritional guide for Malaysian parents and reduce the prevalence of obesity amongst children.

Last year, the Health Ministry revealed that, based on the 3rd National Health and Morbidity Survey

2006 (NHMS III), the proportion of obese Malaysian adults has increased three-fold compared to the last decade.

In children, NHMS III identified the highest occurrence of obesity among those in pre-schools and primary schools.

According to the general manager of Fonterra Brands (Malaysia), John McKay, the latest undertaking by the Fernleaf Institute is timely as it will complement the findings made in NHMS III by identifying key factors,

mainly nutritional patterns which lead to childhood obesity.

"The Fernleaf Institute Research Grant supports studies on key areas of nutrition related to child and family health," McKay said.

The grant was awarded to UPM researcher Ng Min Jie, a post-graduate student.

The research will be supervised by Prof Khor Geok Lin, from the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, Medicine and Health Sciences Faculty.