

# RM90,000 for cancer research

Council awards three doctors with grants in conjunction with its 15th anniversary

THE Makna Cancer Research Award marked its 15th year of supporting young cancer researchers in the country by awarding three recipients with close to RM90,000 in grants to fund their research.

The recipients were Dr Nethia Mohana Kumaran (USM), Dr Chua Eng Wee (UKM), who were each awarded RM30,000, and Dr Nor Fazila Che Mat (USM), who received RM29,835.

The award was initiated in 2001 to encourage and recognise the importance of research and development by local scientists in advancing knowledge that is geared towards helping cancer patients and discovering potential cures for the disease.

The selection of the recipients was conducted by a distinguished panel of experts and medical practitioners in the fields of hematology and oncology.

The panel was headed by the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) Fellow and Universiti Putra Malaysia Faculty of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Science dean Prof Datin Paduka Dr Khatijah Mohd Yusoff.

National Cancer Council (Makna) president Datuk Mohd Farid Ariffin said: "This award has been a part of our research-related endeavours, which include collaborations with universities and research institutes in Malaysia to advance knowledge in the field in the hopes of helping cancer patients throughout the country and finding a potential curative treatment for cancer."

"It is heartening to note that in 2015, the Makna Cancer Research Award received the 51 applications – the highest ever received.

"This is a firm indication that the Makna



The research grant recipients (from second left) Dr Chua, Dr Nethia and Dr Nor Fazila with (from left) Makna general manager Farahida Mohd Farid, Makna executive board member Professor Datin Paduka Dr Aini Ideris and Dr Tajuddin.

Cancer Research Award is looked upon by the research community as a source of support to continue their work.

"It is also indication that work is continuing in this area, which gives us renewed hope. There is no short cut or overnight result in research. It takes a lot of patience, determination, dedication and failure to suc-

ceed.

"As such we are patient and willing to keep encouraging our researchers," said Farid.

Since the award was introduced in 2001, Makna has contributed over RM1.2mil towards funding cancer research by 45 young researchers in Malaysia.

Focusing on research is in line with

Makna's mission to mobilise all resources to provide curative, preventive, research and support services to cancer patients and families, high-risk groups and the general public.

"We are grateful to ASM for their partnership and continued support that ensures that the Makna Cancer Research Award is able to help nurture young scientists in their pursuit of new knowledge and scientific breakthroughs," said Farid.

ASM is made up of eminent scientists in the country. By virtue of being an independent and august science, technology and innovation (STI) body, ASM is often requested to carry out evaluations for prominent Malaysian and international STI awards.

ASM had been working closely with Makna in selecting the recipients for the awards since 2002.

"ASM sees this award as a significant award in motivating young researchers to undertake cancer research and continuously strive on a path of discovering new possibilities to cure cancer.

"In line with ASM's objectives to pursue excellence in the fields of science, engineering and technology for the development of the nation, as well as for the benefit of mankind, ASM always support efforts to nurture young scientists to push scientific boundaries for advancement of knowledge and a better tomorrow for humanity," said ASM president Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali.

"We hope that ASM's involvement in awards such as the Makna Cancer Research Award will provide young scientists great value propositions to making significant scientific breakthroughs," Dr Tajuddin added.