Foreword

Welcome to the first issue of 2022 for the Pertanika Journal of Science and Technology (PJST)!

PJST is an open-access journal for studies in Science and Technology published by Universiti Putra Malaysia Press. It is independently owned and managed by the university for the benefit of the world-wide science community.

This issue contains 46 articles; six review articles, one short communication, one conceptual paper and the rest are regular articles. The authors of these articles come from different countries namely Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Ukraine and United Arab Emirates.

A review on data acquisition and data processing using electroencephalogram (EEG) in neuromarketing was conducted by Annis Shafika Amran and colleagues from Universiti Sains Malaysia. The invention of EEG has paved the way for diagnosing and studying various neurological disorders and studying human cognitive processes. The signals of an EEG provide subjective sine signal patterns enabling the visualization of changes in brain activity. The flexibility of an EEG system allows manipulation of techniques to best-fit study goals and allow better coverage of the brain area for accurate imaging with the manipulation of electrode number and position. The Revolution of EEG against time has caused EEG to be wearable, portable, and accessible to the masses, allowing extensive use of EEG in research and study, not just for the application in healthcare. Details of this study are available on page 19.

A regular article titled "The Relationships of Interleukin-33, VE-Cadherin and other Physiological Parameters in Male Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis" was presented by Khalid F. AL-Rawi and co-researchers from the University of Anbar, Iraq. This study used various enzymatic-linked immunosorbent assays, spectroscopic, serological, and hematological methods to quantify blood count, erythrocyte sedimentation rate, C-reactive protein, and rheumatoid factor, lipid profile, kidney function tests, specific enzymes, TGF-β1, vitamin E, VE-cadherin, interleukin 33 and TIMP-1. The results have revealed a significant positive correlation between ESR, RF, VE-cadherin, and vitamin E, specifically type α-tocopherol that are associated with the non-biochemical parameters such as body mass index, waist length, hip length, thorax, and age. In addition, the study revealed some parameters that would positively affect rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients, such as TGF-β1, vitamin E, and VE-cadherin, which have shown a decrease in

their values compared to those to the controls. In contrast, other parameters showed an increase in RA patients, and therefore they can be useful biomarkers for RA disease. The detailed information of this study is available on page 123.

An investigation to evaluate the diagnostic accuracy of magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography (MRCP) and Ultrasound (US) images for the diagnosis of biliary system stones, as well as to assess the consistency between MRCP and US findings, was conducted by Abdullah Taher Naji et al. from University of Science and Technology, Yemen. The study revealed that the most prominent age group with symptoms of biliary system stones was the 33-60-year-old group. It also found that the accuracy of US and MRCP in detecting gallbladder (GB) stones compared with the final diagnosis was 94% and 91%, respectively, with moderate conformity between their results. The accuracy of US and MRCP images in detecting common bile duct (CBD) stones was 61% and 98%, respectively, with fair conformity between their results. In addition, there is a significant agreement between the MRCP and US results in detecting the GB and CBD stones with an agreed percentage of 74% and 71%, respectively. Further details of the investigation can be found on page 841.

We anticipate that you will find the evidence presented in this issue to be intriguing, thought-provoking and useful in reaching new milestones in your own research. Please recommend the journal to your colleagues and students to make this endeavour meaningful.

All the papers published in this edition underwent Pertanika's stringent peer-review process involving a minimum of two reviewers comprising internal as well as external referees. This was to ensure that the quality of the papers justified the high ranking of the journal, which is renowned as a heavily-cited journal not only by authors and researchers in Malaysia but by those in other countries around the world as well.

We would also like to express our gratitude to all the contributors, namely the authors, reviewers, Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Board Members of PJST, who have made this issue possible.

PJST is currently accepting manuscripts for upcoming issues based on original qualitative or quantitative research that opens new areas of inquiry and investigation.

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