



Newton-Ungku Omar Fund



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Call for participants to workshop on: **Smoke-free homes**

Under the Researcher Links scheme offered within the Newton Fund, the British Council and the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) will be holding a workshop on the above theme in Kuala Lumpur on **8-10 May 2018**. The workshop is being coordinated by Professor Sean Semple from the University of Stirling in Scotland, and Dr Emilia Abidin from Universiti Putra Malaysia, and will have contributions from other leading researchers including Professor Amanda Amos (University of Edinburgh), Professor Kamran Siddiqi (University of York), Professor Noor Hassim (National University of Malaysia) and Professor Zailina Hashim (Universiti Putra Malaysia). We are now inviting Early Career Researchers from the UK and Malaysia to apply to attend this workshop. All travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by the Newton Researcher Links programme. The application form, with more details on the initiative, is available to download at <https://www.stir.ac.uk/health-sciences-sport/research/groups/social-marketing/ism-news/#SFH> and should be sent to sean.semple@stir.ac.uk (UK applicants) or za_emilia@upm.edu.my (Malaysian applicants) before the deadline of 5pm (GMT) on **Friday 16th February 2018**.

Summary of workshop

This workshop will bring together expertise from the UK and Malaysia to look at developing intervention methods to increase the proportion of homes that are free of second-hand tobacco smoke (SHS). Protecting children from exposure to SHS in early life improves lung development, respiratory health and helps give them the best start in life. Scientists and policymakers have been highly successful in reducing the proportion of children exposed to SHS at home in the UK but this continues to be a major global health problem with over 600 million children in SE Asia living in homes where people smoke regularly. In Malaysia recent data suggests that 54% of children aged 10-11 years are exposed to SHS at home. There is a need to find ways to reduce children's exposure

to SHS to help Malaysia tackle the health and economic burden that smoking and second-hand smoke imposes at an individual and societal level.

This workshop will build on findings from the UK on how best to empower parents to make their homes smoke-free and will work with local partners to find novel and culturally sensitive approaches to achieve similar progress in Malaysia. It is hoped that learning from Malaysia could then be rolled out across other countries in SE Asia.

Workshop Aims

This Researcher Links workshop will be led by leading researchers from the UK and Malaysia who are experts in research on smoking and smoke-free home interventions. It will involve early and mid-career researchers and other colleagues as participants and will aim to:

- Provide attendees with an overview of the current scientific evidence of the harmful effects of SHS exposure.
- Provide detail of the progress that has been made in the UK in reducing exposure to SHS with particular focus on measures to reduce the number of children exposed to SHS at home.
- Identify possible methods of increasing the profile of smoke-free homes in Malaysia through discussions with policymakers.
- Consider potential interventions to encourage parents to make their homes smoke-free.
- Draw up a plan for a research project to test the effectiveness of methods to encourage smoke-free homes; and identify potential funding sources from the UK and Malaysia.

Those attending will have the opportunity to present and/or discuss their own work. We expect to produce by the end of the workshop a list of priorities for research to be developed as collaborative proposals. Seeking funding and supporting the development of bi-national proposals will be part of a long term joint work of coordinators, mentors and participants.