

Biography

Associate Prof Dr Chai Lay Ching is a microbiologist and lecturer at University of Malaya. She is the Chair of the Young Scientists Network-Academy of Sciences Malaysia (YSN-ASM) that represents top young researchers in the country who are committed to contribute to the national ecosystem beyond their individual research interests. Part of her role includes engaging young academics in the country to rethink their role in shaping higher education for the future. Dr Chai's research focuses on infectious microorganisms, food safety and microbiological risk assessment. Dr Chai served as the Vice Chair of the Technical Working Group of Microbiology under the Food Analysis Committee (JKAM) chaired by the Department of Chemistry Malaysia from 2016-2020; and is listed as the Malaysian expert on microbial risk assessment in the ASEAN Risk Assessor Directory. Also, she leads numerous academia-industry projects, such as serving as key opinion leaders of 3M Asia Pacific, food safety research with Kikkoman Japan and other local food manufacturers. Her active contribution and involvement in microbiological safety research has won her the Malaspina International Award by the International Life Science Institute (ILSI) in 2017; and she is currently serving as the scientific advisor of ILSI South East Asia Region providing guidance and advice on food safety risk assessment. Dr Chai is also involved in promoting biosafety and biosecurity in Malaysia. She was selected and provided a fellowship to participate in the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) Global South Biosecurity Diplomacy Workshop in Switzerland in 2019. Her research and leadership in promoting research integrity, inclusivity and excellence has been recognised through multiple awards such as the L'Oréal-UNESCO Women in Science Award in 2018, Marie Claire's Amazing Woman in Malaysia 2019, Prestige's 40 under 40 Malaysia 2019 and the Asian Women Entrepreneurs Leadership Award 2019.

