

	Geethanjali Kathirvalu
	Department of Medical Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Geethanjali Kathirvalu is a PhD scholar in Microbiology at Universiti Malaya, conducting her doctoral research under the supervision of Associate Professor Prof. Dr. Chandramathi. Her current research focuses on the antibacterial and antibiotic-potentiating properties of plant-derived compounds against multidrug-resistant bacterial pathogens, integrating approaches from microbiology, biochemistry, pharmacognosy and bioinformatics. She holds a Bachelor of Biomedicine (Hons) and has undergone extensive research and laboratory training in the biomedical and medical sciences. She subsequently completed a Master of Business Administration (MBA) with Distinction, complementing her scientific training with knowledge in management, leadership and organisational development. Geethanjali has been involved in medical microbiology research since 2009, with experience primarily in bacteriology and virology. Her current doctoral research investigates plant-based bioactive compounds, particularly their antimicrobial activity, ability to potentiate conventional antibiotics, mechanisms of interaction with bacterial targets, and potential applications against antimicrobial-resistant organisms. Her research experience encompasses antimicrobial susceptibility testing, MIC and MBC determination, checkerboard synergy assays, time-kill studies, mammalian cell cytotoxicity studies, compound characterisation and molecular docking approaches. Her academic contributions include approximately 14 conference proceedings and co-authorship of seven research papers published in internationally peer-reviewed journals. Her scientific findings have been presented at academic and

scientific meetings in **Malaysia, India, China, Singapore, Brazil and Portugal**. In 2026, she received the **Best Oral Presenter Award at the 62nd Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine Conference**. She also received the **Best Transnational Medical Research Award at the 2nd International Transdisciplinary Research Conference** and was recognised among the **Top 100 Research entries** at the same conference. These achievements reflect the recognition accorded to her doctoral research and scientific communication. In 2024, she was honoured as one of the “**Women in Science**” during the **4th International Conference on Natural Products for Health and Humanity (ICNPHH)** held at the **University of Aveiro, Portugal**.

She is also a **member of the Asian Society of Pharmacognosy** and has contributed to the training of young researchers in microbiology laboratory techniques and scientific research practices.

Beyond academia, Geethanjali is actively involved in community and non-governmental organisational initiatives in Malaysia. She applies her scientific and educational background to community programmes aimed at improving health awareness, education and social literacy, with a particular interest in translating scientific knowledge into meaningful benefits for society.