

Our Reference: IMU/IRDI/01/11-03(03)**Date:** 3 December 2025

Sir / Madam,

Unseen, Unheard – Urgent Fight Against Diabetes Mellitus in Malaysia: Request for Sponsorship

Warm greetings from the Seremban Diabetes (SeDia) Cohort Team, a joint initiative between the Ministry of Health Malaysia (MOH) and IMU University to address this national agenda. Malaysia is facing a huge burden of diabetes mellitus. There are estimated 3.9 million diabetes patients in 2019, and the number is increasing. Diabetes patients at public healthcare facilities increased by 300% in 15 years. An estimated RM3.1 billion is spent in 2017 to treat diabetes alone (3X higher than treating cancer) and it increases to RM4.9 billion in 2019.

About SeDia Cohort

Diabetes and its complications are a complex disease of interplay of multiple factors. Genetic is key predisposing factor but greatly influence by lifestyle and behaviour (diet, physical activity) which is in turn influence by the built environment. The interaction of various factors takes many years to manifest as disease and complications. The interaction of these multiple factors can only be firmly elucidated through a long-term follow-up study, the Cohort Study. The SeDia Cohort, the first large-scale diabetes cohort study in the country, aims to follow 10,000 individuals (diabetes patient, family member and unrelated non-diabetic individual) over 12 years to understand the complex interactions between genetic, lifestyle, and environmental factors contributing to diabetes and its complications.

According to the National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS 2019), Negeri Sembilan records among the highest diabetes prevalence in Malaysia at 33.2%. IMU University clinical campus is located in Seremban and thus the establishment of Seremban Diabetes (SeDia) Cohort through an MOU signed between MOH and IMU University on 17th May 2022. The SeDia Cohort was officially launched by HRH Yang Di Pertuan Besar Negeri Sembilan, Tuanku Muhriz IbniAlmarhum Tuanku Munawir on 8th July 2023.

Understanding this complex interaction of multiple factors is critical to generate high-quality scientific evidence to inform evidence-based policy, enhance clinical practice, and improve health outcomes across Malaysia.

Why This Matters

Diabetes affects the most socio-economic productive age group impacting on national productivity. Its complications such as kidney failure requiring dialysis, blindness, amputation and heart complications are also rising, imposing a growing social and economic burden. The SeDia Cohort is designed to produce transformative insights that will:

- Improve early detection and personalised care strategies.
- Reduce diabetes-related complications through precision public health interventions.
- Support national policy development and preventive programmes.

- Strengthen Malaysia's leadership in non-communicable disease (NCD) research.

Long term complex study requires huge funding and most Cohort studies in the world are funded by philanthropists and corporate social responsibility donations. The government has recognised SeDia Cohort study as a national agenda and the Minister of Finance has approved the establishment of SeDia Fund with a cap of RM36 million (approval letter no. MOF.700-/3/1/1022(3), dated 8th March 2024).

Why Partner with SeDia Cohort

Your organization's partnership will help sustain and expand this vital national study. As a project of national status, all monetary sponsorships are eligible for tax deductions (up to 10% taxable income) under the Income Tax Act 1967.

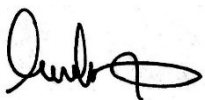
By supporting SeDia Cohort, you not only contribute to life-changing diabetes research but also align your brand with Malaysia's public health priorities, ESG and CSR goals, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Join Us in Making a Difference

By partnering with SeDia Cohort, your organization becomes part of a **nationwide effort to combat diabetes** and build a healthier Malaysia. Together, we can drive innovation, equity, and sustainability in healthcare.

We would be honoured to meet with you to discuss sponsorship opportunities further. Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to community well-being. For further enquiry please contact SeDia Project Manager, Ms Heamaa Gunasegaran at heamaa@imu.edu.my.

Yours sincerely,



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