

**ABSTRACT FOR 4TH USIM INTERNATIONAL HEALTH  
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**Healthcare In A Pandemic Era: The New Norm**

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**FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITI SAINS ISLAM MALAYSIA**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract No	Title	Page
OP8.10	Passion Fruits ( <i>Passiflora edulis</i> ) Pulp are Potential Sources of Antimicrobial Active Ingredients.	113
OP8.11	Effect of Local Alendronate Bovine Hydroxyapatite Scaffold on Bone Repair in Ovariectomized Rats.	114
OP8.12	In-Vitro Anti-Hepatitis C Virus Activity of <i>Piper crocatum</i> .	115
OP9.1	The Modification of Rice Cake For Diabetes Mellitus in The Elderly.	116
OP9.2	The Relationship Between PHBS and Nutritional Status of Toddlers in Coastal Community in Puger Wetan, Jember Regency.	117
OP9.3	Effect of Zinc Supplementation on Increasing Height and Body Weight of Stunted Children with Cadmium Exposure.	118
OP9.4	Ability to Pay of National Health Insurance Premium Model according to Agricultural and Coastal Communities Expenditures in Jember District.	119
OP9.5	Analysis of Community Needs for the Dengue Vaccine During the COVID-19 Pandemic.	120
OP9.6	The Implementation of the Maternal Mortality Reduction Program in Jember District, East Java.	121
OP9.7	Promotive and Preventive Budget in Indonesia.	122
OP9.8	The Relationship of Self-Efficacy with Patients Family Anxiety in the Intensive Care Unit of Jember Klinik Hospital.	123
OP9.9	The Relationship Between Psychosocial Well-being And Eating Behaviours Among Malay Preschool Children in An Urban Locality In Negeri Sembilan.	124
OP9.10	Hepatoprotective and Lipid-Lowering Effects of <i>Passiflora edulis var. flavicarpa</i> Juice on Alloxan Induced Diabetes Mice.	125
OP9.11	Effect of Red (Rhodophyceae), Brown (Rhodophyceae) and Green (Chlorophyceae) Seaweed Extracts, on Platelet Counts in Diabetic Mice.	126
OP9.12	Knowledge, Attitude and Practice towards COVID-19: USIM Undergraduate Students Case Study.	127
OP10.1	COVID-19 Pandemic: Knowledge, Attitude and Practice from Medical Students' Perspective.	128
OP10.2	School Closure during COVID-19 Outbreak: Parental Attitudes and Their Experiences.	129
OP10.3	Perceived Financial Threat and Psychological Effects on Working Adults in Sarawak During Lockdown for COVID-19 Pandemic.	130
OP10.4	The Perception of Female Medical Students Towards Breast-Self Examination Behaviour With Health Belief Model: A Qualitative Study.	131
OP10.5	A Survey on Knowledge, Initiation and Usage of Electronic Cigarette Among Students in A Private University, Kajang.	132
OP10.6	A Survey on Suicidal Ideation and Attempt in One Private University, Malaysia.	133
OP10.7	Comparison in Effectiveness of Plaque Removal between Manual Toothbrush and Powered Toothbrush in Paediatric Patients.	134
OP10.8	Age Estimation in Malay Population using Mandible from Dental Panoramic Tomography: A 2-Dimensional Geometric Morphometric Analysis.	135
OP10.9	Sex Determination from Orthopantomogram Using Geometric Morphometric Analysis in Malay Population.	136
OP10.10	Comparison of Efficacy and Adverse Effects of Belimumab and Rituximab in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus.	137
OP10.11	A Survey on Students' Knowledge and Consumption Pattern of Bubble Milk Tea in A Private University, Kajang.	138
OP10.12	Review of Childhood Obesity: Socio-demographic, Causes, Consequences and Interventions.	139
OP10.13	Mental Health among Pregnant Mothers in Labour.	140
PP2.1	Bronchiectasis Sicca: An Elusive Cause of Hemoptysis.	141
PP2.2	Potency of Galactosylated Nanoliposome CRISPR/Cas9 (Galnac-NL-CRISPR/Cas9) Modified by Polyethylene Glycol Specific Asialoglycoproteins Receptor to Knockdown ANGPTL3 Gene as A Therapeutic Modality for Atherosclerosis.	142
PP2.3	Female Circumcision in Malaysia: A Scoping Review of The Trends and Practice within The National Context.	143
PP2.4	The Great Imitator : Diabetic Papillopathy.	144
PP2.5	Exercise as Rehabilitation for Parkinson's Disease, A Scoping Review.	145
PP2.7	A Comparative Study of Dental Aesthetic Index (DAI) and Index of Orthodontic Treatment Need (IOTN) Usage Among USIM Dental Students.	146
PP2.8	Students' Perception of Usage of Orthodontic Indices during Clinical Examination.	147
PP2.9	What are Stress Relieving Methods Practiced by Students in Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) and Universitas Muhammadiyah Semarang (UNIMUS)?	148
PP2.10	Dentist's Appearance: Does It Matter?	149
PP2.11	The Effectiveness of Composite Resin Restoration in A Growing Child – A Case Report.	150
PP2.12	Stress Responses of <i>Candida spp.</i> Isolated From Tracheoesophageal Speech Valves Biofilm	151

OP 10.3

## Perceived Financial Threat and Psychological Effects on Working Adults in Sarawak During Lockdown for COVID-19 Pandemic

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### ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** The emergence of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) led to the implementation of special measures such as the Movement Control Order (MCO), which in return had caused economic disturbances and psychological effects across many countries over the globe. **Objective:** Our study aims to determine the perceived financial threat and its predictors, the relationship with psychological outcomes on working adults' populations in Sarawak during lockdown for the COVID-19 pandemic. **Methodsology:** We recruited 336 respondents from all divisions in Sarawak through an online survey with sociodemographic data, questionnaires were adapted from the Financial Threat Scale (FTS) to assess the perceived financial threat, and the Depression, Anxiety, Stress Scales 21 (DASS-21) to evaluate the psychological impact of lockdown implementation. IBM SPSS version 23.0 was used for data analysis. A p-value of  $\leq 0.05$  was considered statistically significant. **Results:** The analysis revealed that the employment sector, number of children, and change in income during lockdown were important predictors associated with the perceived financial threat. 47.9% of the respondents perceived a moderate-to-severe financial threat. Of these, 72.6% were self-employed, 54.6% were without children and 60.0% had experienced decreased in income during the lockdown. Several factors were identified to be significantly associated with the negative psychological outcomes, namely employment sector, marital status, number of children, and number of liabilities. Generally, a severe perceived financial threat was significantly associated with severe levels of depression, anxiety, and stress. **Conclusion:** There is an urgency to develop strategic plans and policies to provide economic and psychological support for the communities affected by the lockdown and COVID-19 disease.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, MCO, Pandemic, Financial Threat, Psychological effect