It is a pleasure to see you again!

Hopefully, we recovered from the tragic news last week – to reignite spirits, we will slowly work on rebuilding the old momentum! Today, we do so together with Jessie Wong Ling Ai and discover how science and entrepreneurship can overlap. Enjoy everyone:

> Who Jessie is

- Grew up in Singapore
- Working on her PhD
- Volunteer in multiple scientific endeavors
- Successful in various Tournaments & Competitions

I am currently doing my PhD at the Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore. My prior research, for my final project of my ungraduate studies, involved finding FDA-approved drug combinations to cause autophagy-mediated cell death in RAS mutant colorectal cancer.

For my PhD, I focus on the role of MAPK signaling in Breast Cancer Brain Metastasis (BCBM). Currently, there isn’t much research on the role of MAPK in BCBM. Despite that, we managed to find a role of fatty acid metabolism in its signaling, which prompted my current research topic.

When I was young, my dream was to learn something new every day. And science is the perfect field to make this aspiration come true. Another goal of mine is to combine entrepreneurship with science. As such, I have dabbled a bit in the start-up ecosystem.

*Jessie, I saw that you co-founded a company on services for pets, is that right?*

Yes, that is indeed correct. I always wanted to do something in relation to entrepreneurship. We founded “PORO” a peer-to-peer pet service community platform with some seed funding we have secured. While the others took over the coding, I was working on the business development. Our skillsets basically complemented each other.
I came up with the idea to start a Telegram channel as part of a new “initiative”. Telegram offers a convenient way for IUBMB TI to reach out to science trainees. This is because Telegram has features such as announcement channels, polling and bots which I believe IUBMB TI can make full use of. (Personally, I like this idea because Telegram channels transmit a more intimate feeling of connection. And still, they are not limited in size if we successfully grow it.)

As we may know, doing science is a long process. It requires months, if not years, to actually get a manuscript out. In comparison, business or entrepreneurship has a shorter runway and provides refreshing insights from different perspectives which may help in critical thinking and providing an alternative point of view to solve a problem, be it scientific or not.

My biggest hope for IUBMB TI is that we can hopefully increase our reach to more scientific trainees around the world! This is also partly the reason why I am in the social media team, where I can help to make a difference. Moreover, I really hope that IUBMB TI develops further so that the IUBMB TI members can meet each other face-to-face too.

One advice from me would be to put some effort into networking and to be open-minded. Although this might be difficult for introverts like myself, the benefits eventually outweighs the cons. We might be able to meet interesting people along the way that may be able to help you in your scientific career ;)

> The value of connection

Short, quick and digestible for - a big menu coming in October!