

Professor Dr. Anthony Cummins
Department of Family Medicine
RCSI Perdana University of Medicine & Health Sciences

2nd May 2021

To Whom It May Concern

Reference for Mr. Julian Matthews

I am honoured to provide a reference for Julian. He's a poet whose work I have admired since I came to Malaysia.

In 2014 I came to Kuala Lumpur to set up the Department of Family Medicine at the newest university to join the RCSI (Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland) global campus (our parent university is based in Dublin). All our students are Malaysian.

From 2015 onwards, as well as teaching Family Medicine, I also began teaching Medical Humanities. This course, unique among Malaysian medical schools, helps Year 1 students to better understand various health/ medical topics through the medium of the arts.

Our curriculum uses poetry, film, short fiction, novels, and song lyrics to facilitate this. It felt important to me to use local poets' and writers' work as much as possible, rather than focusing predominantly on Western authors.

Through local Kuala Lumpur writers' groups, I became acquainted with several Malaysian writers and poets who gave me permission to use their work.

Among them was Julian Matthews, whose spoken word poetry impressed me greatly. Having seen him deliver some of his work at local gatherings I was delighted when he allowed me to use his work in my teaching.

Two pieces that I have used repeatedly in teaching are "1096 Nights" and "Other", the former about the impact on relatives' lives of the loss of their loved ones on flight MH 370 and the latter about the different and mixed ethnicities of Malaysia. These both resonated hugely with my students and led to fruitful class discussions.

He also wrote beautiful memoir pieces about growing up in Malaysia such as “In my Malaysia” which also made reference to important issues relevant to modern-day Malaysia. These pieces also led to great class explorations.

Ultimately, we had an inaugural day-long Arts in Medicine Seminar to which Julian contributed and which also include other poets and short-story writers.

I will always be very grateful to Julian for allowing me to use his work in helping Malaysia’s future doctors to better understand many topics of relevance to their education and future practice.

I am delighted to provide this reference for him.

Yours sincerely

**Professor Dr. Anthony Cummins MB BCh BAO MRCP
Foundation Professor and Head of Department (Family Medicine)**

RCSI-Perdana University of Medicine and Health Sciences
Suite 9.2, Level 9, Wisma Chase Perdana, Changkat Semantan, Bukit Damansara
50490 Kuala Lumpur, Federal Territory, Malaysia
Tel +60320116478/ +60389418646 HP: +60176067558
Email: anthonycummins@perdanauniversity.edu.my Web: www.perdanauniversity.edu.my/purcsi
Malaysian Medical Council Membership No. 69348
Annual Practising Certificate No. 72041 (2021)
Doctor Shield Medical Defence Policy No. 1DL-871227/21/JAA-00866
Malaysian Medical Association Membership No. PC 693211
Academy of Family Physicians Malaysia Membership No. 4535
Malaysian Primary Care Research Group Membership No. 4535
Malaysian Association of Education in Medical & Health Sciences (Life Member)
Private Medical Practitioners' Association of Selangor and Kuala Lumpur No. 1139
European Society of Cardiology (ESCcardio) Membership No. 23941
British Society for Heart Failure Membership No. 17546
Heart Failure Association (ESCcardio) Membership No. 239341
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3090-1489>
MyGrants Malaysia ID 87041