

Phuwadet Pasarj

Doctor of Philosophy

Department of Biochemistry,
Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Image created in 334 Medical
Sciences Building,
University of Alberta

Diving Into Science

Semi-Finalist

Dramatized self portrait of myself working late in a medical research lab, diving into our liquid chromatography cabinet. Liquid chromatography units are often used to purify enzymes and bioactive molecules for medical research throughout the university. I purify proteins and enzymes to screen for potential novel marine bioactive immunosuppressant compounds. Our collaborators dive off the coast of Papua New Guinea and British Columbia, where they collect marine organisms such as marine bacteria and sponges. Marine organisms have been exploring molecular space for millions of years and produce multitude of complex molecules that may act as potential drugs. This image also portrays the hard work of University of Alberta researchers that work long hours through day and night. As my supervisor always said, 'more research hours may not guarantee success, but it sure does even the odds.'