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FFAR INTERNATIONAL WEEK: NORMALCY IN THE NEW NORM

By Assoc Prof Dr Mohd Hanif Zulfakar and Dr Mazlina Mohd Said

On the 2nd of September 2021, Faculty of Pharmacy, UKM organised the inaugural ASEAN PHARMACY DISTANCE LEARNING SYMPOSIUM on Zoom and streamed via Facebook Live. The event was mooted to find solutions to the challenges of delivering pharmacy education considering the current COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in the Southeast Asian region. The symposium, which had succeeded in recording 345 registered participants, featured the sharing of best practices from several of the Faculty's strategic partners and a forum with the theme "Managing Education in the Time of Pandemic – The Way Forward. Alongside speakers and panellists from UKM, experts and representatives from Thammasat University, Mahidol University (Thailand), Universitas Airlangga, Universitas Sumatera Utara (Indonesia), University of Santo Tomas, Our Lady of Fatima University, and University of The Immaculate Conception (Philippines) highlighted the situation in their respective countries and presented their solution towards ensuring continuity of educational activities for their institutions. With the overwhelming response and the lively exchange of idea during the symposium, this event represented yet another successful collaboration with the Faculty's international partners and contributed further to the strengthening of ties between the parties involved.

Next, The Faculty of Pharmacy 3rd Educational & Research Virtual Mobility programme has made a comeback this year. Held on the 3rd, 4th & 11th September 2021, this event was participated by 87 students from 5 institutions: Mahidol University (Thailand), Universitas Airlangga, Universitas Sumatera Utara (Indonesia), University of Santo Tomas and Our Lady of Fatima University (Philippines). The program aimed to harness and enhance the students with sound pharmacy knowledge and generic skills while at the same time learning new cultures and making new friends. Participants had to attend various online sharing sessions ranging from laboratory science to clinical pharmacy practice conducted by experts from the faculty. Although it was a challenging time, the COVID-19 pandemic should not limit the interaction between the participants from various countries. Fun and interactive ice breaking sessions and cultural competition were conducted to facilitate networking among the participants.

Lastly, a webinar on "Pharmacist's role during pandemic COVID-19" were organized for the participants, with World in conjunction Pharmacists Day 2021, pharmacists from different fields; industry, community, regulatory, military, and academics shared about how their tasks evolved during the pandemic. It is hoped that the programme could provide a new meaning to all participants in the best way possible benefitting from the sharing sessions.









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7th MYPSA NATIONAL PHARMACY DEBATE COMPETITION (NPDC) 2021

By Syed Rafiq Idlan Bin Syed Mohd Firdaus & Assoc Prof Dr Farida Islahudin

The 7th National Pharmacy Debate Competition (NPDC) 2021 organized by the Malaysian Pharmacy Students' Association (MyPSA) was held from 23rd until 26th September 2021. NPDC is an annual national program that involves all pharmacy students in Malaysia. The faculty sent one team for this year's NPDC. Congratulations to the Faculty of Pharmacy UKM Debate Team which included Ainnur Amierah Binti Ridzwan, Syamilah Alya Binti Ahmad Taufiq, Tee Hung Piao and Teo Yi Ying for winning the title of champion for this year's NPDC. Tee Hung Piao was also awarded as 'Top 10 Speakers' and 'Best Final Speaker' in the NPDC 2021.





Research collaboration with Novo Nordisk

By Assoc Prof Dr Noraida Mohamed Shah

Adherence to insulin treatment in children with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus (T1DM) remains suboptimal despite its known efficacy in blood glucose control. A research project titled "Empowering Children with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus on Insulin Therapy" by researchers at the Centre of Quality Management of Medicines in collaboration with Novo Nordisk Pharma (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd., researchers from UniKL MIIT Creative Multimedia & Animation Section and healthcare practitioners from UKM Medical Centre was proposed. Novo Nordisk will provide funding of RM15,000 for this research, which will be used to develop an interactive education tool with elements of Augmented Reality.



First meeting and online discussion with all team members on 29th July 2021.