

Benchmark Visit of Teaching Innovation Tools in Pharmacy Practice by the Innovative and Creative group (KIK) from the Faculty of Pharmacy, Universiti Teknologi MARA, to the Faculty of Pharmacy, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

By: Dr. Nur Wahida Zulkifli

On April 18, 2024, a benchmark visit was conducted by the Innovative and Creative group (KIK), led by Dr. Nur Wahida Zulkifli, along with seven other members, to the Faculty of Pharmacy, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). The group, known as ELEVATE, aims to address the issue of students, particularly those in their first, second, and third years, who lack clarity regarding the pharmacy profession. They are eager to gain insights into various career paths within pharmacy, including academia, community pharmacy, hospitals, industry, and pharmaceutical companies.



The purpose of the visit to the Faculty of Pharmacy, UKM, was to benchmark ideal teaching materials and methods aimed at enhancing students' understanding and confidence, as well as preparing them for their future careers. UKM was chosen due to its current status as the top-ranked university in Malaysia for teaching pharmacy programs, with the goal of learning from the best to become the best.



The agenda for the visit began with discussions with the Deputy Academic Dean (TDA) team at the Faculty of Pharmacy, UKM, led by Associate Professor Dr. Ernieda Hatah, along with other faculty members involved in management and leadership. These discussions summarized the curriculum structure, activities, and educational tools developed to enhance students' confidence and understanding of their job scopes.



Following the discussions, the group visited the Clinical Pharmacy Simulation Laboratory (CliPS), Mock Pharmacy, and Pharmacy Practice Laboratory. The visit revealed areas for improvement in our current teaching tools, particularly the need to provide more case studies with answers to guide students in understanding how to approach and

review medications correctly. Additionally, the accessibility of the CliPS and Mock Pharmacy, which are open from 8 am to 5 pm, allowing students to engage in hands-on learning, was noted as a beneficial practice. This increased accessibility to case studies during working hours provides valuable insights into how we can enhance our teaching tools and approaches for our students.



Overall, the benchmark visit provided valuable insights into improving our teaching methods and tools to better prepare students for their future roles in the pharmacy profession.

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