

# Mastering Research Writing: Key Takeaways from Write2Gether Workshop Series

By: Madam Nik Ateerah Rasheeda Mohd Rocky, Dr. Aisyah Hasyila Jahidin & Dr. Gurmeet Kaur Surindar Singh

The Write2Gether workshop is one of the many series organised by the Research Empowerment Unit, Faculty of Pharmacy Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) aimed to promote the writing skills of the academic staff and postgraduate students, taking place on 5-7 August 2024. The event was designed to be resourceful for the participants who sought to develop their writing skills during the three-day event, which was held free of charge. On the first day of the workshop, Dr. Azwandi Ahmad, senior lecturer from the Department of Pharmacology and Life Sciences, Faculty of Pharmacy, UiTM Puncak Alam, explored the fundamental concepts of statistical analysis. He elaborated on the use of different statistical tests over lab-based as well as non-lab-based scenarios by pointing out their methodological and practical importance. He presented the participants with practical tips on which appropriate statistical tools to choose, a crucial skill that is required to ensure accuracy and validity in research data analysis.

On the second day, the participants had the opportunity to learn from Professor Dr. Kalavathy Ramasamy, a world-renowned scientist ranked among the world's top 2% who is a member of the Department of Pharmacology and Life Sciences, Faculty of Pharmacy, UiTM Puncak Alam. Professor Kalavathy provided a comprehensive guide to writing manuscripts of lab-based research which addressed the process of organising research findings, presenting data effectively, and ensuring the clarity of manuscripts. She also emphasised the importance of having scientific rigor in the storytelling of research and offered strategies on how to overcome common challenges researchers face in the preparation of manuscripts.

The final day featured three experts: Associate Professor Dr. Mohd Shahezwan Abd Wahab, Associate Professor Dr. Mahmathi Karuppanan, and Dr. Shubashini Gnanasan, all from the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Clinical Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmacy, UiTM. Associate Professor Dr. Shahezwan and Associate Professor Dr. Mahmathi provided a comprehensive overview of quantitative studies, covering study design, data collection techniques, and the interpretation of findings. Meanwhile, Dr. Shubashini focused on the practical aspects of conducting qualitative research, sharing techniques to ensure robust and reliable qualitative data.

Throughout the three days, the speakers focused on the technical aspects of research writing but also provided the motivation and strategies for effective writing. They highlighted the need for unambiguous communication, accurate data representation, and manuscript structure. Their willingness to answer questions in real-time created an interactive learning environment and empowered participants. With expert guidance and a supportive atmosphere, the workshops provided a solid foundation for both novice and experienced researchers to elevate the quality of their publications.



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