

Strengthening Collaboration: UiTM Delegates Attend the International Collaboration on Pharmacology and Natural Products (ICPNP) 2024 in Bali, Indonesia

By: Nurul Alyaa Ibrahim & Dr. Mohd Nadzri Mohd Najib

To strengthen the international collaboration between the countries, the Faculty of Pharmacy, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Pulau Pinang, Bertam Campus, accepted the invitation to physically attend and participate in the International Collaboration on Pharmacology and Natural Products (ICPNP) 2024, held on August 19-20, 2024, in Bali, Indonesia. ICPNP 2024, hosted by Universitas Mahasaraswati Denpasar (UNMAS), Bali aimed to provide a platform to share knowledge on advanced pharmacology and the study of natural products and herbal medicine, with a focus on integration into clinical practice. This 2-day event was attended by two lecturers from the Faculty of Pharmacy UiTM Pulau Pinang, Bertam Campus: Dr. Mohd Nadzri Mohd Najib, who represented the faculty's Dean Professor Dato' Dr. Abu Bakar Abdul Majeed, and Ms Nurul Alyaa Ibrahim as an invited speaker. This event provided a comprehensive schedule that began with an international seminar titled "Advancement in Pharmacology and Clinical Application of Natural Products" on the first day. Ms. Nurul Alyaa presented at the seminar with the topic "Innovative Research in Herbal Medicine: Bridging Traditional and Clinical Practice," which focused on research approaches to integrate herbal medicine into clinical practice. In addition, there were two other speakers, one from Indonesia presenting physicians' perspectives on the use of herbal medicine in primary care and one from the Philippines with a focus on advanced research in natural product development.

On the second day of the event, UiTM delegates participated in a community service initiative with the theme "Tackling Health Challenges Through Family Medicinal Plants (TOGA)" at Taman Village, Abiansemal District, Bali, Indonesia. The event began with a sharing session on community services in UNMAS and UiTM, shared by the Apt. I Made Agus Sunadi Putra, the Dean of Fakultas Farmasi, UNMAS, and Dr. Mohd Nadzri Mohd Najib, Head of Programme for Diploma in Pharmacy, UiTM. Both emphasize the roles of academic institutions like UNMAS and UiTM in promoting public health by engaging with the local communities. The event was then continued with the hands-on TOGA activity that involved planting medicinal plants in the village, hoping it could benefit others. The event's schedule was well-structured, featuring knowledgeable presentations from speakers of different institutions, interactive discussions, and practical community-based activities. This event provided a thorough view of herbal medicine's theoretical and practical applications. In conclusion, attending this event opens an excellent opportunity for UiTM, especially the Faculty of Pharmacy, to strengthen international academic partnerships with UNMAS and Far Eastern University, Philippines, and thus can contribute to collaborative and innovative research in herbal medicine and natural products.



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