

Faculty of Pharmacy's visit to BSC Elder Care to foster future collaborations

By: Ms. Nurul Alyaa Ibrahim



On 12th September 2024, the Faculty of Pharmacy, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Bertam Campus had its first visit to the Bagan Specialist Center (BSC) Elder Care located at Butterworth, Penang. This meaningful visit aimed to foster collaboration and to plan for future corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities between the BSC Elder Care and the Faculty of Pharmacy. The delegation from UiTM was led by a senior lecturer, Dr. Wong Yuet Yen, who was welcomed by Dr. Cecilia Chan, a gerontologist and person in charge of BSC Elder Care. This visit was attended by 8 academic staffs and 3 clinical instructors. Dr. Cecilia welcomed the UiTM delegation by introducing the services and care provided at the elderly center, with a focus on the elderly with dementia. This visit offered valuable insights into the daily operations of the center and the challenges faced by organisations in managing the facility. This visit has opened new perspectives on understanding the needs of the elderly in nursing care homes and thus helps identify the expertise that the UiTM team can offer to this facility to ensure a meaningful contribution, particularly in the volunteering program.

A short yet fruitful discussion was conducted during this visit that focused on forming a long-term collaboration that could be beneficial to both the elderly care centre and the faculty, especially to the students. Some brainstorming ideas were proposed during the discussion, which included a public health program, an educational workshop for caregivers, as well as a project to promote safe self-medication management among the elderly in nursing homes and community dwellings. The faculty team members had high hopes of realising one of these ideas to expose the students to the real public health issue among the elderly: focusing on dementia. On a note, this visit is just the beginning of the greater cause and towards a promising collaboration between UiTM and BSC Elder Care. The Faculty of Pharmacy looks forward to organising future CSR activities and hopes to make a positive impact on the elderly communities.

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