

An Academic Visit from Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Kesehatan Flora (STIKes), Medan, Indonesia, to the Faculty of Pharmacy, UiTM

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On the 5th of February 2025, the Faculty of Pharmacy, UiTM, had the honour of hosting an academic visit from Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Kesehatan Flora (STIKes), Medan, Indonesia. The visiting delegation, comprising seven lecturers, was warmly welcomed by the faculty.

The visit began with a welcoming session and an introduction to the Faculty of Pharmacy. Dr. Fazleen Haslinda Mohd Hatta, Deputy Dean of Industry, Community, and Alumni Network (ICAN), delivered a presentation outlining UiTM's background, the Faculty of Pharmacy's organisational structure, its diverse academic departments, research groups, and state-of-the-art facilities, including the Laboratory Animal Facility and Management (LAFAM). Following this, the leader of the STIKes delegation, Prof. Dr. Ir. Nurhayati, MP, provided an overview of STIKes and shared the purpose of their visit, which included exploring opportunities for collaborative grants, publications, and conferences.

During the session, lecturers from both STIKes and the Faculty of Pharmacy exchanged insights on their areas of specialisation, shared best practices in teaching and research, and discussed potential collaborations. Key areas of focus included formalising student mobility and exchange programs through a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA), identifying areas for improvement in academic and operational processes, and building long-term relationships to enhance the global reputation and visibility of both institutions.

The delegates were then escorted to the Laboratory Animal Facility and Management (LAFAM), where they were greeted by LAFAM's coordinator, Associate Professor Dr. John Shia Kwong Siew, and his team. AP Dr. John provided an introduction to LAFAM's activities, including the animal ethics workshops that are open to UiTM staff and researchers from other universities or organisations. These workshops are mandatory to certify researchers working with rodents such as rats, rabbits, and mice. The visit included an informative video showcasing the animal facility's operations and its role in supporting research at the Faculty of Pharmacy.

Next, the delegation visited the Clinical Pharmacy Simulation Laboratory, where they observed how the faculty provides pharmacy students with hands-on, practical training in a controlled, simulated environment. The lab's use of high-fidelity mannequins and simulated patients (actors) to replicate real-world clinical scenarios was highly impactful for the visitors, who, with their scientific background, could fully appreciate its innovative approach.

The final stop was the Pharmacokinetics and Biopharmaceutics Laboratory, where the delegates were introduced to advanced equipment used in drug formulation development, cosmetics formulation, characterisation, and skin delivery studies. This visit highlighted the Faculty of Pharmacy's commitment to cutting-edge research and innovation in pharmaceutical technology.

We hope this academic visit has provided STIKes with valuable exposure and insights into potential areas of collaboration. It is our aspiration that this visit will pave the way for international partnerships through a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA), encompassing research collaborations, staff and student exchange programs, joint conferences, and academic initiatives. Such efforts align with UiTM's vision to become a Globally Respected University (GRU) by 2025, fostering global visibility and excellence in education and research.

