

Scoping Review Workshop: Espresso Exchange Series 2

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In an era of information overload and rapidly expanding healthcare research, the ability to conduct high-quality scoping reviews is an essential skill for today's scholars and practitioners. With this in mind, the Faculty of Pharmacy, UiTM, successfully hosted the Scoping Review Workshop under the Espresso Exchange Series 2 on 27–28 May 2025, with a final follow-up session set for 26 June 2025. The workshop aimed to enhance participants' competencies in conducting and publishing scoping reviews, in line with current research standards and publication requirements. The program was designed to offer both conceptual grounding and hands-on experience in review methodology. Participants included postgraduate students and academic staff from diverse healthcare disciplines, such as pharmacy, medicine, nursing, and allied health, as well as attendees from other universities across Malaysia, highlighting strong interdisciplinary and inter-institutional collaboration.

The event opened with an introductory session led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Akehsan Haji Dahlan, who emphasised that the main function of a scoping review is to map the availability of studies in a given field, identifying gaps and trends across the research landscape. His overview helped frame the purpose and scope of the review process. Participants then engaged in a series of technical sessions conducted by Puan Nurani Nordin, who guided them through the Arksey and O'Malley framework and the PRISMA-ScR checklist. Her sessions provided detailed frameworks, templates, and practical strategies for conducting comprehensive scoping reviews, including database searching using SCOPUS, Web of Science (WoS), and ScienceDirect.

An insightful lecture by Prof. Dr. Kalavathy Ramasamy explored the differences between types of literature reviews and equipped participants with essential skills for presenting data in manuscripts, along with practical tips for writing letters to the editor. Her session was particularly beneficial for those preparing for academic publication. On the second day, Prof. Dato' Dr. Abu Bakar Abdul Majeed shared analytical data on publication patterns and delivered a powerful presentation on the risks of predatory journals. He introduced Beall's List as a reference point to help participants recognise and avoid unethical or low-impact publishing platforms.

Completing these academic insights, the workshop also featured interactive segments such as real-time database practice, participant-led mini presentations, group discussions, and extensive Q&A sessions. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the workshop's balance between theory and practice. Participants reported improved understanding of scoping review methodology and increased confidence in manuscript preparation.

The final session of the workshop, scheduled for 26 June 2025, will focus on manuscript review and refinement. It will again be facilitated by Puan Nurani Nordin, and is expected to guide participants through personalised feedback on their draft manuscripts, focusing on academic structure, clarity, and flow. It is anticipated that this session will provide the final push needed to guide participants towards preparing their work for publication.

In conclusion, the Scoping Review Workshop has made a meaningful impact by strengthening research capabilities, encouraging scholarly communication, and fostering academic collaboration across healthcare disciplines. With the final session still ahead, participants remain engaged and motivated to apply what they have learned in their own review projects. Building on this momentum, there is strong interest in future workshops focusing on data synthesis, advanced publication strategies, and promoting ethical publishing practices, ensuring continued growth in research excellence across the academic community.

