

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**AVAILABILITY OF MUSIC THERAPY IN
DEMENTIA CARE: A QUALITATIVE FOCUS
GROUP STUDY AMONG THE PHARMACISTS**

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**Dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for
the Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons.)**

Faculty of Pharmacy

2017

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my supervisor, Prof. Dr. Wong Tin Wui, and my co-supervisor, Dr. Phang Kong Chien, for their kind teaching and guidance. I would also like to thank the Faculty of Pharmacy, UiTM Selangor Kampus Puncak Alam for allowing me the opportunity to carry out this final year project. I would also like to thank my research partner, Nur Alina binti Shaiful, for her kind cooperation and hard work.

ABSTRACT

Music therapy has found its niche among the practices of alternative and complementary therapies available for the management and care of the persons living with dementia. As there are new developments in pharmacological field to delay the progress of the disease itself, more non-pharmacological approaches will find their way into the management and the care of persons living with dementia as the complementary alternative. Music therapy has shown promises in various discipline of the dementia symptoms, and although the literatures may not explore the biomarkers and actual neuronal changes during the intervention of music therapy, the availability of music therapy as a behavioural therapy is in itself ready to ensure a better provision of dementia management in Malaysia.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Essentially, the American Music Therapy Association (2013) refers to music therapy as the clinical and evidence-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship between a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program and a client. Starting the year 2000, the music therapy has been expanded to accommodate incorporative thinking of fields such as anthropology, sociology, and ethnomusicology (Aigen, 2014). This in turn resulted in a range of development in the disciplines of music therapy and with it, the expansion of medical and psychological frameworks that had been traditionally applied to music therapy (Aigen, 2014).

Dementia: A Clinical Approach (2003) referred to dementia as a syndrome of acquired intellectual impairment produced by brain dysfunction. It is a persistent impairment acquired in multiple areas of intellectual function not due to delirium (Mendez & Cummings, 2003). The range of mental activity that is usually utilised to describe dementia is based on evaluation of disturbances that can be observed in the clinical setting (Mendez & Cummings, 2003).