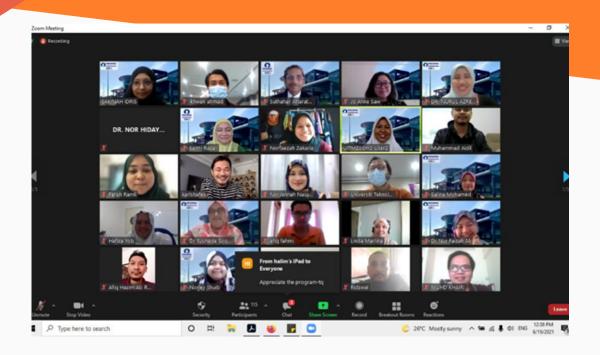


## Med Bull'

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## "PROGRAM PENDIDIKAN PSIKIATRI UNTUK PESAKIT DAN KELUARGA"



## PROSPEK 2021

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The key to healing is to understand one's condition. Unfortunately, there are still many misunderstandings, stigmas, and myths in our society regarding mental illness. As a result, patients often feel alone in dealing with their mental health as they fear other people will not understand them and invalidate their struggles. This issue has affected patients tremendously in accepting their condition and being committed to treatment.

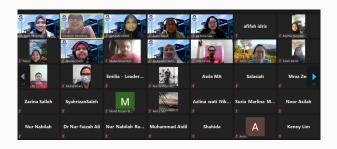
Acknowledging these loopholes, the Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine UiTM has curated a program named PROSPEK- 'Program Pendidikan Psikiatri Untuk Keluarga dan Pesakit.'

PROSPEK is a psychoeducation program that provides information and support to understand mental disorders and their treatment, psychological skills, the recovery process, and rehabilitation to patients and their loved ones.

We received nearly 500 patients in the psychiatry clinic and noticed that patients often present alone to the appointment without a family member or significant others.

Therefore, it is crucial to organize a general and comprehensive program involving patients, family members, and individuals close to them to ensure the education about psychiatric illnesses and management can be delivered thoroughly.

All their concerns and queries would be answered directly by our expert and experienced psychiatrist and clinical psychologist.





The first two series of PROSPEK were held virtually on 19th June 2021 and 31st July 2021 successfully. The speakers of the webinar were our psychiatrists, lecturers, and clinical psychologists. In addition, we invited special guest speakers like Karl Shafek, Fatiha Shuib, and Alia Ali that are known for their passion as mental health advocates.

The first session of PROSPEK aimed to strengthen patients' and caregivers' understanding of mental disorders and pharmacological treatments.

This program is to improve adherence to medications and empower them to commit to the treatment.

We shared five topics with the participants: the importance of medication adherence, understanding antidepressants, mood stabilizers, antipsychotics, anxiolytics, and benzodiazepines.

The second session of PROSPEK focused on educating patients and caregivers on emotional management and problem-solving skills that will be crucial in managing crises and preventing disease complications. This program is to reduce the likelihood of relapses and thus to improve their quality of life. The topics delivered in this session were problem-solving skills, relaxation techniques, time, and anger management.

There were 149 participants from various states of Malaysia, including Sabah and Sarawak, registered for the two days courses

Apart from patients and their family members, PROSPEK has gathered participants from the public, non-government organizations, university students, doctors, and nurses from around the country. Each participant received a copy of the PROSPEK handbook that was delivered to them. This book was written by the staff of the HUiTM Psychiatry Department and comprised the topics shared in the webinar.

We have received numerous positive responses from the participants. Here are some of them:

Awesome! The program is very beneficial and gives understanding to patients, family members, and anyone else because the presentation by the is delivered in simple experts language. I am delighted and hope that the committee will organize more programs like this that involve patients and family members in the future.

Very informative especially to the patients, we are alert with our medications, and after this course, I feel motivated to recover compared than before when I used to feel numb and hopeless.

## The presentations from the specialist are clear and easy to understand.

In the future, we aim to organize more programs like this to continue cultivating psychoeducation and support about mental health in the community.

We want to express our sincerest gratitude to the Faculty of Medicine, UiTM, and Hospital UiTM Puncak Alam for sponsoring us in organizing the PROSPEK webinar.

