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APPLIED BASIC MEDICAL SCIENCE COURSE FOR MEDICAL OFFICERS 2023

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On 10th and 11th June 2023, the Department of Anaesthesiology & Intensive Care, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) successfully hosted the Applied Basic Medical Science Course for Medical Officers 2023. The course held at the UiTM Sungai Buloh Campus brought together experienced professors and lecturers from various medical specialties within the Faculty of Medicine, UiTM. Our goal was to empower medical officers with the necessary knowledge and promote a culture of continuous learning, enabling them to deliver better care to their patients.

102 medical officers from all corners of Malaysia attended the two-day course, with the Anaesthesiology Department making up the majority of attendees and a few from the Emergency Department. The study delved into crucial physiological and pharmacological topics, imparting a comprehensive foundation to the participants.

The first day started with Dr. Vimal Varma, representing the organizing committee, who extended a warm welcome to the participants and set a positive tone for the enriching sessions that awaited them.



On the first day of the course, they were focused on physiology, starting with a lecture on the anatomy of the cardiorespiratory system by Assoc. Professor Dr. Muhammad 'Abid, a Cardiothoracic Surgeon. Dr. Rusnaini and Dr. Khaiful Shafiq, a Cardiothoracic Anaesthesiologist and Cardiologist, respectively, followed with discussions on the mechanical and electrical complexities of the cardiovascular system. Professor Dr. Karis Misiran, a highly respected figure in Anaesthesiology, simplified even the most complex respiratory system concepts, impressing the audience with his presentation skills and extensive knowledge. Attendees were fully engaged and alert throughout the lecture, and Dr. Engku Naim explained the mechanics of the respiratory system after the presentation. No caffeine or sugar boosts were necessary to maintain focus.

After a lunch break, Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, a Consultant Nephrologist, gave a lecture on the renal system. He discussed the complex mechanisms involved in waste filtration and elimination and the regulation of electrolyte and acid-base balance. Assoc. Professor Dr. Hazlyna, a Consultant Rheumatologist, then shared her knowledge on immunology topics, covering basic immune mechanisms of immunopathology such as hypersensitivity and autoimmunity. The day ended with Professor Dr. Karis returning to the stage to enlighten the participants on the central nervous system.

The second day of the course was dedicated to pharmacology, with Professor Dr. Nafeeza, a renowned Pharmacology Professor, starting the session by explaining the fundamentals of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. Dr. Isqandar, a Cardiothoracic Anaesthesiologist, then covered essential pharmacological concepts to lay a strong foundation for the rest of the day's proceedings. The day, they continued with experienced anaesthesiologists from the organizing department delivering lectures on drugs vital to anaesthesiology and emergency department practitioners. These lectures focused on drugs considered as 'bread-and-butter' for these professionals.



Dr. Asmah discussed analgesics' usage and potential challenges, while Dr. Afifah explained the mechanisms of action and clinical implications of muscle relaxants. Dr. Vimal Varma captured the participants' attention with interactive quizzes before discussing reversal agents and neuromuscular monitoring. Dr. Siti Aznida talked about intravenous anaesthetic agents, and Dr. Fauziah explored the historical aspects and modern use of inhalational agents. Finally, Dr. Ivy Sim shared her knowledge of local anaesthetics. The course ended with a group photo session, highlighting the sense of camaraderie and shared experiences among the participants.

Efforts were made to ensure participants of the course received a comprehensive and informative learning experience despite time constraints. Online question-and-answer sessions were conducted to provide opportunities for participants to seek clarification about any uncertainties they may have had.

The course's remarkable success and the incredibly positive feedback we received from participants have motivated us to organise similar studies in the future.

