



UNIVERSITI
TEKNOLOGI
MARA

NO.3/2023

MED BULL'

FACULTY OF MEDICINE UiTM



eISSN 2805-4628



9 7 7 2 8 0 5 4 6 2 0 0 0

Menyerlahkan Potensi
Membentuk Masa Hadapan



HOW TO ACE IN BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR MEDICINE

By: Dr. Wan Nor I'zzah Wan Mohamad Zain, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suhaila Abd Muid, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mudiana Muhamad, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jesmine Khan & The Lecturers of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine
Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine



On the 4th of July 2023, the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine (BMM) organized a seminar entitled How to Ace in Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine. The seminar was attended by all Year 1 UiTM medical students (MBBS 240) and held in Auditorium 1, Faculty of Medicine, UiTM Sungai Buloh Campus. It was a half-day seminar consisting of a series of talks by an invited Professor of Biochemistry with an MBBS degree and vast experience teaching the subject, two lecturers from the department, and one alumnus of the UiTM medical graduate.

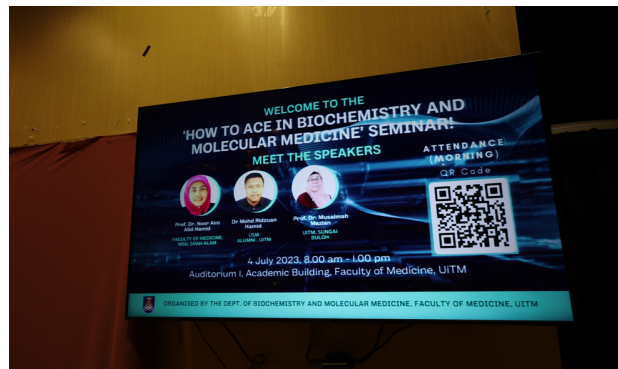
The seminar's main objective was to address students' comments regarding teaching and learning BMM subjects. Their feedback extracted from the Student's Online Feedback (SUFO) mainly highlighted the difficulty in learning BMM subjects, which we hypothesized was attributable to several factors. From our point of view as educators, a significant setback refers to student's lack of awareness of the importance of BMM and its relevance in medicine. Moreover, most students expressed concerns about the challenges of learning the "dry" BMM

subject with numerous intricate biochemical pathways. Hence, the half-day seminar intended to inculcate sustainable interest in BMM among the preclinical medical students in the Faculty of Medicine, UiTM, via effective learning techniques towards acing BMM examinations. More importantly, the relevance of BMM in clinical medicine was the main emphasis in ensuring sustainable interest throughout the five-year medical programme. Last but not least, the seminar aimed to enhance the relationship and interaction between the preclinical medical students and BMM lecturers.



During the event, speakers highlighted the importance of BMM in clinical scenarios by explaining to medical students how biochemistry concepts are applied in clinical medicine or practice. For example, by discussing the biochemical basis of diseases, the interpretation of laboratory tests, and the effects of drugs on biochemical pathways. This connection to clinical practice can help students perceive the practical value of BMM. Topics also

included the effective way to study BMM and tips on answering exam questions.



A survey was conducted among all students at the end of the session to gauge the outcome of the programme. Most of the students have responded that interaction with experts during the event has inspired and deepened their interest in the subject. The level of students' interest in Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine increased after the programme compared to before the programme (4.61 vs. 3.93 out of 5) (Figure 1a and b). To our pleasant surprise, 95% of the students voted that BMM is essential and relevant to completing the medical programme (Figure 2a). In comparison, 93% agreed that the seminar had motivated them to learn BMM more effectively (Figure 2b). On average, the overall rating of the programme by the students secured a score of 4.76 (Figure 3).

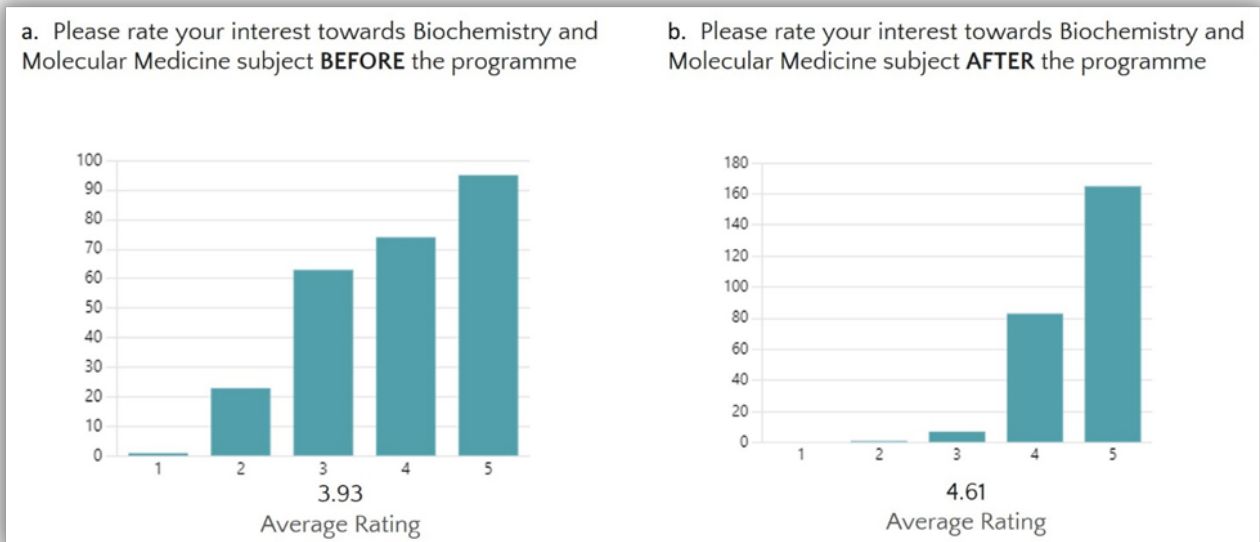


Figure 1: Evaluation of the seminar by star rating (1 is lowest and five is highest)

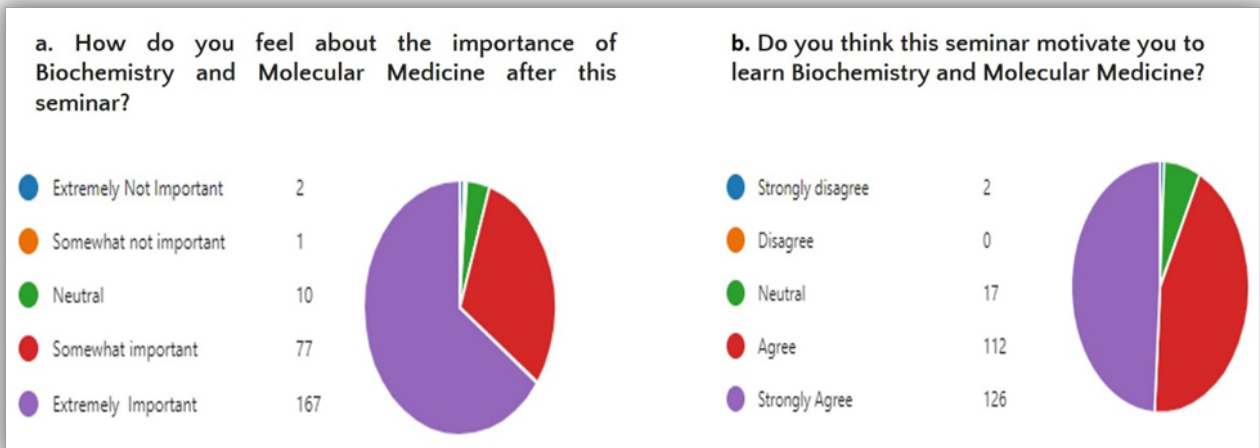


Figure 2: Post-seminar evaluation

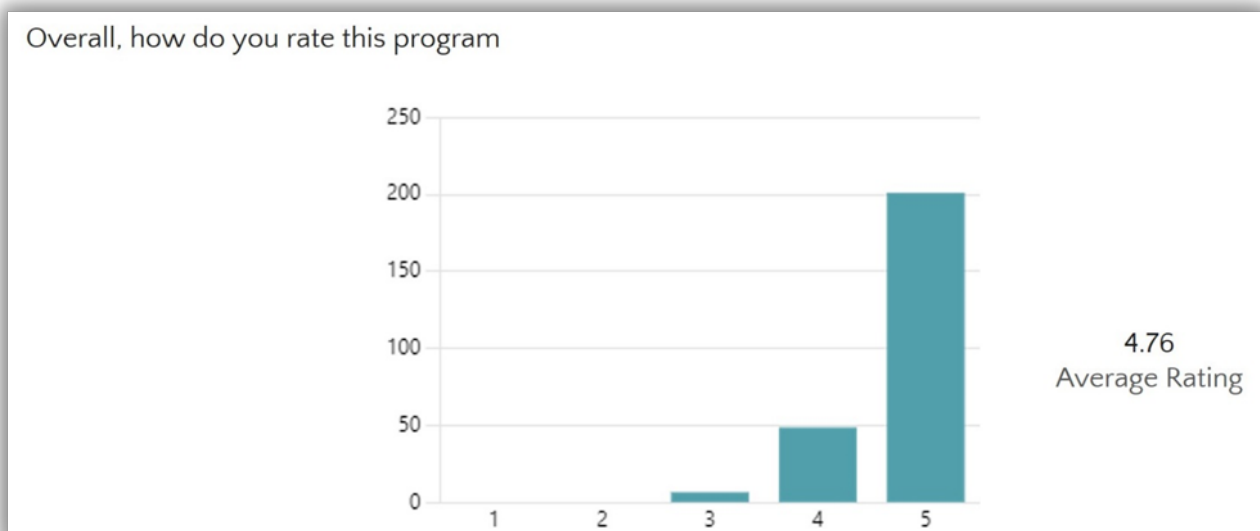


Figure 3: Overall evaluation of the seminar by star rating where one is the lowest, and five is the highest