



اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلٰى نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ  
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# INTERNATIONAL INTERVARSITY PHARMACOLOGY CHALLENGE 2024

By: Dr. Muhammad Huzaimi Haron

The Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine UiTM, in collaboration with Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine & Health Sciences, Monash University Malaysia, and Queen Mary's School of Medicine & Dentistry, UK, recently held an international pharmacology quiz competition called the International Intersarsity Pharmacology Challenge 2024 (IIPaC 2024).

The organizing committee was spearheaded by Professor Dr. Nafeeza Mohd Ismail of UiTM and was supported by all members of the Department of Pharmacology. Questions for the quiz were developed and vetted by the scientific subcommittee, which was headed by Dr. Norhafiza Razali.

This subcommittee consisted of all Department of Pharmacology members together with Professor Dr. Patricia McGettigan and Prof Dr. Vetriselvan Subramaniyan from our two collaborating institutions.



**Figure 1:** Preliminary rounds of IIPaC 2024 held on Zoom.

There were 2 stages of the competition: the preliminary stage and the final rounds. The preliminary stage was held online on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 at 8:30 pm Malaysian time. An online meeting was

initiated using the Zoom platform for the welcoming and introduction of participants, which consisted of medical students (years 1 - 3) from 6 public universities, 7 private universities, and one university from Indonesia, totaling 23 4-person teams (some universities, including UiTM, sent 2 teams). The competition proper was then held on the Quizizz platform, with Dr. Muhammad Huzaimi Haron as the quiz master. At the end of this stage, 10 top-performing teams (including both from UiTM) qualified for the final rounds.

On 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024, the 10 teams who qualified during the preliminary stage were welcomed to the Faculty of Medicine in UiTM's Sungai Buloh Campus for the semi-final and final rounds of IIPaC 2024. Participants were provided with door gifts, which were partially sponsored by Pharmaniaga Berhad.

The welcoming ceremony was held in Auditorium 1 in the academic building and was graced by the presence of Prof. Dr. Fazah Akhtar Hanapiah, dean of the Faculty of Medicine, who delivered the officiating speech. Prof Dr. Fazah was accompanied by her Deputy Deans, which were Associate Prof. Dr. Noor Shafina Mohd Noor (Postgraduate & Professional Training), Prof Dr. Anis Safura Ramli (Research & Innovation), and Associate Prof. Dr. Leny Suzana Sudin (Industry, Community & Alumni Network).

The competition proper was held at the Seminar Room of the Department of Medical Education (DoME). Dr. Norhafiza acted as quiz master, with the assistance of three external judges who were Professor Dr. Nur Azlina Mohd Fahami (UKM), Dr. Ameya Ashok Hasamnis (Taylor's University), and Dr. Else Haniffah Mejia Mohamed (UM).

At the end of the semi-final round, 3 teams qualified for the final round, which were UTAR (from Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman), Geeky Islanders (Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin), and Adrenaline Rush (UiTM). After a short respite, a fierce final competition was displayed by all 3 competing teams, with UTAR and Adrenaline Rush pushing each other all the way into a tie-breaker.

In the end, UTAR prevailed and was crowned champion of IIPaC 2024; they were awarded RM1000 and individual trophies. Our UiTM team, Adrenaline Rush, brought home RM700, while Geeky Islanders of UniSZA pocketed RM500. During the closing and prize-giving ceremony, Prof. Dr. Nafeeza congratulated all teams who participated, with the hope that all universities continue to support future competitions.



**Figure 2:** Organising committee and competition snapshots.



**Figure 3:** Winners of IIPaC 2024.