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FACULTY OF MEDICINE UTM



# IMICROBE COMPETITION: THE BEGINNING OF ACADEMIC TRADITION

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In March 2025, two groups of medical students from UiTM embarked on a journey to Nilai, Negeri Sembilan, to participate in the International Microbiology Competition, IMICROBE'25, hosted by Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM). The teams, consisting of fourth- and fifth-year medical students, were accompanied by their chaperone, Dr. Siti Norbahiyah Awad from the department of Medical Microbiology and Parasitology. The group arrived at the venue at 7.30 a.m., ready for the challenge ahead.

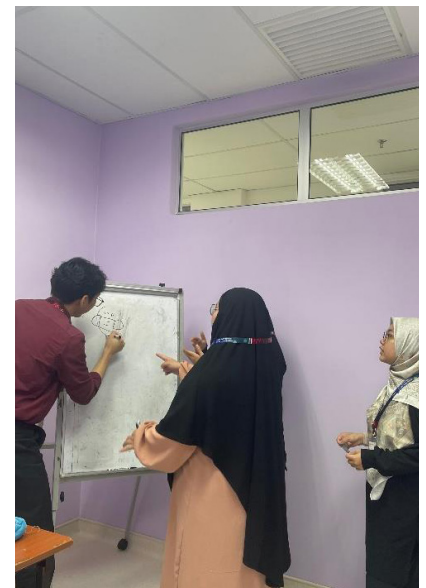
This year's competition was especially fierce, drawing 29 teams from universities across Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, and Singapore. UiTM's participation in IMICROBE is still young, having first competed in 2023 with a single team of third-year students. Building on that foundation, UiTM proudly fielded two teams this year, UiTM 1, the Junior Team, which consisted



UiTM team in action during the first round, Explorace.



Explorace round: solving puzzles and MEQ questions.



UiTM 2 during the explorace round.

of fourth-year students (4th Year): Ahmad Darimi Md Ariffin, Nur Aqilah Hadirah Mahadi, Mukhriz Razali, and Dzul Izzuddin Abdul Khodir. The other team, UiTM 2, the senior team which consisted of final year students: Tengku

Nur Iman Tengku Fadil Hisham, Nurfhatin Atirah Mohamed Zoefry, Nur Sakinah Mohd Shafie, and Firdaus Afiq Faizal.

The senior team, having represented UiTM in 2023, took on an additional role this year, not just as

competitors, but also as mentors. They guided the junior team, sharing insights and strategies from their experience. This spirit of peer mentoring reflected teamwork, leadership, and solidarity.

The competition featured four rounds: an Explorace-style challenge with OSCE and MEQ questions, a group MCQ round with cumulative scoring, a lightning buzzer round for the top 10 teams, and a final viva-style round for the top three finalists.

UiTM teams completed the first two rounds, though they did not advance to the buzzer round. This year, teams from Singapore and Indonesia emerged as champions.

Although the podium eluded us, our students made us proud by showcasing resilience, determination, and the spirit of camaraderie. vRepresenting UiTM at an international platform alongside leading ASEAN universities gave them invaluable experience, testing their knowledge, sharpening their teamwork, and building the confidence to face challenges under pressure. Opportunities to participate in IMICROBE



UiTM teams: UiTM 1, UiTM 2.



ONE with the chaperone, Dr. Norbahiyah Awad.

not only strengthen academic excellence but also nurture future doctors who are adaptable, resilient, and ever curious.

What makes this especially meaningful is not the competition itself, but the culture it is beginning to foster. By sending more than one team, with the other team acting as the mentor for

the others, we hope to promote and encourage teamwork and strategic pursuit of excellence and inspire a lasting passion for medicine and microbiology among our students. With the continued support of the faculty, we look forward to seeing this tradition grow even stronger in the years to come.