

Stepping into Practice:

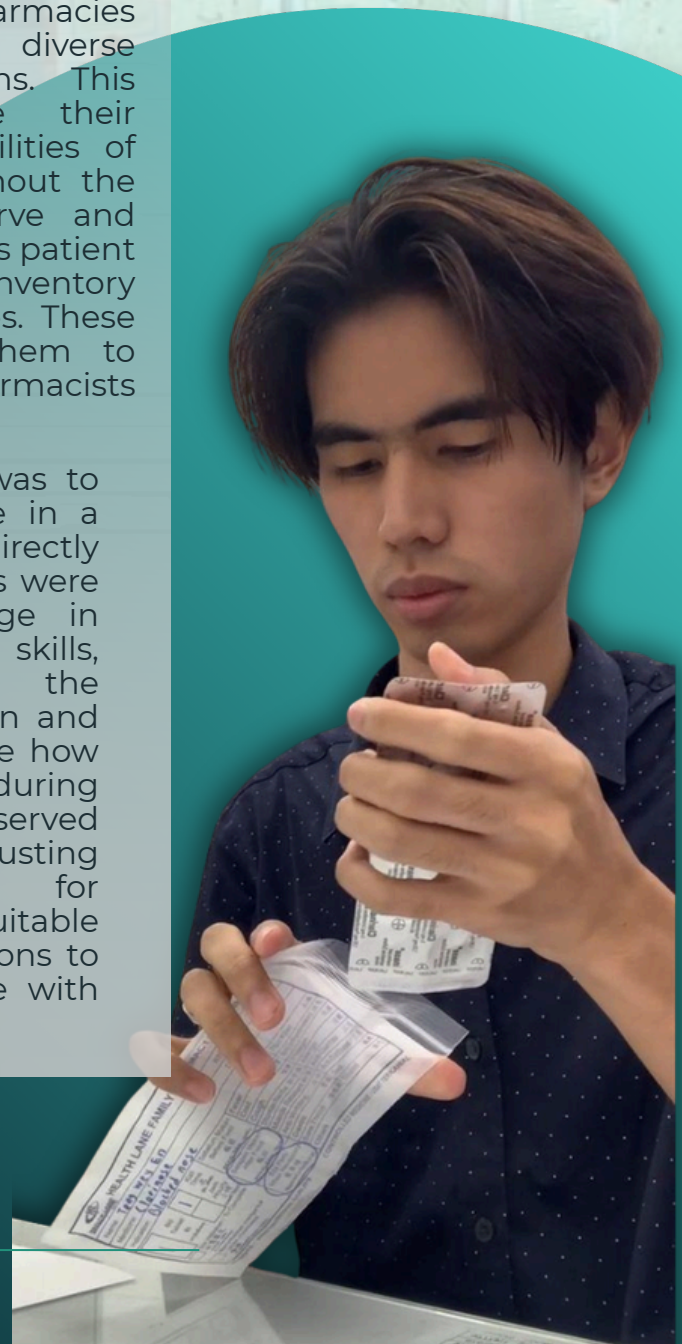
FINAL-YEAR STUDENTS' COMMUNITY PHARMACY EXPERIENCE

By Dr Farhana Fakhira Ismail

The Faculty of Pharmacy recently completed the community pharmacy attachment for its final-year students, involving a total of 170 students in semester 8. This attachment was conducted during the semester break, from 23 February 2026 to 22 March 2026, providing students with a valuable opportunity to transition from classroom-based learning to real-world practice.

Students were placed in community pharmacies nationwide, allowing them to experience diverse practice settings and patient populations. This exposure was designed to enhance their understanding of the roles and responsibilities of pharmacists in primary healthcare. Throughout the attachment, students were able to observe and participate in key professional activities such as patient counselling, medication dispensing, inventory management, and health promotion services. These experiences are essential in preparing them to become competent, patient-centred pharmacists upon graduation.

The primary objective of this attachment was to provide students with hands-on experience in a community pharmacy setting. By engaging directly with patients and healthcare teams, students were able to apply their theoretical knowledge in practical scenarios, develop communication skills, and build professional confidence. As the attachment period fell during the Ramadhan and Syawal period allowed students to experience how community pharmacy practice changes during fasting and festive seasons. Students observed changes in patient behaviour, such as adjusting medication times, increased demand for supplements, and the need to provide suitable advice on safe and effective use of medications to customers who are fasting, especially those with chronic illnesses.



At the conclusion of the attachment, feedback and reflection sessions were conducted involving supervising lecturers, preceptors, and students. These discussions were carried out either through physical visits to the pharmacies or via online platforms. The sessions served as an important platform to evaluate the overall experience, identify areas for improvement, and strengthen collaboration between the university and community pharmacy partners.

The Faculty would like to extend its sincere appreciation to all preceptors (community pharmacists) at all attachment premises who generously accepted our students and provided continuous guidance and support throughout the attachment period. Their commitment in training the future pharmacists plays a crucial role in shaping the next generation of healthcare professionals.

