

FROM *3-Minute Pitches* TO GLOBAL INSIGHTS: FACULTY OF PHARMACY HOSTS 'POSTGRADUATE CONNECT 2026'

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On 8 April 2026, the PG-RAISE committee of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Universiti Teknologi MARA, hosted the 3-Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition 2026. Set against the vibrant backdrop of the "Postgraduate Connect: Research, Wisdom & Raya" programme, the event served as a dynamic platform celebrating research excellence, academic collaboration, and the vital art of effective science communication.

Opening the morning's proceedings, Postgraduate Coordinator Dr Norkasih Ibrahim welcomed guests by emphasising how crucial it is for modern scientists to bridge the gap between complex research and public understanding.

The spotlight then turned to the core challenge: four PhD candidates tasked with condensing years of intricate laboratory work into a strict, three-minute presentation using just a single static slide. The contestants captivated the audience, translating dense scientific methodologies into engaging, accessible narratives.

Following a rigorous evaluation by a distinguished panel of judges, Prof. Dr Kalavathy Ramasamy, Assoc. Prof. Dr Lim Siong Meng and Dr Faizal Hamid, the winners were announced. Joint first prize, with a reward of RM200 each, was awarded to **Muhammad Amirul bin Adli** for his innovative work, 'Propolis + Nanotechnology = Healed Foot Ulcer' (supervised by Assoc. Prof. Dr Rozaini Mohd Zohdi), and **Nur Shahirah binti Shaharudin**, for her compelling presentation, titled 'Fungal Alchemy: Transforming Andrographolide Against Breast Cancer' (supervised by Assoc. Prof. Dr Sadia Sultan). Meanwhile, the second prize of RM100 was secured by **Siti Nurul Izzah binti Mohd Azami** for her study on how 'RUNX1 Drives the Metastasis of Breast Cancer' (supervised by Dr Nur Syamimi Ariffin), while the third prize of RM50 went to **Muhammad Muiz bin Ahmad Jefry** for his research titled 'Breaking the Road: A Custom Cell Line to Halt Cancer Spread' (supervised by Dr Nur Syamimi Ariffin).

"Postgraduate Connect: Research, Wisdom & Raya"

Congratulation **TO THE WINNERS**

1**Muhammad Amirul bin Adli**

'Propolis + Nanotechnology = Healed Foot Ulcer'

1**Nur Shahirah binti Shaharudin**'Fungal Alchemy: Transforming Andrographolide
Against Breast Cancer'**2****Siti Nurul Izzah binti Mohd Azami**

'RUNX1 Drives the Metastasis of Breast Cancer'

3**Muhammad Muiz bin Ahmad Jefry**'Breaking the Road: A Custom Cell Line to Halt
Cancer Spread'

Expanding the day's academic horizons, Prof. Ken Nishimura from the University of Tsukuba delivered an insightful international guest lecture. His presentation on RNA virus vectors and their cutting-edge applications in stem cell research offered attendees a valuable glimpse into global advancements in the pharmaceutical sciences.

The day wrapped up with a festive Hari Raya networking session, giving attendees an informal space to build connections and exchange ideas in a relaxed, celebratory atmosphere. Ultimately, the 3MT Competition 2026 not only highlighted the impressive calibre of the faculty's postgraduate researchers but also reinforced the institution's commitment to nurturing the next generation of global scientific communicators.