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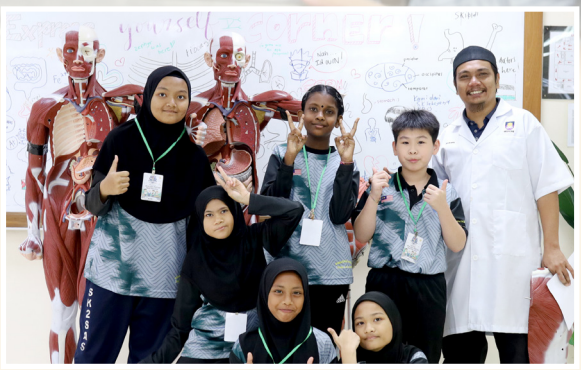
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FACULTY OF MEDICINE UiTM

INSPIRING CURIOSITY THROUGH ANATOMY









Through the Medical Lens

FlexMinda: Can AI change the way we deliver mental healthcare?



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UiTM STRENGTHENS AUTISM SUPPORT THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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YB PUAN ANFAAL SAARI visiting the HASA Booth.

The Selangor State Autism Advocacy Programme 2026 was held at Hospital Al-Sultan Abdullah (HASA), UiTM Puncak Alam, on 13 June 2026, bringing together healthcare professionals, educators, government agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), caregivers and members of the public to promote greater awareness, understanding and acceptance of individuals with autism.

The programme was a collaborative initiative between HASA UiTM, Yayasan Insan Istimewa Selangor (YANIS), the National Autism Society of Malaysia (NASOM) and the Department of Social Welfare (JKM). It focused on strengthening autism awareness, enhancing parenting skills and building a supportive network involving healthcare providers, educational institutions, NGOs and the wider community.

The HASA UiTM team was led by the Department of Community and Ambulatory Services and comprised representatives from the Departments of Psychiatry, Primary Care Medicine, Medical Social Work, Paediatrics, Infrastructure, Infostructure, Corporate Communication, and Auxiliary Police. The programme was officiated by YB Puan Anfaal Saari, Selangor State Executive Councillor for Women's Development and Community Welfare, and attended by Dato' Dr. Khalid Ibrahim, Deputy Director of Professional and Operations, HASA, UiTM; YB Tuan Danial Al-Rashid Haron Aminar Rashid, Chairman of the Selangor OKU Action Council;



PARTICIPANTS explored booths and exhibitions featuring a range of services and autism awareness initiatives.

The programme reinforces that effective autism support extends beyond healthcare. Families, educators, healthcare professionals, policymakers, NGOs and the wider community each have a role in creating environments where individuals with autism are understood, accepted and supported to develop their strengths and potential.

Datuk Che Murad Sayang Ramjan, Director General of the Department of Social Welfare (JKM); Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Roslinda Alias, Director of the Division of Services and Development for Persons with Disabilities, UiTM (U-DServeD); Tuan Ar. Kamarul Hisham Haji Yeop Hashim, Chief Executive Officer of YANIS; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ayuni Che Zakari, Head of the Social Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Unit, Office of Industry, Community and Alumni Network (ICAN) UiTM; and Tuan Patmanathan A/L R. Nalasamy, Director of the Department of Development for Persons with Disabilities, JKM and other organisations committed to advancing the welfare of persons with disabilities.



The morning session featured an educational series introducing evidence-based autism support modules, including MANJA from Universiti Malaya, MANIS from the Faculty of Health Sciences, UiTM, and DREAMS from the Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, UiTM. The modules provided healthcare professionals, special needs providers and parents with practical approaches



FORUM moderated by Datin Dr. Haizlene Abd Halim, with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nurul Azreen Hashim and Dr. Lew Sook Weih as panellists, along with a person living with Autism and a family member of an autistic individual.



A dedicated play area was also available to allow children with autism to have a safe space to do activities while their parents attend the program.



HASA staff, including the Head of the Department of Community and Ambulatory Services, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ilham Ameera, together with distinguished guests.

to developmental support, behavioural management and family-centred care.

The programme also featured exhibitions, health screening and consultation services, alongside art activities, interactive games and experience-sharing sessions. These activities provided opportunities for participants to learn, seek advice and connect with others involved in autism support.

A key highlight was the forum, "Autism Through Different Lenses: A Journey Towards Understanding and Supporting," which brought together perspectives from a person with autism, a parent and sibling of autistic individuals, and a healthcare professional. Moderated by Datin Dr. Haizlene Abd Halim, the discussion offered participants an opportunity to better understand the experiences, challenges and perspectives of individuals and families living with autism.

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creating environments where individuals with autism are understood, accepted and supported to develop their strengths and potential.

The active involvement of UiTM reflects the university's commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration and community engagement. The organisers expressed their appreciation to the strategic partners, speakers, volunteers and participants who contributed to the programme.

As the programme's message reminds us, autism is not a limitation, but a different way of experiencing and understanding the world. As Dr. Temple Grandin aptly put it, "The world needs all kinds of minds."

References:

1. Grandin T. The world needs all kinds of minds [Internet]. TED Conferences; 2010 [cited 2026 Aug 12]. Available from: https://www.ted.com/talks/temple_grandin_the_world_needs_all_kinds_of_minds



GROUP photo of participants with organizers and collaborators.