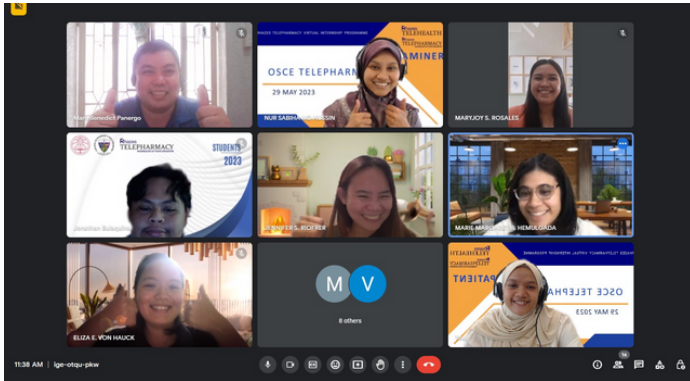


FACULTY OF PHARMACY, UiTM PARTNERS WITH RHAZES TO ENHANCE TELEPHARMACY COMPETENCY



On May 29 and June 10, 2023, ten lecturers from the Department of Clinical Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmacy, UiTM Puncak Alam took part in a telepharmacy virtual Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) session conducted as part of the Rhazes Telepharmacy International Virtual Internship programme. This innovative initiative provided a platform for lecturers to evaluate students'

practical, professional, and communication competencies to provide pharmaceutical care via telepharmacy. The telepharmacy OSCE focuses on assessing their ability to provide patient counselling, medication reviews, and recommendations via telecommunication platforms. With the growing popularity of telehealth services, it is imperative for pharmacy graduates to possess the necessary skills to deliver pharmaceutical care remotely.

A total of 186 final-year pharmacy students from two Philippine institutions, the University of the Immaculate Conception (144 students) and Davao Doctors College (42 students), were evaluated in groups of 10 to 12 students. The telepharmacy virtual OSCE was conducted via Google Meet and Microsoft Teams and consisted of three stations with two preparatory stations. In these stations, students were required to conduct an interview (medical and medication history) with the simulated patient, assess the gathered information, identify drug-related problems (DRPs) and provide recommendations to solve the DRPs. A brief feedback session was conducted at the end of the telepharmacy OSCE session, where the lecturers provided students with constructive comments and guidance on improving their telepharmacy skills, ensuring their readiness for future professional practice.

The Faculty of Pharmacy, UiTM has always been committed to providing quality education and preparing students for the demands of the pharmacy profession. By engaging in the Rhazes Telepharmacy OSCE, the faculty demonstrates its dedication to equipping students with the necessary skills and competencies to excel in telepharmacy practice. The virtual OSCE experience also highlighted the importance of collaboration and knowledge sharing among different institutions and healthcare professionals. It provided a platform for lecturers from various universities to exchange ideas, share best practices, and learn from one another's experiences. This collaboration fosters a culture of continuous improvement and innovation in pharmacy education. In conclusion, the participation of UiTM lecturers in the Rhazes Telepharmacy Virtual OSCE signifies the university's commitment to preparing pharmacy students for the evolving healthcare landscape. By embracing telepharmacy practice and incorporating it into the curriculum, UiTM ensures that its graduates are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in this emerging field. The experience gained from the virtual OSCE not only benefits the lecturers and students directly involved but also contributes to advancing pharmacy education as a whole.

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PRESCRIPTION

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