

# 10th Special Course

## for Undergraduates on Laboratory Rodents (Rats & Mice) Care and Use 2023

Laboratory Animal Facility and Management (LAFAM), Faculty of Pharmacy, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Puncak Alam, has successfully conducted the 10th Special Course for Undergraduates on Laboratory Rodents (Rats & Mice) Care and Use 2023 on December 13th (lecture session) and December 20th (hands-on session). Upon the successful completion of this annual course, a cohort of 15 undergraduate pharmacy students, actively engaged in rodent-related research, will have acquired the basic skills and knowledge essential for handling and care of rodents that will be used in their undergraduate projects. Following the successful completion of this course, the students will proceed to submit their research proposals to the UiTM Committee on Animal Research Ethics (CARE) for approval. Subsequently, they will engage in in-depth research across various domains, encompassing biodistribution studies, investigations into skin penetration and irritation, assessments of anti-inflammatory effects, and examinations of neuroprotective properties.



Lecture sessions were first delivered by the coordinator of LAFAM, Dr. John Shia Kwong Siew; and together with him the senior lecturer from the Faculty of Pharmacy UiTM, Dr. Gurmeet Kaur Surindar Singh. The learning outcomes of these lectures were to deliver the basic concepts and principles of commonly used handling and restraint techniques, routine health monitoring, basic laboratory animal husbandry, anaesthesia and euthanasia, and ethical considerations while using laboratory animals in research.

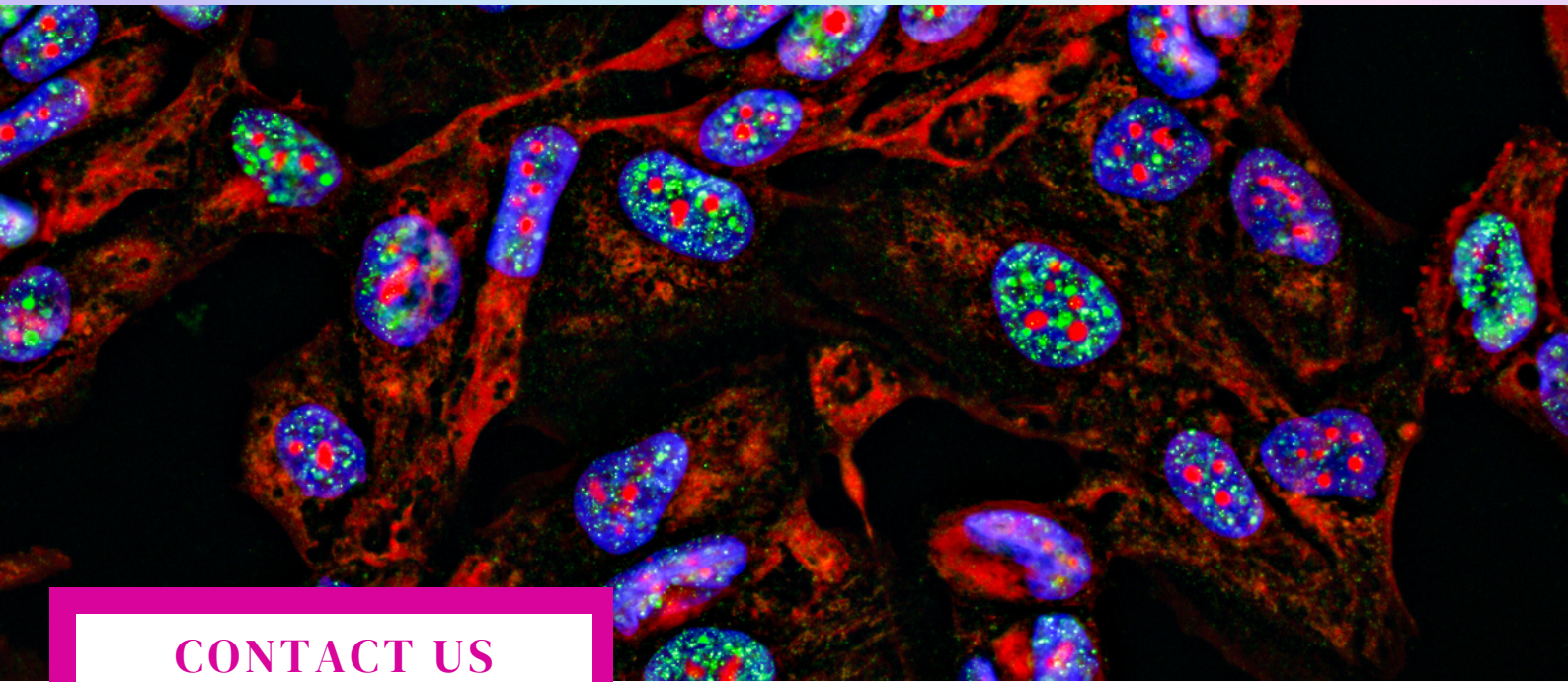
On December 20, a demonstration was conducted by LAFAM staff, led by the Veterinary Officer, Dr. Nursakinah Latifi. This is followed by a hands-on session by the respective participant on proper handling of the rat and mouse, with and without a restraint; substance dose administration via oral gavage; blood collection techniques at various sites; administration of anaesthetic agents intraperitoneally and intravenously; and euthanasia using a carbon dioxide chamber.

The workshop was a great success for the organisers, with all the positive and constructive feedback from the participants. Certificates of completion were presented to all the participants who successfully demonstrated adequate knowledge and skills in laboratory animal care and use. In summary, this special course provided insights to all undergraduate pharmacy students, with the aim of improving the quality of their research and experimental designs and providing a guide on animal ethics and welfare.

**Dr Nursakinah Latifi, Dr. John Shia Kwong Siew, Dr. Gurmeet Kaur Surindar Singh**  
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