

Master the Art of Cell Culture! Workshop 2024

By: Mdm. Nur Fathiah binti Mohd Radzi

From May 28 to May 30, 2024, the "Master the Art of Cell Culture! Workshop 2024" was successfully conducted. This workshop was organized by the Tissue Culture Unit of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) in collaboration with Biomarketing Services (M) Sdn Bhd. The workshop featured a select group of ten participants, comprising students from Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA), Terengganu, and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), Sarawak, alongside staff and students from various UiTM faculties and a centre of excellence, namely the Faculty of Pharmacy, Medicine, Dentistry, and the Atta-ur-Rahman Institute for Natural Products Discovery (AuRIns) centre.

The workshop featured two comprehensive packages comprising lectures, forum sessions, and hands-on activities. Package A, focusing on the basic cell culture techniques and cell cytotoxicity, spanned the initial two days. Participants engaged in lectures and practical sessions that encompassed essential tissue culture topics, including aseptic techniques, media preparations, subculturing cells, counting cells, cell seeding, and the preparation of 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyl-2H-tetrazolium bromide (MTT) assays to determine the IC₅₀ on HepG2 liver cancer cells. Additionally, the attendees also conducted data analysis using GraphPad Prism and Excel. Facilitated by research experts in the field, a special hybrid forum session addressing sources of contamination and challenges in cell culture work was conducted. This session provided valuable guidance for the participants, equipping them with the knowledge and strategies to minimize contamination risk and advance best practices in cell culture work.

Package B, offered on the third day, centred on the fundamental BD FACSVerse Flow Cytometry workshop. This session was led by Mr. Muhammad Zul'atfi bin Rahmat from Biomed Global providing participants with a comprehensive lecture and practical session on operating the BD FACSVerse Flow Cytometer and conducting the MDA-MB-231 cell Annexin V Apoptosis Assay.

The "Master the Art of Cell Culture! Workshop 2024" successfully achieved its goal of providing comprehensive training while fostering a collaborative atmosphere among students and professionals in the field of cell culture. The event not only enriched the participants' knowledge and skills but also provided an excellent opportunity for staff to upgrade their expertise and experience. The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive. Many highlighted the value of the hands-on sessions, which allowed immediate application of the knowledge gained. Overall, there is a promising continued advancement and excellence in cell culture practices.



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