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# *The* **Epitome** */I'pitəmi/*

Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch

*Unleash the epitome of creative writers*

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## SYNOPSIS

The Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Kedah branch is proud to present the first issue of its e-magazine, The Epitome, as our focus to highlight our commitment to contribute to the areas of creative writing.

THE EPITOME aims to provide a platform for writers, educators, academicians, poet, and researchers to share their ideas, findings, knowledge, and experience, particularly on various creative writing genres - personal essays, poetry, short stories, songs, movie scripts, plays, and innovative projects in four different languages ( English, Bahasa Melayu, Mandarin, and Arabic).

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear readers,

It is with great pleasure and immense pride that we, the Academy of Language Studies at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Kedah branch, extend our warmest welcome to all writers and readers to honor all 127 artistic masterpieces. This is indeed a tremendous achievement to commemorate our debut.

We are privileged to offer the platform for the writers to show their talents in creative writing in this magazine, which serves as a testament to our commitment to the area of personal essays, poetry, short stories, songs, movie scripts, plays, and innovative projects. Their invaluable contributions and unwavering commitment to academic excellence have played a vital role in shaping this magazine.

Thank you.

Best regards,

Editorial Board



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# THE ALPHABET SOUP OF STEREOCHEMISTRY


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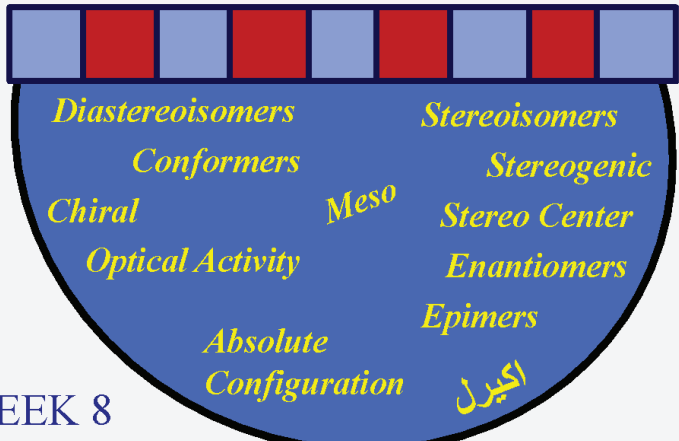
The concept of alphabet soup was applied in various teaching and research areas. For example, Dinman (2007) commented on the impact of the alphabet soup of chemotherapy in pharmacy practices. Meanwhile, synthetic methods for porphyrins were akin to stirring a soup, in the preparation of variously substituted compounds (Senge, 2011). In a medical curriculum, alphabet soup should be used with care (Finn, et al. 2021). Ignorance would often result in wrongly defined acronyms. In UiTM pharmacy program, a stereochemistry word soup (Figure 1) was presented virtually to the pharmacy undergraduates, before the lecture delivery on the topic. Stereochemistry is about the

three-dimensional representation of chemicals such as drug molecules (Parsons, 2014; Clark et al. 2020). It was offered to First Year students in a core subject of Fundamentals of Pharmaceutical Organic Chemistry (PHC414). A two-hour session is dedicated to discuss the geometry of organic compounds. The soup was illustrated as a bowl, accompanied by a spoon, and contained twelve words, related to the topic. The words were placed randomly and include the following terms: "Absolute Configuration", "Achiral (written in Jawi)", "Chiral", "Conformers", "Diastereoisomers", "Enantiomers", "Epimers", "Meso", "Optical Activity", "Stereo Center", "Stereogenic" and "Stereoisomers".

Choose three (3) words in the Alphabet Soup of Stereochemistry and email their definitions to [ibtisam@uitm.edu.my](mailto:ibtisam@uitm.edu.my)



**ATTENDANCE**



**WEEK 8**

Figure 1: The Alphabet Soup of Stereochemistry

Two students' cohorts (September 2020 and 2021 intakes) were invited to choose three words in that alphabet soup (Figure 1). Those words were presented at the start of the final series of the stereochemistry lecture of the PHC414 course, in the eighth week of the semester. There were 174 and 176 students, sequentially from 2020 and 2021 enrolments. They were asked to email the words' definitions to the lecturer-in-charge. The activity was part of the class monitoring and attendance. These pharmacists-in-training would also be able to view and construct the molecular structures via ball and stick models (Prentice Hall Molecular Model Set For Organic Chemistry 1983), and computer-aided program (Molview, 2022).

In principle, the students were able to define their own selected words (Figure 2). For instance, the majority of 2021 students (96%)

gave their responses for the lecture task, by Week 11. The definitions are in line with the explanation given in the course reference and textbook (Gareth, 1996; Dewick, 2006; Sarker, et al. 2019). Some definitions were provided or explained in more than one way, as observed in "Epimer" (Table 1). Some students were required to resubmit their definition of "Meso" since they literally gave the answer as "intermediate / middle", which is not complete and not according to the topic. It is a scientific matter concerning stereochemistry, not an issue of semantics, as experienced by Finn et al. (2021). The concerns about the language of chemistry were thoroughly discussed (Gal, 2019). In short, such word display would encourage the students to gather information with regards to the three-dimensional representation of chemicals and drug molecules.

Dear Humaira Fatini ❤️😊, thank you very much for the effort & attention to this topic👍

**Stereoisomers** → molecules with same molecular formula, same structural formula, same connectivity but different arrangements in space

**Chiral** → ④ different atoms/group attached to a carbon atom

**Enantiomers** → stereoisomers that are mirror images of each other and are optically active

**The words in the soup that are to be defined, are actually both: "Absolute configuration", not only "configuration"**

96% responses for lecture task, received by Week 11 - 6/1/2022

When you define a conformer as a form of a compound having a particular molecular conformation, then, what's a molecular conformation 🤔?

Figure 2: An example of student's interaction via Jamboard, a digital whiteboard, offered by Google

**Table 1: The list of definitions, gathered from students**

No	Words	Definitions
1	Absolute Configuration	Absolute configuration in stereochemistry is the arrangement of atoms or groups of atoms that is described independent of any other atom or group atoms in the molecule.
2	Achiral	The condition of which the object is superimposable on its mirror image.
3	Chiral	A character of a molecule or ion that cannot be superposed on its mirror image.
4	Conformers	Conformers are isomers of a molecule that differs from another isomer by the rotation of a single bond in the molecule.
5	Diastereoisomers	Stereoisomers that are not mirror images of each other
6	Enantiomers	Stereoisomers that are mirror images of each other, optically active.
7	Epimers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Epimers are diastereomers that contain more than one chiral centre but differ from each other in the absolute configuration at only one chiral centre, or</li><li>• each of two isomers with different configurations of atoms about one or several asymmetric carbon atoms present in the molecule, or</li><li>• either one of two stereoisomers that differ in the arrangement of groups on a single asymmetric carbon atom (such as the first chiral centre of a sugar's carbon chain).</li></ul>
8	Meso	Meso is an achiral compound that has chiral centres. It contains two or more identical substituted stereo centres.
9	Optical Activity	The property, displayed by solutions of some compounds, notably many sugars, of rotating the plane of polarization of plane-polarized light.
10	Stereo Centre	Stereo centre is any point in a molecule, though not necessarily an atom, bearing different substituents, such that interchanging any two substituents leads to a stereoisomer.
11	Stereogenic	The centre, axis or plane that is a focus of stereoisomerism.
12	Stereoisomers	Stereoisomers are isomers that have the same connectivity but different arrangement of atoms in space.



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