

**PHARMACY STUDENTS' INTER-PROFESSIONAL  
PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS THE PHARMACY  
PROFESSION IN MALAYSIA**

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## ABSTRACT

Interprofessional in term of the health care system is said as a group of people such as doctors, nurses and pharmacists that have different backgrounds in practical training, but work together in one organization to achieve one ultimate goal which is to effectively serve the community. The aim of this study is to investigate the perceptions of pharmacy students in Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) towards interprofessional in the pharmacy profession in Malaysia by distributing questionnaire that consists of two sections, demographic section and the survey on the perception of pharmacy students regarding the interprofessional collaboration in a health care team to the first, second, third and final year students of faculty pharmacy in UiTM. The majority of the respondents were female ( $n = 253$ , 92.0%) while only 8.0% from the male students ( $n = 22$ ). The result shown that there was no significant difference in the interprofessional perception between the variable groups except for the academic year ( $p = 0.000$ ), hospital or community pharmacy training ( $p = 0.003$ ) and attendance to a seminar or conference ( $p = 0.045$ ) within the last six months. Third year students have better thought on the importance of professional cooperation between health care students. Fourth year students have the highest score compared to other study years on perception of actual cooperation resource sharing within and across professions. In a conclusion, fourth and third year students have better perception towards interprofessional collaboration between health care professionals. Hospital or community training, attendance to pharmacy seminar and conference greatly affect the attitude of students towards interprofessional collaboration.

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Overview

These past decades have seen the development of pharmacy profession and it is expected to be more exhilarating in the future due to the modern health care system. The modern health care system would lead to the new roles and scopes for pharmacists in serving the society due to the flexibility of the profession as a pharmacist (Sing, 2001).

Interprofessional in term of the health care system is said as a group of people such as doctors, nurses and pharmacists that have different backgrounds in practical training, but work together in one organization to achieve one ultimate goal which is to effectively serve the community. There are some misconceptions for the word “inter” which is it is not only between two groups of people, but it also can be more than one group of people. Those groups of professional which are doctors, pharmacists and nurses are focusing on the same objectives and have different but complementary roles (Leathard, 2002).

Interprofessional collaboration in health care is very crucial because it determines the safety and the health of the patients as health care field is involving the life of humans. Therefore, interprofessional education is important as the preparation for the future pharmacists before they enter the real work environment as pharmacists (Bainbridge et al., 2010).