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PERSONNEL

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‘A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A MEDICAL LABORATORY PERSONNEL’

By: Mr. Muhamad Idham Mohamed

Picture 1: Anatomic Pathology and Medical Microbiology & Parasitology Team

Ask any employee how his or her job is and more often than not, you will get a dismissive response. For Associate Professor Dr. Noor Kaslina Mohd. Kornain and team, they enjoy working as laboratory personnels despite their diversified professions. They feel that their job enable them to feel a deep sense of gratitude for being able to help and serve people. Indeed, laboratorians are important partners in healthcare.

A.P. Dr. Noor Kaslina as a Head of Laboratory Services in UiTMMSC and her fellow laboratory physicians work as pathologists where clinical tests are carried out on patient’s specimens to obtain information regarding their health status to aid in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of diseases. There are five other pillars in UiTM Pathology Team namely Dr. Mardiana Abdul Aziz (Head of Anatomic Pathology), Dr. Nadzimah Mohd Nasir (Head of Chemical Pathology), Dr. Siti Farah Alwani Mohd Nawī (Head of Medical Microbiology & Parasitology),



Picture 2 : A.P. Dr. Noor Kaslina



Dr. Fatmawati Kamal (Head of Hematology & Transfusion Medicine) and Dr. Ruzi Hamimi Razali (Head of Molecular Pathology/Medical Genetics).

UiTM medical laboratory services' main goal is to assist physicians in finding answers and solutions, where the results from laboratory diagnosis help them deliver the best care to the patients. As laboratory experts, pathologists work closely with science officers (SO) who are in charge of laboratory management as well as the implementation of complex and high-tech diagnostic tests. They are trained officers who received education in medical laboratory science such as medical laboratory technology, biomedical, microbiology, and others. They can be involved in several sub-fields namely in chemistry, microbiology, biomedical, forensic, and genetic services.



Picture 3: PPUiTM Selayang Laboratory Team

Currently, there are six science officers in UiTM medical laboratory which are Dr. Rafezah Razali, Ms. Sarina Ali, Mdm. Che Wan Juliana Che Wan Jaafar, Ms. Halimatun Radziah Othman, Mdm. Nozilawati Mohd Isa, and Mr. Muhamad Idham Mohamed.

Apart from SO, there are also medical laboratory technologists (MLT) who have been trained in medical laboratory technology and have at least a diploma or equivalent. It is generally known that MLTs are the backbone of all pathology services. MLTs who are accredited with an advanced qualification such as post-basic certificate/advanced diploma will be placed according to their sub-specialties such as histology, cytology, hematology, microbiology and chemical pathology, Health attendants, clerks, and laboratory assistants are also present to help with the laboratory works.

Among the challenges reported by laboratory personnels include little acknowledgment of the jobs, as medical laboratories are synonymous with behind-the-scene workers. There is an assumption that those who work in the laboratory are just technicians, despite having significant professions such as specialists, scientists, and technologists in the field. Medical laboratory staffs are also vulnerable to various hazards including biological, chemical, and radiation; for instance, exposure to HIV sources and experimental reagents such as sodium azide.

Lastly, a career as a medical laboratory worker offers exciting field to venture into despite faced with various challenges. With the latest technological developments in the medical laboratory becoming increasingly clear, it is hoped that it will be a field of choice for the next generation.

Picture 4: Chemical Pathology and Hematology & Transfusion Medicine Team

