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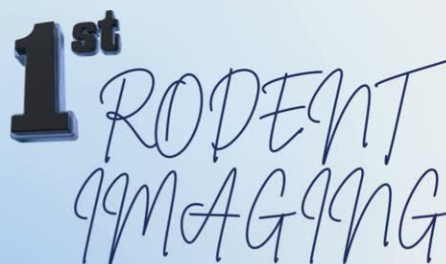
The 1st Rodent Imaging Workshop Opens New Research Frontiers

By: Assoc.Prof. Dr. John Shia Kwong Siew, DVM, PhD

On 29th July 2025, the Faculty of Pharmacy, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Puncak Alam, in collaboration with the Laboratory Animal Science Association of Malaysia (LASAM) and Neoscience Sdn. Bhd., organized the 1st Rodent Imaging Workshop, a groundbreaking event that brought together researchers, veterinarians, technologists, and students from across the country in a one-day immersive training.

The air at Laboratory Animal Facility & Management (LAFAM), UiTM Puncak Alam, where the program took place was buzzing with excitement as participants donned their laboratory coats and gloves, stepping into the world of high-resolution, real-time in vivo imaging. With state-of-the-art ultrasound technology by Revvity Singapore, the workshop offered not just theory but hands-on experiences with live rodents, reshaping how we study anatomy, disease progression, and therapeutic effects, all without the need for invasive techniques.

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Kicking off the day was a heartfelt welcome from Dr. Kartini Jasni, the Chairperson of the workshop, followed by an inspiring officiation by Associate Professor Dr. Mohd Shahezwan Abd. Wahab, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy (Research and Innovation). In his speech, he emphasised the importance of bridging ethics, innovation, and interdisciplinary collaboration to move preclinical science forward. And truly, the workshop delivered on all fronts.

Participants were captivated by Dr. Jeremy Yeo, Revvity's Senior Regional Product Specialist, who masterfully introduced the principles of rodent anatomy and ultrasound imaging, with clear insights and sharp visuals that kept everyone leaning forward. His session on fetal imaging and microvascular case studies was a crowd favourite, sparking lively discussions even during lunch. Adding to the academic richness, Associate Professor Dr. Anwar Norazit from Universiti Malaya brought an exciting dimension to the table, ultrasound imaging in zebrafish, offering a glimpse into the future of aquatic research applications.

But what truly set this workshop apart was the hands-on component. In small guided groups, participants practiced animal handling, restraint, anaesthesia, fur removal, and scanning techniques under the supervision of trained facilitators from LAFAM. Laughter mixed with curiosity filled the room as participants learned to scan the liver and kidneys and even identify pregnancy stages in rodents, a first for many! From live scans to image interpretation and contrast-enhanced sessions using microbubbles, every module was carefully designed to empower participants with confidence and clarity.

A special mention goes to Assistant Professor Dr. Mohd Hamzah Mohd Nasir, LASAM's designer and webmaster, whose seamless digital coordination and visual design elevated the event's visibility and professionalism. Kudos also to Neoscience for their generous support and interactive booth.

As the day concluded, Associate Professor Dr. John Shia Kwong Siew, president of LASAM and coordinator of LAFAM, UiTM, declared the workshop officially closed but with a hopeful note: "This is just the beginning of a new wave in ethical, efficient, and impactful preclinical research in Malaysia." Indeed, when science, compassion, and collaboration align, the future comes into focus. By the time the workshop session ended, smiles filled the hall, a sign that the workshop had left a mark not only in their notebooks but also in their minds and careers.

