

# IN MEMORIAM



**PROFESSOR DR. RUSLI ISMAIL**  
**1953 – 2023**

It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of the passing of Professor Dr. Rusli Ismail. In the world of pharmacy and healthcare education, certain individuals shine as beacons of inspiration. Professor Dr. Rusli Ismail, whose journey was as distinguished as it was impactful, is undoubtedly one of them.

Professor Rusli was a visionary, whose contributions have reshaped the landscape of pharmacy practice and education in Malaysia and beyond. Professor Rusli began his career at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), where he blazed trails by establishing the country's first clinical pharmacokinetics and therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) service. This pioneering effort has left an enduring mark, as nearly all major hospitals in our country now boast of such critical services.

His dedication to advancing the field of pharmacy led him to play a pivotal role in the development of clinical pharmacy and the Master in Pharmacy (MPharm) program in clinical pharmacy. He made significant contributions during his tenure at USM (School of Medical Sciences, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Institute for Research in Molecular Medicine, InForMM), Universiti Malaya, Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin, and several other esteemed institutions. We also remember Professor Rusli's invaluable role as an academic advisor for the Faculty of Pharmacy at UiTM.

Professor Rusli's journey in the realm of pharmacogenetics was equally influential. He became the leader of the first Malaysian group of scientists to publish research in pharmacogenetics, garnering national and international recognition. Throughout his career, Prof. Rusli displayed an unwavering commitment to research, earning several awards both locally and internationally, including a gold medal in Geneva for innovations and inventions. His expertise was sought not only by academic institutions but also by the industry, where he served as consultants to various organisations.

Driven by compassion, he played a vital role in shifting the paradigms of managing drug addicts in our country. His tireless efforts with the Malaysian AIDS Council Harm Reduction Working Group and various other institutions were instrumental in effecting change, and many of his recommendations are now accepted in government policies.

Professor Rusli was not just a scholar and an advisor; he was a mentor, shaping the careers of numerous students and researchers. He touched lives, not only through his extensive research and academia but also through his service to various professional societies and organisations. As we bid farewell to an exceptional educator, researcher, and advocate, we also celebrate the memory of a dear friend and confidant. Let us remember Professor Dr. Rusli's profound legacy and strive to carry forth the torch of his vision, ensuring that his contributions continue to shape the future of pharmacy and healthcare.

May his soul rest in peace, and may his memory be a source of inspiration.

**Associate Prof. Dr. Mahmathi Karuppanan**

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