

# Workshop on Drug Screening & Pharmacological Evaluations

On 12th and 13th September 2023, Faculty of Pharmacy, UiTM, hosted a two-day program titled "Workshop on Drug Screening & Pharmacological Evaluations". This workshop is intended to educate researchers on how to conduct pharmacological and toxicological evaluations for drug development. The program was attended by UiTM students as well as external participants with medical, biomedical, pharmacy, and dental backgrounds.

The workshop covered the basics of drug development beginning with preliminary toxicological evaluations of a new drug or chemical entity. Five lecture sessions were conducted covering the various aspects of drug discovery and evaluation such as the development of lead molecule, steps involved in the optimization of lead molecule, target-based drug discovery, physiology-based drug discovery, and general steps of various in-silico techniques. The lecture series also encompassed basic guidelines on Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and drug testing in preclinical stages.



Professor Dr. Kalavathy Ramasamy, Deputy Dean, Research & Innovation, Faculty of Pharmacy, UiTM, addressed the program's opening session. The workshop's speakers and facilitators were Associate Professor Dr. Hanish Singh Jayasingh Chellammal, Associate Professor Dr. Mizaton Hazizul Hasan, Dr. Aisyah Hasyila Jahidin, Dr. Maziana Mahamood, Assoc. Prof. Dato' Dr. Vellayan Subramaniam, Mr. Muhammad Harith Zulkifli, and Dr. Nur Sakinah Binti Latifi from the Department of Pharmacology & Pharmaceutical Chemistry. The scientific officers who facilitated the workshop were Mr. Mohd Alimukhti Mansor, Mr. Hizwan Nizam Abd Rahman, and Mrs. Nurul Farhanah Misripin.

The workshop adhered to ethical standards regarding the use of animals in accordance to animal ethics and the experimental techniques were approved by UiTM Care. The program provided hands-on training in various stages of preclinical drug screening including toxicological evaluations. The workshop also rendered participants with practical knowledge regarding the design of drug screening experiments, understanding of various preclinical animal models of diseases, and the interpretations of drug screening outcomes. The participants were also exposed to the preclinical applications of various statistical methods used for drug evaluation.

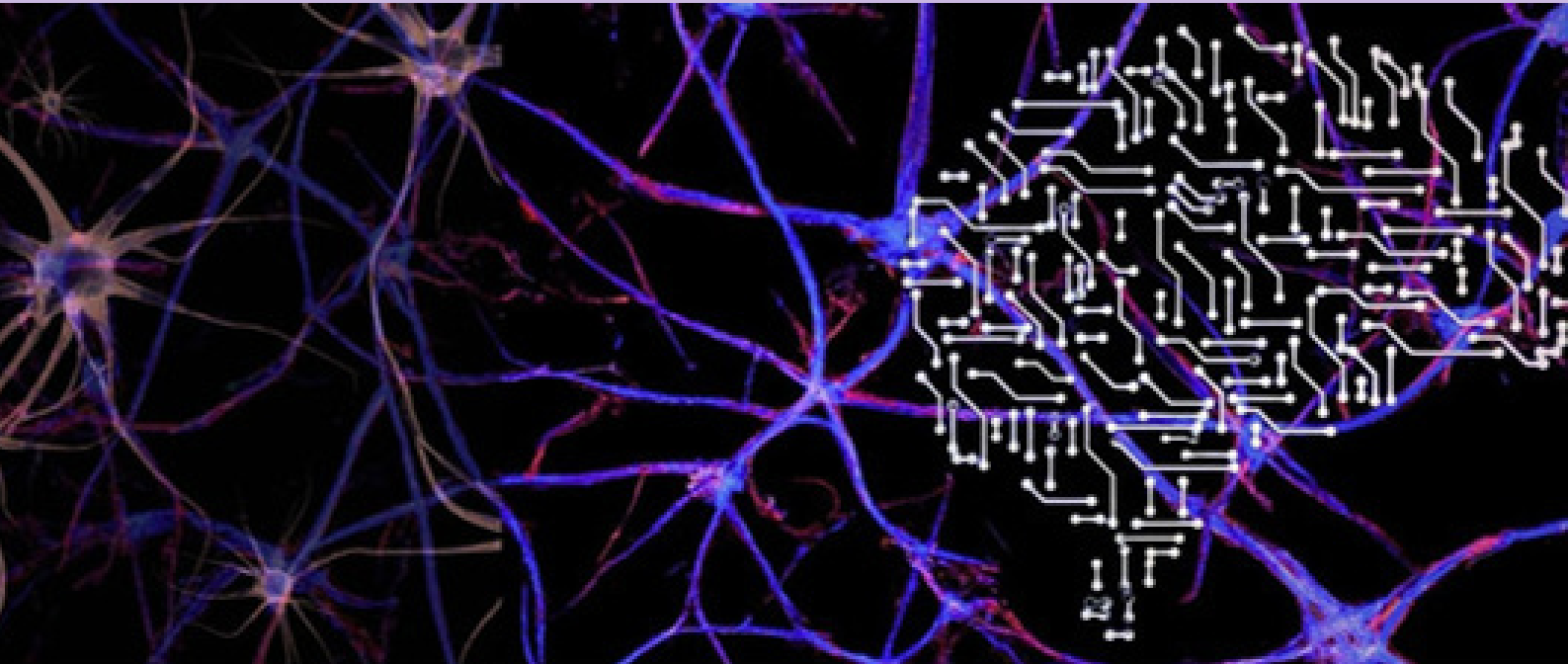
The feedback from the participants was encouraging, indicating the accomplishment of good drug screening skills. The program was concluded with closing remarks by Professor Dr. Kalavathy Ramasamy, Deputy Dean, Research & Innovation, Faculty of Pharmacy, UiTM.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hanish Singh Jayasingh Chellammal, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mizaton Hazizul Hasan, Assoc. Prof. Dato' Dr. Vellayan Subramaniam, Dr. Aisyah Hasyila Jahidin, Dr. Maziana Mahamood, Mr. Muhammad Harith Zulkifli Dr. Nur Sakinah Latifi, Associate Prof. Dr. Mahmathi Karuppannan  
Faculty of Pharmacy, UiTM

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### Illustrator:

Mdm. Nurul Izzati Ismail

## PRESCRIPTION

Faculty of Pharmacy,  
Universiti Teknologi MARA,  
Kampus Puncak Alam,  
42300 Bandar Puncak Alam, Selangor.

 @pharmacyuitm




 @pharmacy\_uitm




 Faculty of Pharmacy UiTM



 <https://pharmacy.uitm.edu.my/>



 +603-3258 4645

 korporatff@uitm.edu.my