NUMed team wins intervarsity challenge

NEWCASTLE University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed) was crowned the best among 31 teams from 16 medical universities in Malaysia at the fourth Intervarsity Medical Quiz Challenge - IMQC 4.0 - held at the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Medical Centre (UKMMC) on April 20.
IMQC 4.0 received overwhelming response from 16 medical universities, not only from local universities such as Universiti Malaya and Universiti Sains Malaysia, but also private universities such as NUMed, Taylor’s University and International Medical Medical University.

As champs, NUMed walked away with a cash prize of RM1,000. The first runner-up was Universiti Malaya while Universiti Teknologi Mara won the third place, taking home RM600 and RM400 respectively.

"I think the best part of this competition is that I got to work with such a dynamic, calm and quick-witted team.

“We came in mainly with the desire to learn; hence it really did catch us by surprise when we were told that we made it to the finals!

“Winning the competition was definitely a huge milestone for us, but at the end of the day, we treasure the knowledge, teamwork and friendship we’ve managed to secure,” said final year medical student Steven Tan Heng Sern from the winning NUMed team.

The intervarsity quiz is an annual event held by the UKM Tun Dr Ismail Residential College in collaboration with the university’s Faculty of Medicine.

The objectives of this year’s event were to provide a platform for medical students in Malaysia to compete and sharpen their minds, as well as to introduce UKM-style examinations to the competitors.

The competition was not a sole effort by UKM, but a collaboration between all the medical faculties in Malaysia, which saw senior lecturers and consultants from medical universities contributing to a bank of questions.

The questions were then validated and finalised by a panel of professionals from a variety of fields in Medicine, led by Prof Dr Mohd Shahrir Mohamed Said, who is a senior lecturer and consultant rheumatologist and also the Head of the Rheumatology Unit at UKMMC.

Participants were required to compete in three preliminary rounds - One Best Answer, Extended Matching Items and Objective Structured Practical Examination.
(OSPE). The OSPE session showcased a great effort from the committee as this particular round gave special exposure to wet specimens from UKM’s Anatomy Department, which is currently not available in many universities in Malaysia.

“'I am really surprised!"

“It is amazing and exciting to find that the committee was able to provide wet specimens in this competition.

“You know, exposure to these are really limited. We are glad that we were able to learn a lot from this competition!” said Gan Soon Jian, a first year medical student from International Medical University.

After a day of competition, four final teams made it to the Rapid Fire final round. It was a group round where the teams took turns to answer a set of 20 medical questions within two minutes. It was indeed a challenging round as only the best could overcome the anxiety and stress to get the answers in accurately and on time.

The closing ceremony was held at the Preclinical building of UKMMC and was officiated by UKM’s Faculty of Medicine dean Prof Dr Raja Affendi Raja Ali, who is also a consultant physician & gastroenterologist at UKMMC. He was accompanied by Assoc Prof Dr Mohamad Hanafi Ahmad Damanhuri, the principal of Tun Dr Ismail Residential College.

In his speech, Prof Raja Affendi emphasised the need of higher order thinking skills and soft skills in order to become a successful doctor.

Medical students should equip themselves with knowledge and the ability to be critical in their thinking in order to stand out among competitors in the field, he added.

“I would like to challenge all of you, to see where you will be in five years’ or even in 10 years’ time.

“Be clear of your goals and be visionary in building your career!” said Prof Raja Affendi.

TAGS / KEYWORDS:
NUMed, Intervarsity Challenge, Ukm, UkMMC