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FACULTY OF MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCES

ATRIA

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MEDICAL FMHS

Little Lives Big Care

Physical & Infectious Illness

Learning & Development Conditions

Parenting & Everyday Care

Community & Support

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FACULTY PROFILE

UNIMAS
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SARAWAK
FACULTY OF MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCES

Vision

A Global Leader in Medicine and Health Sciences Education.

Mission

To enhance the health and well-being of the global community through the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, and strategic collaboration.

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

It is a great pleasure to see the fourth issue of ATRIA. Each edition of ATRIA has sought to highlight topics that matter deeply to our community, and this issue is no exception. In this edition, we turn our attention to those who represent our future our children.

The theme, *"Little Lives, Big Care"*, reminds us that the health and well-being of children require more than medical treatment alone. It calls for a collective commitment from families, healthcare professionals, educators, and communities to ensure that every child has the opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive.

Within these pages, readers will find a diverse collection of articles covering childhood illnesses, learning and developmental issues, parenting and caregiving, as well as the importance of early screening and timely intervention. Together, these topics highlight the many dimensions of child health and the vital role that prevention, awareness, and compassionate care play in shaping healthier futures.

At the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, we remain committed to advancing health through education, research, and community engagement. By fostering greater understanding of children's health needs, we hope to contribute towards a society where every child receives the care and support they deserve.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the editorial team and all contributors for their dedication in producing this issue of ATRIA. I hope this edition informs, inspires, and reminds us of the profound responsibility we share in caring for the youngest members of our society. For in every child we nurture today lies the promise of a healthier and brighter tomorrow.

Happy reading.

Prof. Dr. Asri bin Said
Dean

Dear Readers,

This issue brings **Little Lives, Big Care** into focus, reminding us how thoughtful care can make a lasting difference in a child's life. Caring for children is not merely about treating illness; it is about nurturing growth, protecting potential, and shaping healthier futures.

There is a well-known saying, ***"It takes a whole village to raise a child."*** In medicine, that village extends far beyond the clinic walls. It includes families, communities, educators, nurses, doctors, allied health professionals, policymakers, and advocates; each playing a vital role in supporting a child's wellbeing. When this village stands united, care becomes comprehensive, compassionate, and sustainable.

This issue not only explores clinical insights and innovations, but also highlights parent sharing; powerful narratives that remind us of lived experiences, resilience, and the value of partnership in care.

As you read through this issue, we hope it gently reminds you that every role matters, and that your care, compassion, and commitment can make a meaningful difference in a child's life.

Together, let us continue offering big care to the little lives who trust us most.

Amelia Mohamad
Chief Editor

The Importance of Preventing Medical Negligence in Paediatric Care

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Noorzilawati binti Sahak
Public Health Medicine Specialist

Medical negligence occurs when a healthcare provider fails to meet the standard of care, resulting in harm. To establish negligence, four elements must be proven: duty of care, breach of duty, causation, and damages. In paediatric cases, this responsibility is heightened because children depend entirely on adults for decision-making and care.

Delays in treatment are particularly critical. For example, failure to promptly manage respiratory distress or infection in infants can rapidly lead to deterioration. In some cases, systemic issues such as understaffing, poor communication, and lack of supervision contribute significantly to these outcomes.

The impact extends beyond physical harm. Families may experience emotional trauma, financial strain, and loss of trust in the healthcare system. Healthcare providers, on the other hand, may face legal consequences, disciplinary action, and reputational damage.

When a child becomes ill, parents place immense trust in healthcare providers. However, when care falls below expected standards, the consequences can be devastating especially for children, who are among the most vulnerable patients.

Several forms of medical negligence are commonly seen in Malaysia. These include failure to obtain proper informed consent, diagnostic and medication errors, delays in treatment, and inadequate monitoring after procedures. In children, even small errors such as incorrect medication dosage or delayed recognition of symptoms can lead to serious complications or lifelong disability.

In Malaysia, medical practice is guided by the Medical Act 1971 and professional codes of conduct, while negligence claims are addressed under the Civil Law Act 1956. These frameworks emphasise patient safety, ethical practice, and accountability.

Preventing medical negligence requires continuous training, effective communication, and strong healthcare systems. Ultimately, all healthcare providers must uphold the principle of “first, do no harm”, ensuring that every child receives safe, compassionate, and competent care.

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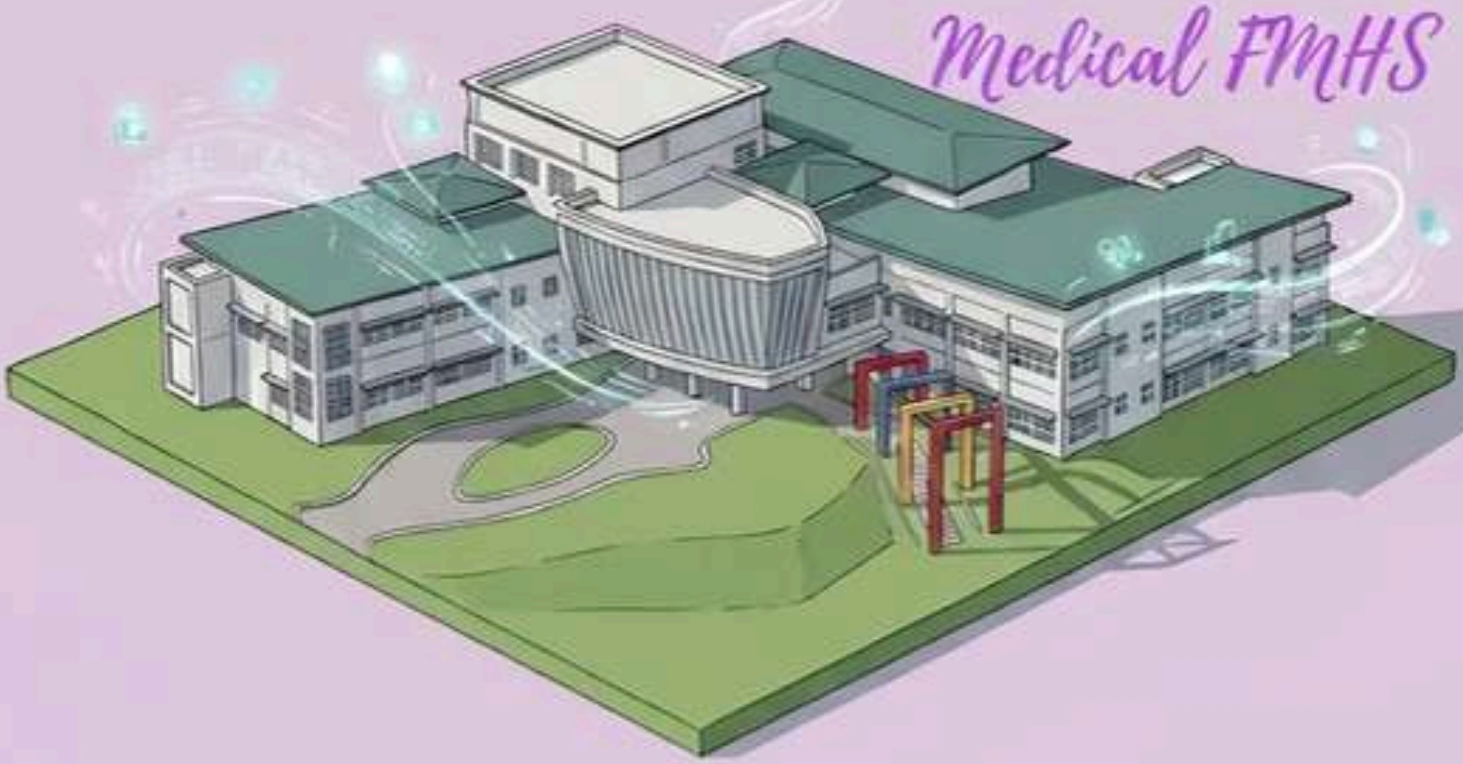

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