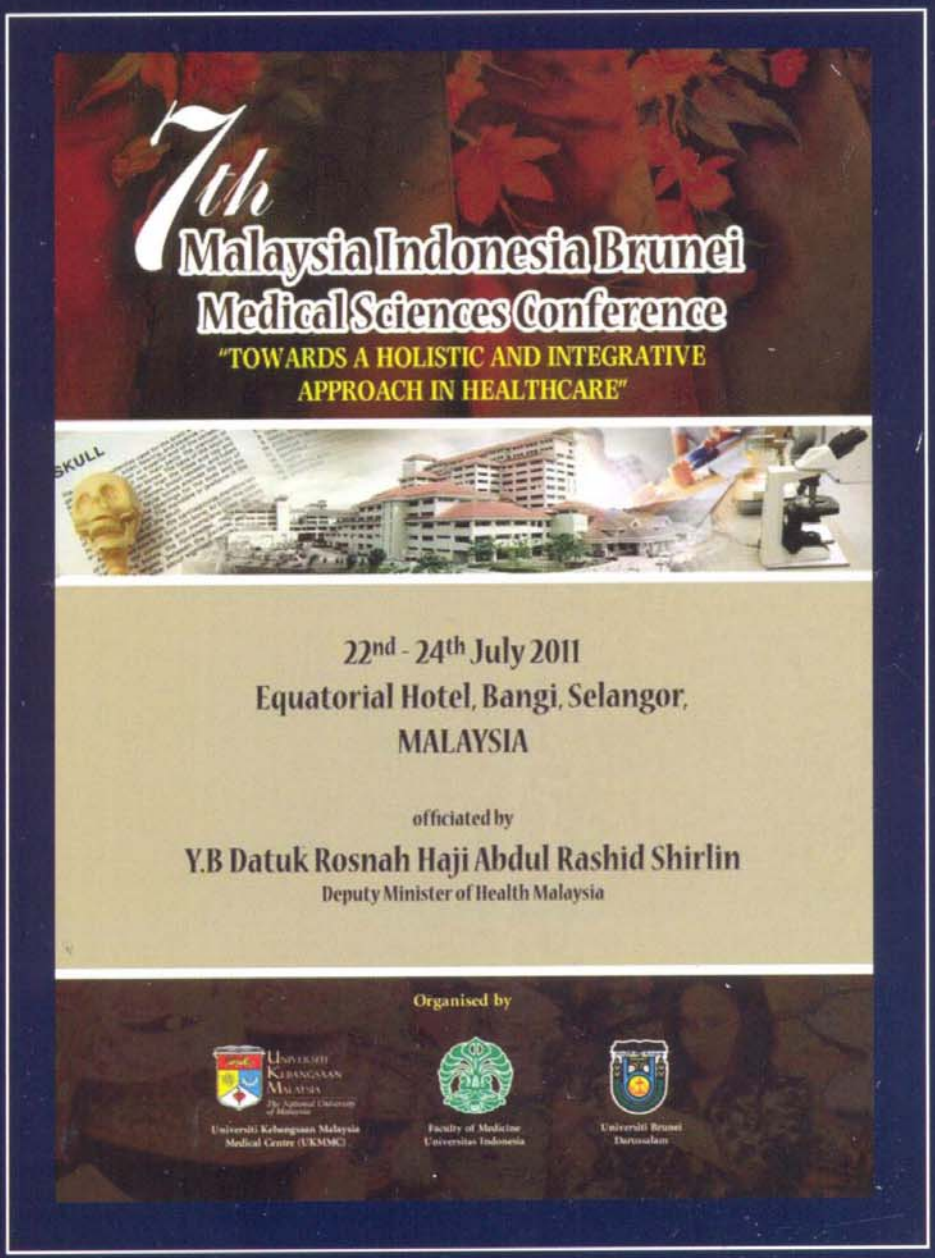
Volume 6, No. 1 (Supplement)
June 2011
ISSN 1823-2140

The National University with an INTERNATIONAL REACH

UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA
National University of Malaysia

MEDICINE & Health

The Official Journal of The Faculty of Medicine UKM



DOES THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN *TAMHIDI* COURSE PREDICT THE PERFORMANCE IN PRE-CLINICAL COURSE? - A PRELIMINARY CORRELATION STUDY OF UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL TRAINING IN UNIVERSITI SAINS ISLAM MALAYSIA

Wan Noraini WS[1], Nurzarina AR[1], Shahrul NAZ[2], Nooriah MS[3]

Department of [1]Medical Science I, [2]Emergency and Trauma Unit and [3]Medical Science II, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia, 55100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Background:
The academic scores of foundation year(s) are commonly used to select eligible undergraduate students to enter medical school. The medical curriculum assumes successful completion of foundation courses will have a positive impact on students' performance during medical programme. The aim of this study is to examine the relationship between *Tamhidi* (foundation) subjects and End of Semester 1 pre-clinical subjects during Year 1 medical programme in Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia.

Materials and Methods:
All students who have completed *Tamhidi* programme and entered Year 1 medical programme for the session 2010/2011 were included (n=52). Marks from Semester 1 and 2 for Chemistry and Biology (*Tamhidi)*, as well as marks from Year 1 End of Semester 1 for Biochemistry, Anatomy and Physiology (pre-clinical) were retrieved. The semester marks for each *Tamhidi* subject comprised the marks for continuous assessment (40%) and final semester examination (60%). The final marks for each *Tamhidi* subject were taken as an average from both semesters. For pre-clinical subjects, the final marks of each subject were calculated by adding continuous assessment (30%) and End of Semester 1 examination (70%). The correlation between Chemistry & Biochemistry, Biology & Anatomy, Biology & Biochemistry and, Biology & Physiology were analysed.

Results:
The study population comprised 21 male and 31 female students. The Pearson correlation was highest between Physiology & Biology (r=0.665; good correlation). This was followed by Anatomy & Biology (r=0.590; moderate correlation), and Biochemistry & Biology (r=0.581; moderate correlation). The lowest correlation was between Biochemistry & Chemistry (r=0.504; moderate correlation).

Conclusion:
The study suggests a positive relationship between *Tamhidi* scores and students' performance in the first year of medical school. Performance in foundation studies may be useful in predicting the performance of medical students during pre-clinical years.

Keywords:
medical education, *Tamhidi* (foundation), pre-clinical