

Current Issues in PHARMACY

Qamar Uddin Ahmad



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Editor

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CHAPTER 3

TOBACCO CONTROL EDUCATION IN PHARMACY: FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE

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Tobacco smoking is recognized as a major cause of preventable diseases and premature deaths worldwide. It is estimated that more than five million smokers die annually due to smoking related diseases globally (WHO, 2008). The death toll is expected to escalate to more than eight million deaths annually by 2030 if the current smoking patterns continue (Peto et al., 1994). Almost half of the long-term smokers die of a smoking-related disease (Doll et al., 1994). In Malaysia, about 10,000 Malaysians die every year from smoking attributable diseases, mainly cardiovascular, cancer and stroke (Ministry of Health, 2003).

Based on the 2006 Third National Health Morbidity and Mortality Survey (NHMS III), of at least 3 million current smokers in Malaysia, nearly half of Malaysian men and 0.4 million teenagers are smoking (Institute for Public Health, 2008). There are approximately another 3 million passive smokers aged 18 and above, with women making up almost a quarter. While the reported smoking rate of 1.6% among female is still considered low, more recent finding is worrying. A study conducted by Foong & Yen (2008) revealed 8% of the teenage girls and women, aged 13-25 years, were current smokers and 20% were ever smoker. Sadly, about