

# MENTORING UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL STUDENTS: PERCEPTION OF FACULTIES ON MENTORING PROGRAM IN MELAKA MANIPAL MEDICAL COLLEGE

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**Categories:** Medical Education

**Keywords:** medical students, faculty, malaysia, mentoring

**How to cite this poster**

Swe K, Bhardwaj A (2015) MENTORING UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL STUDENTS: PERCEPTION OF FACULTIES ON MENTORING PROGRAM IN MELAKA MANIPAL MEDICAL COLLEGE. Cureus 7(9): e.

## Abstract

**Background:** Mentoring was developed in the USA in the 1970s within large private-sector corporations to support junior staff. Since the 1990s, mentoring programs have been introduced in various medical professions, most frequently in the field of nursing. Mentoring is key to a successful career in medicine. Mentor programmes are increasingly common in undergraduate medicine and dentistry and many positive effects have been reported.

**Objectives:** To explore how teachers in medical and dental education understand their role as mentors. To explore the perceptions of faculties regarding mentoring medical students at Melaka Manipal Medical College

**Methodology:** Cross sectional analytic study was conducted at MMMC Melaka from February 2013 to May 2013.

**Result:** There were 48 faculties from Medicine and Dental (38 medicines and 10 dental) participated in this study who were teaching experiences range from 1 year to 36 year with mean 11.79 years. Regarding perception of faculties on the mentorship program, 80% of the faculties willing to discuss with the mentor regarding personal, financial issues as well as academic performance individually, 97.9% were willing to help mentees to improve academic performance and 62.5% of faculties agree that there should have a formal training prior to appointment as mentor

**Study Limitation:** This study carried out at one medical university. It will be better if we can carry out all the medical universities in Malaysia

**Conclusion:** It was concluded that the roles, tasks and communication of mentor and mentees should be standardized. Mentors should have a formal training prior to appointment as mentor.

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Published 09/10/2015

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