

Team Approach to Patient Care is the Best Response

By Meutia Ayuputeri

Coming to Perth to do a 4 week elective placement in respiratory medicine is by far the most exceptional experience of my medical education. For the first time, I was given the significant amount of independence to observe and experience- first hand medical education and medical service in a developed country in a foreign cultural setting.

Before starting my elective, I imagined that I would be experiencing an entirely different, state of the art medical education and health care system in Australia. I was quite astonished to notice that there were a lot of similarities on daily hospital routines between Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (aka Charlies to the locals) and the teaching hospitals that I worked at home. I would soon realize that the main differentiating point between the two settings is the well-established health care system in Australia.

I figured that it was a good time to come to do an elective to witness Australia's well-established healthcare system as Indonesia has recently implemented our national healthcare systems in January 2014. There are plenty of complaints and criticism about Indonesia's national health system from the people, government, and medical professionals alike. I learned that Australia's healthcare system, the medicare, when it was first established in 1975 had faced some challenges before going through a tremendous development over four decades. During my brief period in Australia's system, I observed that Indonesia has all the basic points of a good healthcare system. I am optimistic that given the time and effort, our baby healthcare system will be as well established as the one implemented in Australia. I would be going home knowing that a well-established health care system that involved a multidisciplinary approach (clinical pharmacist, dietician, psychiatry, social worker, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, and many more) and great facilities is achievable somewhere in the future.

I was also fortunate to be able to experience University of Western Australia's medical education. I have come to learn that the staff and students alike possess good working and learning ethic (with a healthy drive to succeed). Independence is a gift as well as a responsibility. I participated in several Problem-Based Learning sessions and student tutorials. I was quite amazed that the medical students faced less burden concerning work/assignment compared to what we have at home, and yet, the students seemed to have a good and thorough understanding of their knowledge. This kind of independence is a new concept for me, one that I will definitely take back home with me. I think it is a tremendous help as well that the university has great learning facilities and mentorship among the medical staff (students, interns, residents, registrars, fellow, and consultants).

I was given the opportunity to fleet around the ward, outpatient clinic, procedure room and operating theatre as well as student tutorials and seminars. As a result, I experienced a wide range of different activities from ward rounds to bronchoscopy, case presentations, PBL, multidisciplinary meeting, research talk, etc.

While it was fun and challenging learning about diseases that are less common in Indonesia, I still think that the money lies in how the allied health team cares for the patients.