

## Oral Abstracts

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#### 'LIVING WITH THE ENEMY': FROM CLASSROOM TO REAL SITUATION

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**Objectives:** The objective of this project is to further strengthen and boost the knowledge of children and young adults on poisoning and chemical safety starting from within the home. This project is closely associated with Toxicology in the Classroom (TOXICLARO) and TOXLAND ADVENTURE, an edutainment game. 'Living with the Enemy' uses an actual home model for better understanding and correct practices on the prevention of poisoning.

**Methods:** A model house of 550 sq. ft. comprising of six common living areas was constructed at the Universiti Sains Malaysia Tunku Fauziah Museum and Gallery (MGTF) in Penang. Visitors to "Living with the Enemy" begin their tour of the house from the front yard which takes them to the living room, bedroom, washroom, kitchen and garage/backyard. Commonly used household products in chemical form and pharmaceuticals are displayed in every section of the house. Though seemingly harmless, these products are potential agents for poisoning. Information on the products and instruction for appropriate handling and storage accompany the items on display.

**Results:** Statistics (2006 – 2014) from the Malaysia National Poison Centre (NPC) reveal that 92.3% accidental poisoning incidents involving children happen at home, commonly involving household chemicals (40.5%), pharmaceuticals (37.9%), household insecticide (15.9%).

The NPC in collaboration with MGTF developed 'Living with the Enemy' (LWTE) by using a model house complete with common household products that can potentially result in poisoning to enable children and young adults to learn more about prevention of poisoning.

To ensure the provided information given is well-comprehended, visitors are given an activity book to furnish during the house tour. Answers for each activity are present in the model home. The correct answers are also provided in the book in case visitors are unable to detect the answer from touring the model house.

**Conclusion:** 'Living with the Enemy' is a learning tool to attract children and young adults to learn more about poisoning and chemical safety in their homes in a less formal but interactive way. This knowledge tool complements the earlier learning modules by NPC namely, TOXICLARO and Toxland Adventure. It is hoped this innovation will further boost children's understanding of basic toxicology starting from within the home.