

**OBITUARY****EMERITUS PROFESSOR DR. AKIRA ITO**
1947 – 2021

Prof. Akira Ito is an Emeritus Professor in Department of Parasitology, Asahikawa Medical University, Asahikawa, Japan. He is also a Visiting Professor in Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, Udayana University, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia and Honorary International Fellow of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. His main research was mainly on important helminths which are *Echinococcus* sp., *Taenia* sp. And *Hymenolepis nana* with over 420 publications. He also secured funds more than 10 million Japanese Yen from Japan and Internationally and has been an invited speaker for 147 talks in various events and conferences. Prof. Akira is currently an Associate Editor for PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases and Editorial Board member of *Acta Tropica*, *Parasitology International*, *Parasitology* and *Parasite Immunology*. Prof. Akira has been invited as guest Editor-in-Chief for outstanding journals such as *Parasitology*, *Parasitology International*, *Asian Parasitology* and also an invited guest Editor for *Acta Tropica*.

We are all privileged and deeply honoured to have known, interacted, and learned from such prominent and exemplary scientists as Prof. Akira has been an active member of the editorial board of *Tropical Biomedicine* for several years and given his time in reviewing scientific papers for publication. He has supported MSPTM events as he has been attending our annual conferences in 2001, 2012 and for the 50th year anniversary celebrations in 2014 as a participant and plenary speaker sharing his vast knowledge on Taeniasis, *Echinococcus* and tapeworm infections. He is much loved by colleagues in Malaysia.

God bless you Prof. Akira, thank you for your scientific contributions and for being such a great friend and mentor. The 58th MSPTM Council extends its deepest condolences to the family of Prof Akira Ito. May his good soul Rest in Peace.



OBITUARY



MR. JOHN JEFFERY
1943 – 2021

“Mr. John” as he was fondly known, was a friend and mentor to many parasitologist and scientists in the country. He was always willing to share his knowledge in entomology and parasite taxonomy, which he imparted with a generous amount of humour. John Jeffrey’s illustrious career in science began when he joined the Hooper Foundation based at the Institute for Medical Research, Kuala Lumpur in 1962 as a laboratory assistant. He subsequently continued in this capacity at the Arbovirus Research Unit (University of California) at the Medical Faculty, University of Malaya. While in these institutions, he worked with distinguished scientists such as Dr. A. Rudnick, Dr. B. Knudsen, Dr. R. Garcia and Dr R. Dewey. They saw the great potential in John and urged him on in research. In 1974, he joined the Medical Faculty of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, and was promoted to Senior Medical Technologist in the Department of Parasitology and Medical Entomology. To date, John has authored over of 200 publications in varied topics on parasites and vectors in the country. He is most noted for his contributions on the taxonomy and ecology of mosquitoes, flies, ticks and domiciliary cockroaches, of which he has discovered a number of new species and noted new distribution records. He has also written books on the identification of flies and mosquitoes.

John was an avid field researcher ever since his days at the Hooper Foundation and Arbovirus Research Unit. His contribution to the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM) is immense. Many will remember him as a senior member, full of wisdom and encouragement, always ensuring that the Society was on track with its activities. John has held major positions in the Society and has been a long-standing member of the Executive Council. He served as the Assistant Editor for the Society’s journal “Tropical Biomedicine” for over 15 years. In 1987, John was awarded the MSPTM Silver (Natchatram) Medal, in 1988 the MSP Boehringer Mannheim Award, and in 2009 the Sandosham Gold Medal, in recognition and honour of his immense contribution to academia, the Society and community. He is also one of the few in the country to have received the National Technology Award twice, in 1993 and 1996.

We are all privileged and deeply honoured to have known, interacted, and learned from such a prominent and exemplary scientist as Mr. John. We are deeply saddened by his passing, but will continue to uphold the passion for parasitology that he has so generously shared with us. God bless you Mr. John, thank you very much for your scientific contributions, and for being such a great friend and mentor.

The 58th MSPTM Council extends its deepest condolences to the family of Mr. John Jeffery. May his good soul Rest in Peace.



OBITUARY



PROF. MOHD ZAHEDI DAUD

Prof. Zahedi was the Vice President of Management & Science University (MSU); former Vice Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sabah and served in King Abdel Aziz University Saudi Arabia for more than 5 years. Previously he received his veterinary degree from a University of Lahore. He was an active member of the MSPTM and has held the following positions in the council:

- Honorary Treasurer (1982/83),
- Honorary Secretary (1990/91, 1991/92),
- Vice President (1992/93) and
- President (1993/94).

In 1997, he was awarded the MSPTM Silver Medal for his outstanding contribution to society. He has been the organizing chairman of the 1994 mid-year seminar, editor of its newsletter and has provided his expertise as a referee to the society's journal, *Tropical Biomedicine*. He has presented oral papers and posters at the society's seminars on numerous occasions and had continued to be actively involved in the society's activities, thereby ceaselessly contributing to its growth. Even recently he was actively engaged in popularizing the society's image in Sabah. In the scientific arena his interest which is diverse has resulted in the prodigious publication of more than 78 papers in international and local journals. He has unselfishly disseminated his vast knowledge to undergraduate and post-graduates and is currently engaged in moulding numerous young Malaysians to follow in his footsteps in achieving excellence in the sciences. His contributions have not been confined only to our society's activities but to others as well. He is also active in other society like Malaysian Veterinary Association (MVA) and actively contributing papers in *Malaysia Veterinary Journal* and *Tropical Biomedicine*.

We are lucky to have known and interacted with him.

The 58th MSPTM Council would like to express the deepest condolences to the family of Prof. Mohd Zahedi Daud. May his good soul rest in peace.