Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine

(Persatuan Kajiparasit dan Perubatan Tropika Malaysia)

# NEUSLETTER

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#### **Corporate Members**

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#### **WORKSHOP ON "WRITERS GETAWAY FOR BUSY SCIENTIST"**



he Jawatankuasa Latihan Dalam Perkhidmatan IMR (JKPPLDP-IMR) for the Institute for Medical Research (IMR), Kuala Lumpur had successfully organised a 5-Day/ 4-night workshop on writing manuscript. The objectives were to provide a quality time and space for the IMR researches to produce a research manuscript within the allocated time. The workshop was held at the Felda Hot-Spring, Sungkai, Perak on the 20-24 September 2016. The workshop involved a total of 23 participants comprising of researchers from the IMR. Out of 23 participants, the workshop managed to produce a total of 26 research manuscripts.

MSPTM has contributed some gifts (mugs, bags, stick on notes and batik fabric) for the workshop to boost participant's motivation in term of the best abstract, the first who submitted the draft manuscript as well as participants who submitted more





than one manuscript and lastly a give of extraordinary to support staff who also manage to produce a manuscript on their own. At the closing ceremonies by Ybhg. Dato' Dr Fadzilah Binti Kamaludin, the IMR Director, Miss Noor Afizah Ahmad, a MSPTM

representative had been given a slot to introduce the MSPTM and Tropical Biomedicine Journal to the participants. This is an eye opener especially to young IMR researchers.





Contributed by Dr. Nurulhusna AH (IMR)



# 28th Veterinary Association Malaysia

# **Conference 2016**



This conference was jointly organized by

Veterinary Association Malaysia with

Sarawak Veterinary Association. This

was 1<sup>st</sup> VAM congress ever to be held in

'Cat City'. The three day event was a

gathering of more than 400 veterinarian,

researchers and private sectors

whole over Malaysia.



th Veterinary Association Malaysia Conference was held from 23th to 25th September 2016 at the Waterfront Hotel, Kuching, Sarawak. The Congress aims to be as holistic as possible in providing a larger picture of the veterinary profession, hence the Congress's theme "Veterinary Services and Practices – Meeting the Challenges and Standards". The conference officiated by YB Datuk Mar Douglas UggahEmbas, the Deputy Chief Minister of Agriculture & Rural Economy of Sarawak.



Dr. Reuben giving talk about WAAVP 2017

A total of 4 plenary speakers, 30 oral papers and 57 poster papers were presented during the 3-day conference. This Congress are focusing on three main streams of the profession, namely animal production, wildlife convervation and companion animal medicine with an overview of animal welfare.



**Our MSPTM members with newly** elected VAM President









Dr. Chandra and Prema with their posters

Contributed by B. Premaalatha (VRI)

New committee members 2016 - 2018

# Black Fly Taxonomy Workshop

30 September - 1 October 2016





Zoological & Ecological Research Network

The Black Fly Taxonomy Workshop was successfully held at Institute of Biological Sciences, University of Malaya from 30 September to 1 October 2016. The event was co-organised by Zoological & Ecological Research Network (a research center in University of Malaya) and Malaysian Society of Parasitology & Tropical Medicine. There are 14 participants from University of Malaya, University Putra Malaysia, Institute for Medical Research, Department of Health Negeri Sembilan, Public Service Department of Veterinary Selangor, and Mahasarakham University, Thailand.

On Day 1, the workshop started with lecture on (i) Recognition of black flies, and (ii) Parasitic diseases transmitted by black flies, delivered by Prof. Dr. Hiroyuki Takaoka. The session was then followed by visit to Field Study Centre, University of Malaya located at Ulu Gombak, Selangor (approximately 35 km from University of Malaya's campus). All participants were briefed and demonstrated on black fly's collection and process technique in the field by Prof. Dato' Dr. Mohd Sofian Azirun, Dr. Chen Chee Dhang, Ms. Zubaidah Ya'cob and Mr. Lau Koon Weng. In this session, participants were able to experience how to collect the immature of black flies from the stream.



Welcome speech by Prof. Dato' Dr. Mohd Sofian Azirun, Head of Zoological & Ecological Research Network (ZEN)

All participants and staff involved in Black Fly Taxonomy Workshop.







 All participants are searching and collecting the immature of black flies from the river.

Larvae of black fly.









 Black fly's pupae were found on leaf and tree brunches.

Experience how to process black fly specimens in the field.



On Day 2, Prof. Takaoka demonstrated techniques on how to process black fly specimens for identification and understand the morphological features and terms for black fly classification. In addition, Prof. Takaoka also shared various aspects on the exciting work and research done by his Black Fly Research Team, during tea break and lunch with the participants.







Lecture by Prof. Dr. Hiroyuki Takaoka, black fly taxonomist from Japan.

Participants are trying their best to understand the morphological features of black fly under the microscope.

The workshop was a good platform for networking and forging new connections for those working with black flies in Malaysia.



Contributed by Dr. Chen Chee Dang (UM)



# BACK TO BASICS ENTOMOLOGY WORKSHOP



By Dr Chandrawathaní Panchadcharam



Male & female ticks

Damalinia sp.



Goniodes sp.



Ctenocephalides sp.

Do you know what this is?

These are some common ectoparasites found in pets and domestic animals. The 2 day workshop gave an exposure to veterinarians, technicians and research officers on the importance of identifying some common lice, fleas, ticks and mites. The course was conducted with the assistance of Dr Reuben Sharma, Mr John Jeffrey and Mrs Maizatul from the University Putra Malaysia, Veterinary Faculty in Collaboration with the Department of Veterinary Services Laboratory Services Section, in Salak Tinggi Malaysia from 11 – 12 October 2016.



# SOME PICTURES FROM BACK TO BASICS ENTOMOLOGY WORKSHOP

















# The Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine Mid-Year Seminar 2016



he Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM) Mid-Year seminar is a joint effort by the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) with the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine was held at the Makmal Kesihatan Awam Veterinar in Salak Tinggi, Selangor on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016 from 8.30am to 3pm. The event was officiated by Director of Diagnostic and Quality Assurance Division Department of Veterinary Services, Dr. Saiful Bahari bin Abdul Ree and the President of MSPTM Dr. Chandrawathani Panchadcharam.



**MSPTM Team Members** 



here were three speakers; namely Dr. Lee Han Lim, giving a talk on The battle against Mosquitoes— control programme updates, followed by Pn. Marni Sapar from DVS speaking on Veterinary Drug residues in food of animal origin and lastly Dr Maria Kahar Bado from University of Malaya, talking on Zika virus. The three speakers held the audience of 192 participants in complete awe as they shared various aspects of their exciting work and research.













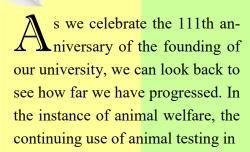




Contributed by B. Premaalatha (VRI)

# 8<sup>TH</sup> ANIMAL AWARENESS DAY

Animal Testing - Good? Bad? Who knows?





university is an important and relevant topic for discussion as part of our twice a year charitable event. It is therefore not surprising if the question arises as to why although "Animal Awareness Day" has been organized for the past few years yet animals are still being utilized especially in biomedical research laboratories in this institution and elsewhere. According to the theory of evolution, animals have been here since the dawn of time, before the human species. Since the Stone Age, animals were mainly used as foods, labour and of course wars. In the modern era, the well-being of animals is being threatened as they are being in-

creasingly exploited.





Dato' Vellayan - a Veterinarian with Great Contribution and Generosity



Prof Dr Yvonne Lim Ai Lian giving her opening speech

nimal testing is defined as the experimentation performed on animals to evaluate the effectiveness and safety of drugs or chemicals used in medicine, food additives, household products, pesticides, supplements, industrial chemical and cosmetics, as well as to understand how the human body works. Laboratory animal is a controversial issue that has gained global attention as we debate on animal rights and ethical issues not only in institutions of higher learning but also in military laboratories, chemical and pharmaceutical industries worldwide. In addition, there are many questions posed on the role of animals, whether they are necessary in biomedical research, or as suitable candidates for research on human diseases.



Laboratory animals used in cosmetic testing or repetitive experiments suffer from pain and subjected to abuse and mistreatment. A strict laboratory protocol should be in place to ensure laboratory animals are treated compassionately and humanely. They should be under veterinarian care during the studies, be euthanized after their sacrifices and their well-being should be protected by laws. Alternatives to

animal testing should be explored and used.

The contributions of laboratory animals have been recognized in the fields of human and veterinary medicine. Both drugs and vaccines have been developed to prevent and treat diseases in humans and have improved the lives of countless animals (i.e., pets, farm animals and wildlife). Because of laboratory animals, we are able to live longer, healthier and more comfortable. For human benefits, animal research has exposed the myths and mysteries of human diseases during the past century. The results are historically recorded in all major medical discoveries, namely vaccines, open heart surgery, solid organs transplantation, antibiotics, medications and artificial blood vessels. In animal care today, animal research has also led to the development of





animal vaccines and many other advances in veterinary medicine. In short, because of animal testing medical science has moved our species beyond imagination.





However, it is heartbreaking to list down the inhumane aspects of animal testing. It is estimated that over 100 million animals are used globally in various experiments each year. Of this, USA, Japan, China, Australia, France, Canada, the UK, Germany, Taiwan and Brazil are among the top ten animal testing countries. Animal experiments are sadly still on the rise in many parts of the world. In USA, mice, rats, birds, reptiles and amphibians used in the laboratory are exempted from even the minimal protection under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and there is no requirement for the use of alternative sources to replace these animals. It is therefore a high time for us to seriously ponder whether one is a human or an animal, or whether there is any difference in one's ability to feel happy and fear pain just as one wants to live and not die.

MALAYSIAN SOCIETY OF PARASITOLOGY AND TROPICAL MEDICINE



Dr Sam, A Representative from MSPTM

Along this line, the European Union, which consists of 28 member countries and also the world's largest cosmetic market, Israel and India have already banned animal testing for cosmetics, and the sale or import of newly animal-tested beauty products. In addition, alternative practices of the "3 R's" have been introduced in many countries as the benchmark policy. The "3 R's" are reduction in the number of animals used in a procedure, refines a procedure to alleviate or minimize potential animal pain, and replaces with non-animal

Unfortunately, animal testing, as a matter of fact, will continue to exist as far as biomedical research is concerned. However, there is still hope the practice will change, albeit gradually. In recent years, one can witness the progress in the fight against animal testing. Johns Hopkins University, a world leading institution, has stopped using live animals in medical education and has created a center for alternatives to animal testing (CAAT).





In addition, animal ethics and law enforcement should be strictly implemented for the benefits of animals and their well-being. In conclusion, animals should not be viewed as mere objects for research and education. A commitment by governments, educational institutions, research and the community is required to bring about a radical change in research methodology and teaching curriculum to further eliminate the use of animals in these areas. We can hope that the best outcome of all these efforts to eliminate animal testing is to provide a better, safer and more humane future for both humans and animals.

# Congratulations New book published

# by M\$PTM Member



This handbook is aimed to provide basic knowledge of black flies for those who are interested in black flies, or are going to study black flies. It consists of two chapters, first is how to recognize black flies and second is about parasitic diseases transmitted by black flies. The methods of collections, rearing and description, morphological features and terms, classification of black flies in the Oriental Region, keys to 10 subgenera of the genus *Simulium*, taxonomic problems, future studies, and significance of black fly research are provided in the appendix.

ost of coloured photographs, figures and tables used in this handbook were adopted from Prof. Hiroyuki Takaoka's power-point presentation titled as "Black Flies and Parasitic Diseases", which was originally prepared for the education of medical students.



This book is for free distribution and you can download it from MSPTM's website.

#### **Black Flies and Parasitic Diseases**

A handbook for those who will begin to study black flies



Hiroyuki Takaoka



Institute of Biological Sciences Faculty of Science University of Malaya

#### **AUTHOR'S PROFILE**





**Dr. Hiroyuki Takaoka** is professor, Zoological and Ecological Research Network, Institute of Biological Sciences, University of Malaya, Malaysia (since 2010) and professor emeritus, Faculty of Medicine, Oita University, Japan, where he used to teach medical parasitology and zoology, from 1980 to 2010.

His major research included studies of vectorial roles of black flies (Diptera: Simuliidae) in human and zoonotic onchocerciasis. He served as an expert of the Japan-Guatemala Joint Programme of "Human onchocerciasis Research and Control" from 1978 to 1980, and also of the international research programme of "Comparative studies of human onchocerciasis between Central and South America" from 1980 to 1986.

Taxonomy, ecology and medical importance of black flies in the Oriental and the Australasian Regions are his current research interest. To date, Prof. Takaoka and his colleagues have discovered three new subgenera and 410 new species of black flies, representing more than half of the total number of black flies species (742 species) in the Oriental and the Australasian Regions, determined seven black-fly species as vectors of six zoonotic *Onchocerca* species in Japan (first record of Japanese *Simulium* species as disease vectors), and reported 10 cases of human infections with *Onchocerca dewittei japonica*, a new parasite of wild boar in Japan (establishment of a new zoonotic onchocerciasis). He and his colleagues also found the natural infections of three black-fly species with filarial larvae in Thailand,





Tof Dr Yvonne Lim Ai Lian was appointed the Deputy Dean of Research, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya on 1 August 2016. As the largest Faculty in University of Malaya, her office is committed to ensure that the productivity and research output in the Faculty remains high. The Faculty strive to maintain a continued tradition of good quality research and promote multidisciplinary collaborations between scientists and clinicians, bridging the gap from (lab) bench to (hospital) bed and forging impactful collaborations, both nationally and internationally.

For those interested, please contact her at **limailian@um.edu.my** to know more about research opportunities/activities at Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya.

"Multidisciplinary collaboration is the key to modern research innovation"



rof. Dr. Suresh Kumar P Govind from the Department Of Parasitology, Faculty Of Medicine was conferred the Dr. S. C. Parija Oration Award by the Indian Academy of Tropical Parasitology (IATP) for outstanding contribution to Medical Parasitology at the University of Pondicherry Chennai India on the 4th of November 2016.

his is a prestigious award given by IATP every year to eminent parasitologists from India or abroad in recognition of their contributions to the field of parasitology. Prof. Suresh Kumar was selected based on his 25 years of unwavering commitment towards elucidating all aspects of the protozoan parasite Blastocystis.















# Information for Sharing .....



# **MSPTM OFFICE LOT**

**Before Renovation** 







**After Renovation** 











### SHIFTING TO NEW MSPTM OFFICE











# List of new membership starting 2016......

No.	Name	Affiliation	Institution
1	Kyu Kyu Win	Dr	USCI University Kuala Lumpur
2	Thu Zar Han	Dr	USCI University Kuala Lumpur
3	Harreen Abdul Jabar	Ms	University of Kuala Lumpur (UniKL)
4	Nur Faeza Ab <mark>u Kassim</mark>	Dr	University Science Malaysia, Penang
5	Mehru Nisha	Dr	University of Kuala Lumpur (UniKL)
6	Teoh Boon Teong	Dr	TIDREC University Malaya
7	Loong Shih Keng	Mr	TIDREC University Malaya
8	Chung Hung Hui	Dr	University Malaysia Sarawak, Sarawak
9	Cheong Fei Wen	Dr	University Malaya, Kuala Lumpur
10	Sazaly Abu B <mark>akar</mark>	Prof Dr	TIDREC University Malaya
11	Iskandar Jefre <mark>e Johari</mark>	Mr	TIDREC University Malaya
12	Cho Min Naing	Dr	International Medical University, Kuala Lumpur (IMU)
13	Silas Wintuma Avicor	Dr	University Science Malaysia, Penang
14	Faizul Akmal Abdul Rahim	Mr	Health Department of WP Kuala Lumpur & Putrajaya
15	Amierul Fikri Mahmud	Mr	Health Department of WP Kuala Lumpur & Putrajaya
16	Gothainayagi Venugopal	Dr	Private Clinic
17	Rosilawati Rosli	Mrs	Institute Medical Research (IMR)



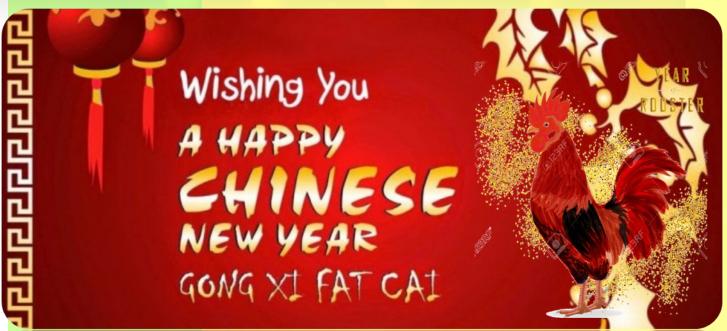
We would like to thank everyone who has contributed articles to this issue. The MSPTM Newsletter thrives on the support of its members. Everyone is invited to contribute articles, photographs, comments and vacancy advents which may be of interest to the Society. We also encourage researchers to submit updates on research projects and publications, so that this newsletter may serve as a portal for disseminating current information on Parasitology and Tropical Medicine in Malaysia.



May true happiness longevity and good fortune be with you this

New Year and always!

Happy New Year 2017



Wishing you joy, prosperity and success this New Year and always. Happy Chinese New Year