



Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine
(Persatuan Kajiparasit dan Perubatan Tropika Malaysia)

Newsletter

Issue 2009

Malaysian Society of Parasitology
and Tropical Medicine
c/o Institute for Medical Research
Jalan Pahang 50588
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
www.msptm.org

Issue 2009

(for members only)

Editor ~ Reuben Sharma
reuben@vet.upm.edu.my

Presidents Message 45th MSPTM Council 2008/09

On behalf of the 46th MSPTM council (2009 – 2010) and its members, I would like to thank the previous MSPTM council for their valuable contribution to the society. It is with great pleasure and happiness that I have been nominated and elected as the President for the second term. I thank the nominating committee and the members for having full faith and confidence in me to lead the society of MSPTM for the second term.

We hosted a successful pre-conference 1st National Forensic Entomology Workshop on the 11th and 12th March 2009, at the Institute for Medical Research, Kuala Lumpur. We had overwhelming participation from different organizations and the workshop was a great success. The participants learned and acquired many new techniques and knowledge and developed good networking linkage. Therefore, I would like to thank the members of the Organizing Committee of the Pre-Conference Workshop for their hard and dedicated work which they put in, all the facilitators involved in the Pre-Conference Workshop, as well as to Dr. Nazni Wasi Ahmad and Dr. Lee Han Lim.

The 45th Annual Scientific Seminar went off very well at the Grand Seasons Hotel, Kuala Lumpur from the 18th to 19th March 2009. It was well participated by both local and foreign participants. I would like to thank the various members in the following subcommittees: Technical, Secretariat, Fund Raising and Publicity, those who manned the MSPTM Booth and handled the photography. The help rendered by all is gratefully acknowledged. My special note of appreciation to Dr. Nazni Wasi Ahmad, Dr. Reuben Sharma, Dr. Tan Tian Chye, Dr. Mohd Khadri Shahar, Mr John Jeffery and others. The dinner was also well attended by the participants.

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Corporate members

Sumitomo (M) Sdn Bhd
BASF (M) Sdn Bhd
TreeMed Sdn Bhd
BP Automation Sdn Bhd
IPSH Gasmaster Sdn Bhd
Harris Enterprise
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The theme of the 45th Annual Scientific Seminar was “The Impact of Animal Hosts on Disease Transmission and Public Health”. The highlight of the 45th Annual Scientific Seminar was the Panel Discussion, which was chaired by Assoc Prof Dr. Stephen Ambu. The Panel deliberated on important issues in various zoonotic diseases and provided us insights into these diseases and ultimately suggested measures for their control and prevention. I would like to thank the members of the Panel Discussion, namely, Dr. Mohamed Paid Yusoff, Dr. Lee Han Lim and Prof. Dr Abdul Rani Bahman. The outcome of the Panel Discussion has been documented and will be submitted to the Prime Minister’s Department. I would like to extend my gratitude to both Dr. P. Chandrawathani and Dr. Reuben Sharma who were the rapporteur for their sincere hard work.

A total of 62 papers and 49 posters were presented during the two-day seminar. The papers covered a variety of topics including Medical Entomology, Medical and Veterinary Parasitology, Molecular Biology, Immunology and Tropical Diseases. The seminar was officiated by YB Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok, Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department, Putrajaya.

The 46th Council comprised the following: Assoc Prof Dr. S. Vellayan (UiTM), President; Mr. Chang Kum Wah (JPH), Vice President; Dr. Nazni Wasi Ahmad (IMR), Past President; Mr. Heo Chong Chin (UiTM), Hon. Secretary; Dr. Tan Tian Chye (UM), Hon. Treasurer; Mdm. Tan Swee Beng (IMR), Assistant Secretary; The Council members are Mr. John Jeffery (UM), Dr. Mohd. Khadri Shahar (IMR), Mr. Jahangir Kamaldin (USM), Dr. Reuben Sharma (UPM), Ms. Nurulaini Raimy (VRI), and Dr. Siti Nursheena (UM).

I am glad that to date the Corporate members have increased to a total of eight. I also welcome Harris Enterprise and Unggul Impiana Sdn Bhd as corporate members of the society. My sincere thanks to Mr. Jahangir for his effort.

Bio-Rad Laboratories (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. had produced a newsletter on the Dengue Summit 2008 which was jointly organized by MSPTM on 17th June 2008. A copy of the newsletter is enclosed for members’ update on dengue in this region of the world. The editor of Tropical Biomed, Dr. Indra Vythilingam’s term is renewed for another 3 years. We congratulate Dr. Indra Vythilingam. The Editorial Board members were also reviewed.

Thus far the Council has met for seven times. I would like to place on record and thank the Council Members of the Organizing Committee, Sub-Committees, the many sponsors for their financial support in spite of the current economic turmoil, and the members of the society for ensuring the smooth running and success of the seminar. I would like to thank Yayasan Lee, Lee Foundation States of Malaya for being the major sponsor for this seminar, as well as the past president who were helpful in running the 45th Scientific Seminar.

The Mid-year seminar was held on the 20th August 2009 at the International Medical University (IMU), KL. My sincere thanks to Mr. Chung Kum Wah and Assoc Prof Dr. Stephen Ambu for their contribution in making this seminar a success. I also thank Medigene Sdn. Bhd. For their financial support.

Your active participation and contribution are essential to us. I would like to urge all members to contribute and participate, giving your views, thoughts and suggestions. With this introductory message, I look forward to meeting up with all of you at the coming seminars. Please actively participate in all the events which we will be organizing this year. With very best wishes and thank you.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. S. Vellayan
President MSTPM 2009-2010
c/o Faculty of Medicine
Universiti Teknologi MARA, (UiTM),
Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia

New Corporate Members **2009**

The MSPTM welcomes the following corporate members and thank them for their valuable contribution to the society:

Harris Enterprise
&
Unggul Impiana Sdn. Bhd.

MSPTM Mid-Year Seminar

20th August 2009

Dewan Canselor, International Medical University (IMU), Bukit Jalil.

“Influenza A (H1N1)”

Mr Chang Kum Wah

(Chairman of the Mid-year Seminar)

Department of Veterinary Services Malaysia

The MSPTM Mid-year Seminar was held successfully on the 20th August 2009 at the Dewan Canselor, International Medical University (IMU), Bukit Jalil from 2.30pm – 5.00pm. The council picked this venue with the view of increasing exposure of the Society to local medical universities. IMU was picked for its connection to an LRT station and the fact that Prof Dr. Mak and Assoc Prof Dr. Stephen Ambu are currently academic staff of the University. Dr Ambu assisted in inviting our key speaker, Datuk Dr Sree Raman and also obtained permission to use the university's premises for the seminar.

The seminar touched on three (3) topics –

- “Swine Influenza A(H1N1) Pathogenicity Studies and Vaccine Efficacy Trial” – presented by Dr. Jasbir Singh of the Disease Control and Eradication Section, Division of Biosecurity and Sanitary & Phyto-Sanitary Management, Department of Veterinary Services Malaysia, Putrajaya.
- “National Surveillance on Influenza A(H1N1) in Pigs” – presented by Dr. Rosevian Farida Nilawati bt Rachmat of the Epidemiology and Surveillance Section, Division of Biosecurity and Sanitary & Phyto-Sanitary Management, Department of Veterinary Services Malaysia, Putrajaya.
- “Clinical aspects of H1N1 Influenza infection in Malaysia - Current updates on the Mitigation Phase” – presented by Datuk Dr. Sree Raman, Consultant Physician, Hospital Tuanku Jaafar, Seremban.

The seminar was well attended by 70 participants – mostly by staff (36) and students (6) of IMU while there were 7 from UiTM, 5 from IMR, 4 from UM, 2 from UPM. We had 5 people signing up as new members on that day.

In the paper on Swine Influenza A(H1N1) Pathogenicity Studies and Vaccine Efficacy Trial, Dr Jasbir gave a brief introduction on the Swine Influenza that infects pigs. He also said that the Novel Influenza A (H1N1) from humans can also infect pigs as was reported in Australia, Argentina and Canada. The pig is known to be able to act as a “multiplier host” for virus diseases. The pig can also act as a “mixer” for virus reassortment when infected with more than one type of influenza virus at the same time. Swine influenza viruses (infecting pigs) are commonly of the H1N1 subtype and include also H1N2, H3N1 and H3N2. Dr Jasbir touched on an efficacy trial for a commercial swine influenza vaccine.



Dr Jasbir delivered a lecture on “Swine Influenza A(H1N1) Pathogenicity Studies and Vaccine Efficacy Trial”.

Following the knowledge that the pig is a potential multiplier host with the capacity to reassort influenza viruses, Dr Rosevian and staff of the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) undertook a surveillance for swine influenza (SI) A(H1N1) in Malaysia. All 776 pig farms in the country were studied. Randomised sampling was done based on a 25% prevalence rate of SI at 95% confidence level for each type sampled in the epidemiological units of porker and breeder pigs. Two ELISA kits (Idexx and HIPRA ELISA) were used to detect antibodies against influenza A(H1N1) and influenza A(H3N2). Molecular detection was done using Real Time PCR. The results showed an average seroprevalance of 12% for A(H3N2) and none for A(H1N1). This showed that the virus present in the pig population did not include the Novel Influenza A (H1N1).



Dr. Roosevelt delivered a lecture on “National Surveillance on Influenza A(H1N1) in Pigs”.

Datuk Dr Sree Raman gave a lively talk on clinical aspects of the human novel influenza A(H1N1), including a brief history of the appearance of this novel influenza virus. He then explained the current “mitigation” phase whereby in accepting the global pandemic status of the disease, we moved into applying intervention methods to reduce the number of influenza cases.



Datuk Dr Sree Raman delivered a lecture on “Clinical aspects of H1N1 Influenza infection in Malaysia - Current updates on the Mitigation Phase”.

The Mid-year seminar was a great success and the organizing committee thanks all three speakers for their valuable contribution. We also thank all the members for their active participation.

Tropical Biomedicine is now on the Journal Citation Index

Tropical Biomedicine is listed in the 2008 Journal Citation Reports/Science edition with a **Journal Impact Factor of 0.590**. The journal ranks #23 of 25 journals in Parasitology category and #13 of 15 in Tropical Medicine. Congratulations to the Hon Editor Dr Indra Vythilingam for her constant efforts in making this possible.

Parasitology and Haematology PAKAR Group Meeting 2009 Veterinary Research Institute, Ipoh

Nurulaini Binti Raimy
Veterinary Research Institute, Ipoh

The Parasitology and Haematology PAKAR Group meeting was held at the Veterinary Research Institute (VRI) in Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah, Ipoh, involving 5 Regional Diagnostic labs of The Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) in Malaysia and other institutes such as Wildlife Department, Taiping Zoo, NaFISH, MARDI, KUSTEM and UPM. The meeting, which is an annual event organized by VRI, was held on the 3rd and 4th of March 2009 at the Lecture Hall of Avian Poultry Disease Research and Training Centre (APDRTC) building, VRI, Ipoh. This meeting discussed the current issues of veterinary parasitology and haematology in animals, as well as research and diagnostic activities in the institutes.

A lecture was given by Dr M. Krishnasamy, a taxonomist, on the mounting of parasite samples and identification techniques for animal ecto-/endo- parasites. Dr Cheah Tong Soon from the Perak Medical College was invited to give a talk on zoonosis, the dangers of animal parasites to humans as well as current zoonotic diseases caused by parasites which prove fatal to human. Participants of the meeting were also exposed to

new knowledge from referral cases and revision and modification of the diagnostic methods involved in parasitology and haematology for animal.

Overall, the meeting proved to be a good platform for researchers from different institutes to gather and exchange information regarding their diagnostic cases and current research activities. For further information visit <http://www.jphvri.gov.my>



Participants at the Parasitology and Haematology PAKAR Group Meeting 2009 being instructed by Dr. Krishnasamy

Updates from the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP) in Calgary

Dr P Chandrawathani
Veterinary Research Institute, Ipoh

There is an effort by the WAAVP to get the Asian parasitology societies to be more active in WAAVP through increased attendance and participation. As finances are main limitations, WAAVP may encourage Asians by providing a stipend for future conferences. Please log on to the WAAVP website for updates.

Trichinellosis seems to be a big issue all over the world. There is an upcoming event, the “13th International Conference on Trichinellosis” in Changchun, China from the 1st - 6th August 2011, organised by the International Commission on

Trichinellosis (www.ict13.org). ICOPA 12th will be held on the 15-20 Aug 2010. The Novel approaches for worm control (NA6) will also be incorporated into this. If anyone wants to attend, they need to make their financial arrangements early so please go to the ICOPA website. The ICOPA gives grants for deserving students, scientists, so please send your abstracts by Nov. 2009.

MSPTM Membership News

There are a number of members in arrears of their membership subscription. The council has made every effort to contact these members, but have yet to receive any response. As a last attempt to get in touch with them, the council has decided to publish a list of names of the members in arrears. We would be very grateful if you could pass this on to anyone you know in the list so they could get in touch with the Hon Treasurer Dr Tan Tian Chye (tantianchye@um.edu.my) to clarify the status of their membership. We have sent out emails and letters to remind members of this, and according to our constitution, membership in arrears of 2 years or more may be terminated. Please act NOW. Subscription per year is RM50.00. Remember that it is your responsibility to keep your subscription up to date. The society depends on you and your support.

List of MSPTM members in arrear of subscription for at least three years

Abdul Jalil Tajuddin	2006-2009
Aida Muhid	2006-2009
Asmaliza Ismail	2006-2009
Azlin bt Muhammad	2005-2009
Chung Keng Meng	2007-2009
Dahlia bt. Baharuddin	2005-2009
Hasnah Omar	2006-2009
Kamilan Denim	2003-2009
Mohd Alias Hj Apong	2005-2009
Mohd Kamel Abd Ghani	2006-2009

Nor Azian Abdul Wahab	2005-2009
Norina Lokman	2007-2009
Normaznah Yahaya	2005-2009
Paramesvaran S.	2007-2009
Perabakaran, KR.	2007-2009
Patrick Lam Hong Yeong	2005-2009
Rahmat S.M. Sheriff	2006-2009
Ranjit Kaur	2007-2009
Ravindran Thayan	2004-2009
Roslaini Abd. Majid	2006-2009
Sam Mohan	2006-2009
Salleh Ismail	2004-2009
Tjahjono Djatie	2006-2009
Yusnida Mohd Yusof	2005-2009
Zakuan Zainy Deris	2005-2009
Zeehaida Mohamad	2007-2009
John Cross	2006-2009
John Storey	2006-2009
Nobert Becker	2005-2009
Rapmund Garrison	2004-2009

Visit to the Lee Foundation

The President and the Hon Secretary visited the Lee Foundation on two occasions and met the director; Mr. Teo Soo Huat. He was very supportive of sponsoring members to attend workshops, conferences and other rated scientific matters. On return, the recipient should submit a report addressing to the Lee Foundation through the MSPTM. It is been requested that the recipient of the travel grant should state the benefits that he / she has acquired. Basically, he should indicate what methods or knowledge he has given to the visiting country and to Malaysia. He should be involved in cultural exchange and transfer of knowledge and technology.

Research Updates

New Life members

The council has admitted the following as life members of the Society

Prof. Dr. G. Suresh Kumar
 Prof. Dr. Faizah Shaharom
 Prof. Dr. Praphatip Eamsobhana
 Prof. Dr. Susan Lim Lee Hong
 Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veeranoot Nissapatorn
 Dr. Sumitra Sithamparam
 Dr. Tan Tian Chye
 Dr. Reuben Sharma
 Mr. Jahangir Kamaldin

Research on knowlesi malaria featured on Australian television

Professor Dr Balbir Singh
 Director, Malaria Research Centre
 Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences
 University Malaysia Sarawak
 93150 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia

Malaria in humans was previously thought to be caused by four species of *Plasmodium*: *P. falciparum*, *P. vivax*, *P. malariae* and *P. ovale*. However, scientists from the Malaria Research Centre (MRC), Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) discovered that there is a fifth species, *P. knowlesi*, causing human infections, which at times can be fatal. This work on knowlesi malaria was featured in a television science documentary by Catalyst ABC that was aired in Australia on 4th April 2009. The documentary can be viewed on the Catalyst ABC website at <http://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/2533454.htm>, including extended interviews with Prof Dr Balbir Singh and Prof Dr Janet Cox-Singh. <http://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/2533596.htm>.



P. knowlesi is found in nature in long-tailed and pig-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis* and *M. nemestrina*, respectively). It was thought that human infections were extremely rare until the MRC research team reported that 58% of 208 malaria patients admitted to Kapit Hospital in Sarawak were infected with *P. knowlesi* (Singh et al., [2004] *Lancet* 363: 1017). This discovery was made largely as a result of the development of molecular based assays to detect *P. knowlesi*, since under the microscope, this species looks exactly like *P. malariae*, and when only early trophozoites are present, like *P. falciparum* (Lee, Cox-Singh and Singh, [2009] *Malaria Journal* 8; 73).

The distribution of *P. knowlesi* is not restricted to the Kapit Division of Sarawak since MRC researchers, working in collaboration with colleagues from the Ministry of Health, have found that human knowlesi malaria cases are widely distributed in Sarawak, Sabah and in Pahang (Cox-Singh et al., [2008] *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, 46: 165). Human cases have also been detected in many other states in Peninsular Malaysia (Vythilingam et al [2008] *Parasites & Vectors*, 1: 26). Subsequent reports of human knowlesi malaria cases in Thailand, Myanmar, Singapore and the Philippines (reviewed by Cox-Singh and Singh [2008] *Trends in Parasitology*, 24: 406) have led to the recognition of *P. knowlesi* as the fifth species of *Plasmodium* causing human malaria in Southeast Asia.

New research confirms potential deadly nature of emerging monkey malaria species in humans

Wellcome Trust News

10 September 2009

Researchers in Malaysia have identified key laboratory and clinical features of an emerging new form of malaria infection. The research, funded by the Wellcome Trust, confirms the potentially deadly nature of the disease. Malaria kills more than a million people each year. It is caused by malaria parasites, which are injected into the bloodstream by infected mosquitoes. Of the four species of malaria that commonly cause disease in humans, *Plasmodium falciparum*, found most commonly in Africa, is the most deadly. *P. malariae*, found in tropical and sub-tropical regions across the globe, has symptoms that are usually less serious.

Recently, researchers at the University Malaysia Sarawak, led by Professors Balbir Singh and Janet Cox-Singh, showed that *P. knowlesi*, a malaria parasite previously thought to mainly infect only monkeys - in particular long-tailed and pig-tailed macaques found in the rainforests of South-east Asia - was widespread amongst humans in Malaysia. Subsequent reports in neighbouring South-east Asian countries have led to the recognition of *P. knowlesi* as the fifth cause of malaria in humans.

Now, in a study published in the September 2009 issue of the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, Professors Singh and Cox-Singh, together with colleagues from University Malaysia Sarawak, Kapit Hospital and the University of Western Australia, have published the first detailed prospective study of the clinical and laboratory features of human *P. knowlesi* infections.

“*P. knowlesi* malaria can easily be confused with *P. malariae* since these two parasites look similar by microscopy, but the latter causes a benign form of malaria,” says Professor Singh. “In fact, because the *P. knowlesi* parasites reproduce every twenty-four hours in the blood, the disease can be potentially fatal, so early diagnosis and appropriate treatment is essential. Understanding the most common features of the disease will be important in helping make this diagnosis and in planning appropriate clinical management.”

The researchers initially recruited over 150 patients admitted to Kapit Hospital in Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo, between July 2006 and January 2008, who had tested positive with a blood film slide for *Plasmodium* species. Using molecular detection methods, *P. knowlesi* was found to be by far the most common infection amongst these patients, accounting for over two-thirds of all cases.

As with other types of malaria in humans, *P. knowlesi* infections resulted in a wide spectrum of disease. Most cases of infection were uncomplicated and easily treated with chloroquine and primaquine, two commonly used anti-malarial drugs. However, around one in ten patients had developed complications and two died. Complications included breathing difficulties and kidney problems (including kidney failure in a small number of cases), which are also common in severe *P. falciparum* cases. Although the researchers saw a case fatality rate of just under 2 per cent, which makes *P. knowlesi*

malaria as deadly as *P. falciparum* malaria, they stress that an accurate fatality rate is hard to determine given the relatively small number of cases studied so far.

All of the *P. knowlesi* patients - including those with uncomplicated malaria - had a low blood platelet count. In other human forms of malaria, this would only be expected in less than eight out of ten cases. In addition, the *P. knowlesi* platelet counts tended to be significantly lower than for other malarias. However, even though blood platelets are essential for blood clotting, no cases of excessive bleeding or problems with clotting were identified. The researchers believe the low blood platelet count could be used as a potential feature for diagnosis of *P. knowlesi* infections.

Recently, there have been cases of European travellers to Malaysia and an American traveller to the Philippines being admitted into hospital with knowlesi malaria following their return home. "The increase in tourism in South-east Asia may mean that more cases are detected in the future, including in Western countries," says Professor Singh. "Clinicians assessing a patient who has visited an area with known or possible *P. knowlesi* transmission should be aware of the diagnosis, clinical manifestations, and rapid and potentially serious course of *P. knowlesi* malaria."

Reference

Daneshvar, C., Davis, T.M.E., Cox-Singh, J., Rafa'ee, M.Z., Zakaria, S.K., Divis, P.C.S. & Singh, B. Clinical and laboratory features of human *Plasmodium knowlesi* infections. *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, 49, 852-860.

Contact

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The Wellcome Trust is the largest charity in the UK. It funds innovative biomedical research, in the UK and internationally, spending over £600 million each year to support the brightest scientists with the best ideas. The Wellcome Trust supports public debate about biomedical research and its impact on health and wellbeing.



Workshop on the Epidemiology of Parasitic Infections and Infectious Disease

Dr Siti Nursheena Mohd Zain

*Institute of Biological Sciences,
Faculty of Science
University of Malaya*

A talk series on 'Epidemiology of parasitic infections and infectious disease' was co-organized by the Institute of Biological Sciences, University of Malaya and School of Biological Sciences, Royal Holloway, University of London from 18th-19th February 2009 at the Lecture Hall Complex, Faculty of Science, University of Malaya. The talk series was well received by over 40 participants from various institutions including MSPTM members.

This workshop consisted of a series of talks and a workshop over two days followed by a workshop by Emeritus Prof John Lewis, from Royal Holloway, University of London, UK. Professor Lewis started the discussion on the basics of descriptive, experimental and theoretical epidemiological approaches for assessing disease behaviour using examples of human protozoan and helminth infections. He also touched on host populations and parasitic infections / infectious disease agents as units of study, with reference to microparasites and macroparasites with the emphasis on *Toxocara* and Toxocariasis. Patterns of parasite dispersion in host populations were also described including the implications of parasite dispersion in the prevention, treatment and control of infections.

This was then followed with a workshop on 'Epidemiological surveillance of *Toxocara* and Toxocariasis'. There, he presented a surveillance software on toxocariasis in zones at risk, with a comprehensive data resource, able to incorporate details of the definitive (canine / feline), and paratenic (rodent and human) hosts and environmental contamination, together with the incorporation of standardized and current protocols. This software was developed by him with association with Fireflower Systems Limited, London UK and British Columbia, Canada. The 'Fireflower' resource is a web-based, spatially enabled and multimedia data management system which accepts and stores data on toxocariasis and species of *Toxocara* and other

parasites from a range of domestic, feral and experimental hosts. It integrates epidemiological approaches in detecting zones at risk of contracting zoonotic diseases such as toxocariasis in urban and rural environments and relate any positive clinical findings with environmental, veterinary, public health, socioeconomic and cultural conditions of the region.



Participants at the talk on the “Epidemiology of parasitic infections and infectious disease”.



From left: Prof Susan Lim, Emeritus Prof John Lewis and Prof Johari Surin; A quick smile for the camera.



Speaker attentively answering questions from the audience.

The 4th ASEAN Congress of Tropical Medicine & Parasitology

The ASEAN Congress of Tropical Medicine & Parasitology was inaugurated in 2004 to provide an affordable platform for Scientists, Researchers and Public Health Practitioners from the ASEAN region to present their findings and network within the region. We strongly encourage all interested professionals to take this opportunity to present their research and control strategies to reduce the burden of diseases like dengue, chikungunya and malaria. We also welcome the participation of international scientists who wish to contribute or gain insights into tropical diseases in this region.

REGISTRATION FEE

Before 31 March 2010 SGD\$250

After 31 March 2010 SGD\$350

For more information about the Congress, visit

<http://www.ssmb.org.sg/>

or email

4ACTMP@fordemedia.com.

Thank you

Dr Chandrawathani P

*Veterinary Research Institute Ipoh,
Malaysia*

Calling Retired Senior Scientists / Members to give talks

The President is very keen in calling retired senior scientists and members to come forward to give talks on their experiences in research and its challenges.

Kindly contact Dr S. Vellayan (013 6246918) for further information.

Fire at the Medical Entomology Division

It is with much regret to inform members that the Medical Entomology Division IMR had a fire on June 2009. MSPTM did not lose any of our belongings apart from a few copies of the recent issue of the Tropical BioMedicine journal. The council is working hard to protect our belongings.

Members Updates

The MSPTM is proud to announce that **Dr Zafar Iqbal** has received the following recognitions:

- President's Medal for Technology: a civil award given by the President of Pakistan
- Pakistan Academy of Sciences Gold Medal: given by Pakistan Academy of Sciences
- Best University Teacher Award: given by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan

Currently, Dr Iqbal has taken charge as Executive Director (ED), Endowment Fund Secretariat (EFS) in addition to his duties as Professor in the Department of Parasitology. As ED, EFS he is responsible for evaluating and funding projects pertaining to Faculty Development, Technology Transfer and Product Commercialization related to agriculture and allied disciplines. Congratulations!!

Prof Dr. Mohd Zahadi Daud has moved to King Saud University, Riyadh KSA as a Professor of Public Health and Parasitology at the College of Applied Medical Sciences and an advisor to the Office of the Vice Rector of Branches Affairs (Health Colleges) King Saud University

Mr. Heo Chong Chin formerly from IMR has been appointed as a lecturer in Medical Parasitology at the Faculty of Medicine, University Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Shah Alam.

Dr. Rahmat Sharif has been appointed as a lecturer at the Faculty of Science, University Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Shah Alam.

Dr Yvonne Lim of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya has been promoted to Associate Professor.

VOLUNTEERS for MSPTM Sub-Committees



The council requires members to be involved in the following sub-committees. Therefore if any of the members would like to be co-opted into the following sub-committees, please contact Mr. Heo Chong Chin, Hon Secretary (tel, email) or Assoc. Prof Dr. S. Vellayan (013-6246918, 03-55211282, vellayans@yahoo.com

The MSPTM council has formed the following sub-committees:

Student Activities
Dr. Tan Tian Chye

Social
Dr. S. Vellayan

Newsletter
Dr. Siti Nursheena

Scientific Publications
Dr Reuben Sharma

Membership
Dr. Tan Tian Chye

Scientific Updates
Dr. Khadri Shahar

Constitution Review
Mr John Jeffery

Upcoming Parasitology and Tropical Medicine Conferences 2007/08

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 18-19 Dis 2009 | 3rd Conference of Medical Arthropodology
Madurai, India.
www.icmr.nic.in/icmrnews/crme/crme_symp.htm |
| 26-28 Feb 2010 | The 2010 International Conference on Cellular and Molecular Biology Science (CMBS 2010)
Singapore
www.iacsit.org/cmbs/index.htm |
| 12-16 May 2010 | European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians and IZW Conference
Madrid, Spain.
www.eazwv.org/ |
| 09-12 Mar 2010 | 14th International Congress on Infectious Diseases (ICID)
Miami, Florida, USA.
www.isid.org |
| 02-04 June 2010 | The 4th Asean Congress of Tropical Medicine & Parasitology
Singapore
www.ssmb.org.sg |
| 06-10 June 2010 | 29th World Congress of Biomedical Laboratory Science
Nairobi, Kenya.
www.akmlso-ifbbs2010.org |
| 08-13 Aug 2010 | 7th International Congress of Dipterology
San José, Costa Rica
www.inbio.ac.cr/icd7 |
| 15-20 Aug 2010 | XIIth International Congress of Parasitology (ICOPA)
Melbourne, Australia.
www.icopaxii.org |
| 22-27 Aug 2010 | IXth European Congress of Entomology
Budapest, Hungary.
www.ece2010.org |
| 03-07 Nov 2010 | 59th Annual Meeting: American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH)
Atlanta, Georgia, USA
www.astmh.org/events |

Notice Board

MEMBERSHIP Subscription

Dear MSPTM members,

A gentle reminder that you are required to pay up your membership subscription by the 1st of January 2010. According to our constitution membership in arrears of 2 years or more may be terminated. Please act NOW. The society depends on you and your support. Contact Dr Tan Tian Chye at tantianchye@um.edu.my (treasurer) for further details or to check your membership status.

Contribution of Articles

The MSPTM Newsletter thrives on the support of its members. Everyone is invited to contribute articles, photographs, comments and vacancy adverts which may be of interest to the Society. We also encourage researchers to submit updates on research projects and publications, so that this may serve as a portal for disseminating current information on parasitology and tropical medicine in Malaysia.

MSPTM Website

Visit the MSPTM website for updates and online access to current issues of *Tropical Biomedicine*

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