

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

Newsletter

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Malaysian Society of Parasitology
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President's Message
49th MSPTM Council 2013/14

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Dear MSPTM members,

I am deeply honoured to have been re-elected to serve as the President of the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine. I also congratulate the other Council Members who have been elected to hold various positions in the 49th MSPTM Council. Together we will strive to serve our society to the best of our capabilities. I strongly believe that our society thrives because of the continuous dedication of its members. To this effect, I encourage all members to come forward and actively contribute to our society, and to suggest ways in which we can excel in our endeavours and continue to achieve our aspirations and goals.

This year we organised a very successful Mid-Year Seminar with the theme "Vectors and Reservoirs of Trypanosomes in South East Asia" as well as a "Workshop on Biting Flies of Veterinary Importance-Trapping and Identification". These events were championed by Dr Chandrawathani Panchadcharam and her colleagues from Veterinary Institute (VRI), Ipoh in

collaboration Kasetsart University, Mahidol University, IRD and CIRAD. We also held a half-day Health Program with the SMK (P) Sri Aman students which was led by Dr Siti Nursheena Md Zain and Dr Lee Han Lim. I congratulate them on their excellent contribution to our society. In addition, we look forward to an exciting and fruitful 6th ASEAN Congress of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology (ACTMP) which will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 5-7th March 2014. The Congress is organized in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary and Golden Jubilee of the MSPTM. I take this opportunity to invite all MSPTM members to participate in the Congress and Golden Jubilee celebration which promises to be a memorable scientific and social event.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate our outstanding MSPTM members who have made us proud of their achievements: Dr Lim Boo Liat for winning the 2013 Merdeka Award in the Environment Category; Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr CP Ramachandran for receiving the Life Time Achievement Award for Global Filariasis Elimination from the Indian Council for Medical Research and the Lymphology Society of India; and Dr Nazni Wasi Ahmad for being awarded the Excellence Service Medal from the Yang Dipertuan Agong.

We, the Council, will strive to serve our society to the best of our capabilities. We thank all senior members who have contributed invaluable to the running of our society. This will certainly ensure our continuous existence as a relevant and progressive society dedicated to the advancement of parasitology and tropical medicine both locally and internationally.

With best regards always,
Reuben Sharma



The 49th MSPTM Annual Scientific Conference

The 49th Annual Scientific Conference of the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine was held successfully from the 19-20th March 2013 at The Grand Seasons Hotel, Kuala Lumpur with the theme: "New Paradigms in Zoonotic Tropical Diseases the Dynamic Animal-Vector-Human Interface". The conference was officiated by the Director General, Department of Veterinary Services Malaysia, Y Bhg Datuk Dr Abd Aziz bin Jamaluddin.



*Y Bhg Datuk Dr Abd Aziz bin Jamaluddin
officiating the ceremony*

World renowned plenary speakers were invited to this conference, including 1) Datin Dr Indra Vythilingam, Research Consultant, Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine UM who presented on Malaria Zoonoses: Emerging Public Health Concern 2) Prof Dr Fong Mun Yik from the Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine UM, who gave a talk on Molecular Epidemiology of *Plasmodium vivax* and *Plasmodium knowlesi* Based on Amino acid Sequence of the Duffy Binding Protein 3) Dr Lee Han Lim, Head of

the Medical Entomology Unit, IMR who talked on GM Mosquito Myths Answered from the Horse's Mouth 4) Prof Rehana Abdullah Sani from the Department of Veterinary Pathology & Microbiology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine UPM who presented on Realistic Helminth Control for Goats in Tropical Asia 5) Dr Nazni Wasi Ahmad from the Medical Entomology Unit, IMR who presented on Forensic Entomology: Under the Lens, How Accurate Is It?



Dr Nursheena handing the token of appreciation to the plenary speaker Dr Lee HL

A total of 121 delegates from all over the world participated at the conference, presenting a total of 29 oral and 55 poster presentations at this 2-day event. We also had 10 student presentations for the meeting. We congratulate the winners in student competition category; Dr Dyary Hiewa Othman, UPM (Winner), Mr Chandru Angamuthu, UTAR/IMR (1st runner up) and Mr Tan Tiong Kai, UM (2nd runner up). We also witnessed the presentation of the 2012 MSPTM Medal to Dr Tan Tian Chye from the University of Malaya.



Dr Reuben Sharma with the Indonesian delegates

Our appreciation goes out our sponsors for funding and supporting the conference. Last but not least, we thank all participants, the Organizing Committee and Secretariat that have made this conference a successful one. We look forward to meeting you at the 50th Anniversary of MSPTM and the 6th ASEAN Congress of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology (ACTMP) on 5-7th March 2014 in Kuala Lumpur.



Dr Reuben Sharma handing over the trophy to Dr Dyary Hiewa, winner of the student competition 2013



MSPTM Mid-Year Seminar By: Ms. Premalaatha

The MSPTM Mid-year Seminar was conducted on 18th November 2013 at Veterinary Research Institute (VRI) with the theme: “Vectors and Reservoirs of Trypanosomes in South East Asia”. The Seminar was held together with the BioZoonoSEA programme with the topic “Biotechnology Platform for Research and Training on Parasitic Zoonoses in South East Asia”, GREASE (Monitoring of Epidemic Emerging Risk in South East Asia), NAHIAT (Network on Atypical Human Infections by Animal Trypanosomes) and with the support of the VRI, Kasetsart University, Mahidol University, CIRAD and IRD, with the contribution of ESKIV (Epidemiological Status of Kissing Bugs in Vietnam) and the financial support of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE France).

The one day seminar included a “One Health Open Workshop”. It was held under the umbrellas of BioZoonoSEA, GREASE and the NAHIAT, in order to strengthen cross-sectorial and multidisciplinary exchanges about trypanosomiasis management among professionals from different sectors (animal health, human health, environment and rural development). We also had lectures and open discussion on future collaborations in the One-Health context, on trypanosomes and vectors, including livestock, wildlife, environment, veterinary and human medicine. A total of 50 delegates participated at the MSPTM Mid-year Seminar. We thank all the participants, Organizing Committee, Dr Chandrawathani Panchadcharam and VRI for organising this seminar.



Dr. Reuben Sharma presenting a lecture on ‘Molecular detection, genotyping and antigenic variation of Trypanosoma evansi in Malaysia’



The participants for MSPTM Mid-year Seminar



Dr Marc Desquesnes CIRAD, FVM/KU, Thailand giving lecture on topic ‘Mathematical modeling of mechanical transmission’



Workshop on Biting Flies of Veterinary Importance-Trapping and Identification

By: Ms. Premalaatha

On 18th-22nd November 2013, a training workshop on “Biting Insects as Vectors of Trypanosomes in South East Asia; from Field to Laboratory” was jointly organised by the Veterinary Research Institute (VRI) Malaysia, Kasetsart University, Mahidol University, IRD and CIRAD together with several other organisations and funded by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM) also supported the event by sponsoring the first day which was also the mid-year seminar for 2013.

Biotechnology Platform for Research and Training on Parasitic Zoonoses in South East Asia



A total of 54 participants attended the mid-year seminar and 24 participants continued for the 4-day workshop. Overall, it was a successful program bringing together ASEAN Parasitologists. The course coordinator, Dr. Marc Desquesnes as well as local and foreign lecturers had a field day trapping Tabanids, Stomoxys and Haematobia in local farms around Ipoh. The laboratory practical session was useful in introducing detailed taxonomy

for young researchers. This event has provided platform for participants from Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and France to establish lasting ties for future collaborative work.



Dr Marc Desquesnes (CIRAD) explained to all participants about the concept of fly trap



Dr Marc shows how to remove fly collector to avoid captured flies from escaping



Identification of the collected flies



Demonstration by Dr Reuben Sharma in setting up the 'Malaise Trap' and 'Interceptor Trap'



Health Program with SMK (P) Sri Aman Students

A half-day Health Program with the SMK (P) Sri Aman students was held on 25th September 2013 with the theme "Kepentingan Penyebaran Penyakit disebabkan Vektor". The program was organized by Dr Siti Nursheena Md Zain. A total of 60 students and approximately 15 teachers participated in the program. Dr Lee Han Lim, the Head of Medical Entomology Unit, IMR delivered an interesting and interactive talk on Dengue with the purpose to help increase awareness on Dengue among the school children followed by a short informative video presentation on

Dengue fever symptom, prevention and management.

The session was complemented with the live specimen exhibition of the incriminated dengue vectors, *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes from Medical Entomology team, IMR as well as the parasites specimens from the collection of the Veterinary Parasitology Laboratory, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Universiti Putra Malaysia. A video presentation on Forensic Entomology was also played during the short course.



Students at the exhibition booth



The participants listening to the talk

Animal Awareness Day

In conjunction with the World Animal Day on October 4th every year, an Animal Awareness Day 2013 was held on 17th October 2013 at Centrepont, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya.



A charitable event to raise medical fund for AnimalCare Society

Apart from raising the awareness among students and staffs in the University of Malaya, this event aimed to raise fund for the purposes of contributing better well-being of neglected animals under AnimalCare Society, which is a registered society that promotes care giving to street animals and helps in their spay-neuter and medical needs. The president of MSPTM, Dr. Reuben Sharma gave a talk on “Basic care of injured stray animals

and urban wildlife, and awareness of common zoonotic diseases” during the event. MSPTM also opened a booth during the campaign to raise awareness on parasitology and tropical diseases in the country.

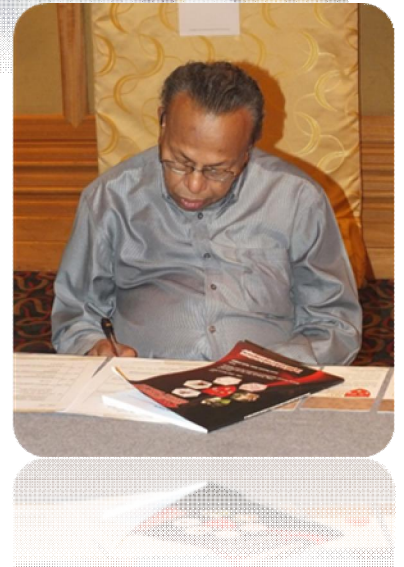
Interesting Animal Facts!!

Did you know that a cow’s “moo” has a different accent depending on what region they originate from? Or those bats always turn left when they fly out of a cave? Zebras are actually white with black stripes, not the other way around. And flamingos can only eat when their heads are upside down! Here’s another head scratcher: a duck’s quack never echoes, anywhere, and nobody knows why! These are just a few of the million amazing animal facts – facts that prove just how amazingly wonderful animals are – and how their presence on this beautiful planet only enriches our own individual human journey through life.

Source: <http://www.isfoundation.com/campaign/creatures/lets-celebrate-world-animal-day-october-4th>



Candid shots of the 49th MSPTM Conference (19-20th March 2013) in Grand Seasons Hotel, Kuala Lumpur



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The society's drive to recruit new members in the year 2013 was successful with a total of 18 new members already signed up. The committee gives a warm welcome to all new members.

Name	Membership No.	Membership	Institution
DR. Mohammad Wisman Abdul Hamid	0508	Ordinary Member	National Defence University of Malaysia (NDUM)
DR. Eka Noneng Nawangsih	0509	Associate Member	Jenderal Achmad Yani University, Indonesia (UNJANI)
DR. Sutrisnawati	0511	Associate Member	Campus Bumi Tadulako Tondo, Indonesia
DR. Rita Tjokropranoto	0510	Associate Member	UNPAD, Indonesia
Benacer Douadi	0512	Associate Member	University of Malaya (UM)
DR. Balachandran A/L Satiamurti	0513	Ordinary Member	Department of Health, JKWPKL & Putrajaya (KKM)
Ms. Syamsiah Aini Shohaimi	0514	Ordinary Member	Veterinary Research Institute (VRI)
Ms. Masnindah Malahubban	0515	Ordinary Member	Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)
DR. Verasingam Kumarasami	0516	Ordinary Member	International Medical University
DR. Wong Jin Shyan	0517	Ordinary Member	Borneo Medical Center, Sarawak
DR. Patricia Ann Chandra	0518	Ordinary Member	University of Malaya (UM)
Ms. Lee Soo Ching	0519	Ordinary Member	University of Malaya (UM)
DR. Pridayarshi Soumyaranjan Sahu	0520	Ordinary Member	International Medical University (IMU)
DR. Afzan Mat Yusof	0521	Ordinary Member	International Islamic University, Malaysia (IIUM)
Ms. Yamuna A/P Rajoo	0522	Ordinary Member	International Medical University (IMU)
DR. Hong Siong Leng	0523	Ordinary Member	Hospital Bintulu, Sarawak
Mrs. Subalaxmi Borah	0524	Associate Member	Central Laboratory, Assam India
DR. Wan Fatma Zuharah Wan Mustapha	0525	Ordinary Member	University Sains Malaysia (USM)

MEMBERS UPDATES

On behalf of 50th MSPTM Council Members, we would like to congratulate our MSPTM members for their recent awards:

Dr Lim Boon Liat for winning the 2013 Merdeka Award in the Environment category. Dr Lim Boo Liat has shown an outstanding contribution to the conservation of Malaysia's biological diversity through the study, understanding and control of vector-borne diseases and the relationship between diseases and the environment; and for advocating the protection of our natural heritage. Dr Lim, a pioneer in the field of zoology in Malaysia, is regarded as a leading authority in the research and conservation of Malaysia's biological diversity through his six decades of scientific research and environmental advocacy. He has made significant contributions to the publication of the Red List of Mammals of Peninsular Malaysia, considered to be the first national Red List carried out by any country in the world.

**THE
MERDEKA AWARD**
FOSTERING A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

(Source: Merdeka Award News
<http://www.merdekaaward.my/News/Merdeka-Award-For-Five-Outstanding-Malaysians.aspx>).

Academician Professor Emeritus Dato' Dr. C. P. Ramachandran for winning the "Lifetime Achievement Award" at the 11th Lymphology Conference in Bhubaneswar-Orissa, India. The Lymphology Society of India jointly with the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) on the 13th of December 2013 awarded Academician Professor Emeritus Dato Dr. C. P. Ramachandran for his contribution towards

research and global elimination of lymphatic filariasis. The award which was signed by the President of The Lymphology Society of India and Director of the Regional Medical Research Center of the Indian Council for Medical Research, along with the Secretary General of the Society, was presented to him by the Minister of Health of the State of Oriss, Dr. Damodar Rout at the opening ceremony of the conference.



The plaque presented to Professor Emeritus Dato Dr. C. P. Ramachandran has the following inscription written on it:

"RECOGNIZING HIS SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS, ACKNOWLEDGING HIS PIONEERING EFFORTS IN ESTABLISHING THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ELIMINATION OF LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS, SALUTING HIS UNTIRING EFFORTS TO SUSTAIN ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH SUPPORT FOR ENDEMIC COUNTRIES, APPRECIATING HIS SUPPORT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH CAPABILITIES GLOBALLY AND IN SOUTH EAST ASIA, CHERISHING HIS LONG-STANDING ASSOCIATION WITH RESEARCHERS AND PROGRAMME MANAGERS OF THIS COUNTRY AND PROVIDING MENTORSHIP TO STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS, APPRECIATING HIS UNIQUE STATESMANSHIP AND VISION IN ENSURING THAT LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS IS ELIMINATED AND ABOVE ALL HIS, AGENEROSITY, PERSUASIVENESS AND KINDNESS"

Dr Nazni Wasi Ahmad from the Institute for Medical Research (IMR), Kuala Lumpur for being awarded the **Excellence Service Medal** from the Yang Dipertuan Agong. The medal was given by Minister of Health Datuk Seri Dr S Subramaniam in the ceremony that was held in PICC on 11th June 2013. This medal was awarded for her contribution and excellence in her service as a research officer in IMR for past 20 years.

In March 2013, she has been awarded the gold medal during the 24th International Invention, Innovation and Technology Exhibition and was listed as the top 20 ranking of the ITEX 2013 for her research on **Improving the Quality of Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Using an IMR-Developed Forensic Entomology Kits**.



In November 2012, Dr Nazni WA has won the National Innovation 2012 from MOSTI for her research in the **Production of Sterile Maggots of *Lucilia Cuprina* for Therapeutic Treatment of Diabetic Wounds**, a collaborative project with Dr Lee Han Lim.



Dr Tan Tian Chye for receiving the 2012 MSPTM medal. Dr. Tan has served as a council member of the MSPTM for three terms and was the Honorary Treasurer of the 45th and 46th MSPTM Council. He was actively involved in the production of the MSPTM Directory of Member 2008 (7th edition) as well as the membership drive campaign at local universities to attract postgraduate student memberships in 2010.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Parasitology and Tropical Medicine Conferences 2014



Should you wish to contribute or exhibit in this event, please kindly fill in the reply form available in ACTMP website www.actmp2014.com//sponsorship_exhibition.php and send it to ACTMP secretariats via email at secretariat@actmp2014.com

Notice Board

The image is a graphic of a corkboard with two pinned notices. The left notice is on a blue background and promotes the MSPTM website. The right notice is on a white background and is about membership subscription. Both notices are pinned with red pushpins.

MSPTM Website
Visit the MSPTM website for updates and online access to current issues of Tropical Biomedicine
www.msptm.org/

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 newsletter may serve as a portal for disseminating current information on parasitology and tropical medicine in Malaysia.

MEMBERSHIP Subscription

Dear MSPTM members,
A gentle reminder that you are required to pay up your membership subscription by the 1st January 2014. 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 Nurhainis OS (Treasurer) at treasurer.msptm@gmail.com for further details or to check your membership status.