

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

Newsletter

Issue 2, 2012

Malaysian Society of Parasitology
and Tropical Medicine
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www.msptm.org

Issue 2, 2012

(for members only)

Editor ~ Dr Siti Nursheena Mohd Zain
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Presidents Message 48th MSPTM Council 2012/13

Dear MSPTM members,

I am deeply honoured to have been 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.

The MSPTM is a very special organisation made up of like-minded professionals dedicated to the advancement of parasitology and tropical medicine, both in the country as well as globally. Built upon the strong foundations established by prominent scientists, coupled with the enthusiasm of younger researchers and practitioners, our society has proven to be a leading institution in the region, with international recognition. I congratulate all who have, over the years, dedicated their time and expertise in building this remarkable society and making it what it is today. The council will endeavour to work on this solid foundation for the betterment of our society and for the achievement of its aspirations.

This is an exciting time for tropical medicine and infectious diseases. With the resurgence of various tropical diseases, the discovery of new pathogens, and changes in the dynamic interface between pathogens, vectors and hosts, researchers and practitioners are in the forefront of providing solutions for medical and veterinary health care. I

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strongly believe that our society truly reflects the principals encapsulated in the 'one health' concept. Members in both the medical and veterinary arena have always worked together, especially in areas of zoonosis, epidemiology, and public health. This not only makes us a special and unique society, but also it means that we are the vanguard of the league addressing these important issues facing the world today, especially so in the tropics. This special quality will also propel us to face future challenges in disease investigation and management in our ever changing tropical environment.

Apart from being blessed with great biodiversity and natural resources, we are in a region that is a 'gold mine' for disease research and diagnostics. We have only touched the tip of the iceberg and there are vast amounts of knowledge still to be uncovered in relation to parasitology and tropical diseases. Our society plays an important role in the dissemination of knowledge at various strata of society. Our journal 'Tropical Biomedicine' is a testimony of our dedication to the advancement of scientific knowledge. It has emerged as one of the leading scientific publications in this region, thanks to the past and present editors and their excellent teams who have strived to make the journal what it is today. This year we also organised a very successful Mid-Year Seminar that was championed by our past President Prof Dr Fong Mun Yik, our current Vice President Assoc Prof Dr Yvonne Lim, and their colleagues from University of Malaya. I congratulate them on their excellent contribution to our society. In addition, we look forward to an exciting and fruitful Annual Scientific Conference which is scheduled for March next year in Kuala Lumpur.

We, the council, will strive to serve our society to the best of our capabilities. We thank all senior members who have contributed (and continue to contribute) invaluable to the running of our society. We sincerely hope this this guidance and mentorship will prevail for the better days ahead, to ensure our continuous existence as a relevant and progressive society dedicated to the advancement of parasitology and tropical medicine both locally and internationally. To quote John of Sailsbury - *"We are dwarfs mounted on the shoulders of giants, so that we can see more and further than they, yet not by virtue of the keenness of our eyesight, nor through the height of our stature, but because we are raised and borne aloft upon that giant mass."*

On behalf of the 49th MSPTM Council, I thank you very much for the trust that you have placed upon us, and we look forward to your active

participation in all facets of our society's activities. God speed.

With best regards always,
Reuben

The 48th Annual MSPTM

The 48th Annual Scientific Conference of the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine was held successfully from the 27th to 28th of March 2012 at The Grand Seasons Hotel, Kuala Lumpur with the theme: "Infectious disease in a borderless world".

A total of 158 participants from all over the world participated at the Conference presenting a total of 46 oral and 53 poster presentations. We also had 22 student's presentation for the meeting.

Our appreciation goes out our sponsors for funding and supporting the operation of the conference.

Last but not least, we thank all participants, organizing committee and secretariats that have made this conference a successful one. We look forward to meeting you at the 49th Annual Scientific Conference of the MSPTM next year!



Director of IMR Dr Shahnaz Murad, gracing the occasion



The late Dr Nat's obituary recited by Dr Lim Boo Liat



MSPTM Mid-year Seminar



The MSPTM annual Midyear Seminar was successfully conducted on 4th July 2012 at the Balai Ungku Aziz, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. A distinguish scientist from the University of Melbourne, Australia, Prof Robin B. Gasser gave a thought-provoking talk on "Advances in the Genomic of Neglected Parasites and its Fundamental and Applied Implication". He highlighted that his group with international collaborative effort have managed to gain first, deep insights into the fundamental molecular biology of key worms and parasite-host interactions, which should underpin the design of new anti-parasitic drugs, vaccines and diagnostic tests. The most recent focus has been on the genomes of *Ascaris* and *Schistosoma haematobium*, and the transcriptomes of different parasite stages and tissues. These draft genomes now unfold a major resource to the community for both fundamental and applied research purposes. The seminar attracted a total of 80 participants and the council would like to thank Prof Fong Mun Yik for organising this event.



Committee members Reuben Sharma and Yvonne Lim with the Dean of Faculty of Medicine and guest speaker



Research Update in VRI

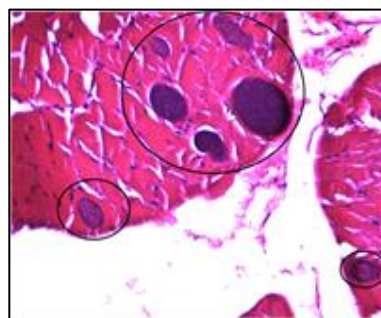
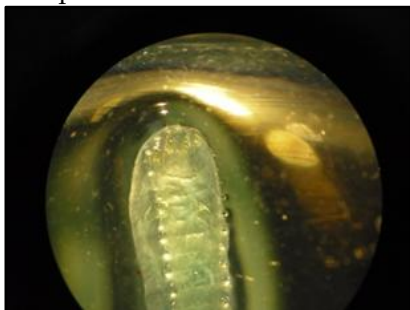
1) Trypanosomiasis

A total of 86 EDTA blood samples of deer, cattle and bull blood from a government farm in Sg Siput (U), Perak and 16 blood from one commercial pig farm in Jalong Sg Siput (U) Perak were received in February 2012. Out of 102 samples, 63 samples were positive for *Trypanosoma* spp. parasite. *Trypanosoma* spp. is spread by biting flies from genus *Tabanus* sp. and *Stomoxys* sp.

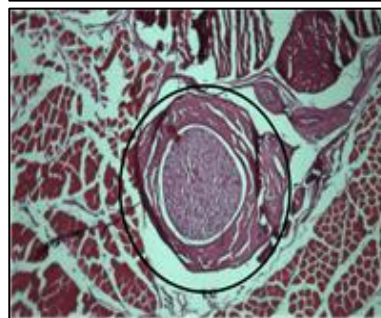


2) Worm and tick infestation in python

Worm samples and ticks from python were received from Recreational Park Ulu Bendul , Negeri Sembilan. Worm samples were identified as *Armillifer moniliformis* while ticks were identified as *Amblyomma* sp.



Sarcocystis spp.



Toxoplasma spp.



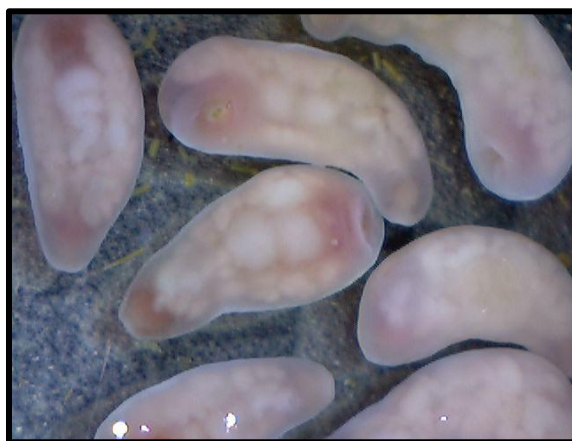
3) Survey on zoonotic Parasite in exotic animal meat

Research and exploration for zoonotic parasite in exotic animal meat was conducted in collaboration with Ministry of Health (MOH) between February to April 2012. During that program, 50 cases consist of animal meat and organs were received for the purpose of diagnostics. Out of 50 cases, six cases (12%) were found positive for zoonotic meat parasite. 4 cases (8%) which involved squirrel meat from Negeri Sembilan, fox meat from Kelantan, terrapin from Perak and fox meat from Sarawak were identified as *Sarcocystis* spp positive. Two cases (4%) involving squirrel and monkey meat from Sarawak were identified as *Toxoplasma* spp positive. All positive samples were detected through cyst discovery using histology examination

4) Stomach fluke in deer

A rumen sample from deer was received in August 2012 suspected of mortality due to helminth infection.

Examination of rumen content found *Paramphistomum cervi*, size range between 0.5 cm to 1.0 cm in bright red colour (see diagram). *Paramphistomum cervi* involve water snails as intermediate host and causing diarrhea and lack of appetite in animals. However, treatment could be



done using Resorantel and Oxytetracycline.

Prepared by,
B. Premaalatha
Parasitology Unit
Veterinary Research Institute , Ipoh



**Fifth ASEAN Congress of Parasitology and
Tropical Medicine- Philippines
15-17 May 2012
Datin Dr Indra Vythilingam**

The ASEAN Congress of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine was inaugurated in 2004 by MSPTM to provide a platform for scientists, researchers and public health practitioners from the ASEAN countries to present their findings and network with other scientists from the region. The fifth congress was organized this year by Prof. Lydia R Leonardo, from the College of Public Health and the University of the Philippines Manila. The co-hosts of Congress were College of Medicine University of the Philippines Manila, Philippine Society of Parasitology, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine and SEAMEO-TropMed NETWORK.

The theme for this year's Congress was: "Fight against Tropical Diseases and Parasitism: Triumphs and Shortfalls". There were about 200 participants from 12 countries. Besides Philippines which had the largest number of participants was Malaysia with 21 participants. Japan and Korea were also well represented with 19 and 15 participants respectively. Indonesia also had a large number of participants. It was a pity that China had to pull out at the last moment due to political conflict between the two countries.

The first day of the Congress was devoted to plenary session and there were a total of 9 speakers. Indra Vythilingam was one of them. Her topic was "Vector control operations in dengue: are we moving in the right direction?". The other topics covered in the session were: Emerging and re-emerging infections; malaria, TB, HIV and AIDS and Parasitic disease control.

There were two parallel sessions on the 2nd and 3rd day of the congress. Each participant had 20 minutes to present their findings. There was a wide range of topics presented: malaria, dengue, Toxoplasmosis, TB, Schistosomiasis, Leptospirosis, and other parasitic diseases. There were also 48 poster presentations of various topics of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine.

It was a well organized congress and we would like to congratulate Lydia Leonardo and her team for job well done. The 6th ASEAN Congress of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine will be held in Kuala Lumpur in March 2014 under the auspices of the MSPTM in conjunction with the Society's Golden Jubilee



Participants from Indonesia with officials from the organizing committee

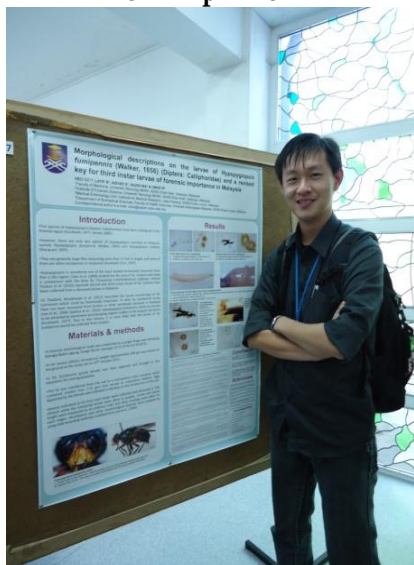


Malaysian Participants in the dengue vector control session



Plenary session speakers on malaria and dengue

**9th Meeting of the European Association of
Forensic Entomology (EAFE)
Nicolaus Copernicus University
Torun, Poland
18-21 April 2012**



Torun, a medieval town recognized as the world UNESCO heritage site. It is also known as the birthplace of the Father of Modern Astronomy, Nicolaus Copernicus. A total of 29 orals and 56 posters were presented and attended by about 100 participants.

Hoe Chong Chin

Two workshops were conducted on the last day of the conference, namely European beetles and moth of forensic importance. Mr. Heo and his student presented two posters in the conference. It was an exciting event to meet experts in this field and network to build up international linkage among forensic entomologists. The next EAFE meeting (2013) will be held in Portugal. It is highly recommended for those interested in forensic entomology to participate in such specific conference where almost all the presentations are significantly relevant to our interest.



Prepared by,

**Candid shots of the 48thMSPTM Conference
27th-28th March 2012**



Student competition panel judges

MSPTM Membership News

The society's drive to recruit new members in the year 2012 was successful with a total of XX new members already signed up. The committee gives a warm welcome to all new members.

No.	Name	Institution
1	MUHAMMAD NOR FARHAN SAAT	INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH (IMR)
2	THARSINI A/P SALYAM	KOLEJ TEKNOLOGI MAKMAL PERUBATAN
3	MALARVZELLY A/P MUNANDY	KOLEJ TEKNOLOGI MAKMAL PERUBATAN
4	NOOR AFIZAH AHMAD	INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH (IMR)
5	NORHAYATI BINTI ISMAIL	FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF MALAYSIA (FRIM)
6	ROSHAN JAHN BT. MOHD SALIM	FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF MALAYSIA (FRIM)
7	MUHAMMAD HAFFIZ BIN JAURI	FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF MALAYSIA (FRIM)
8	MUHAMMAD SYAMIL B. AZAHAR	FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF MALAYSIA (FRIM)
9	GETHA KRISHNASAMY	FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF MALAYSIA (FRIM)
10	LILI SAHIRA HUSIN	FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF MALAYSIA (FRIM)
11	WAN NAJDAH BINTI WAN MOHAMAD ALI	INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH (IMR)
12	MALINDA BINTI MADI	INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH (IMR)
13	HENDY PUTRA HERMAN	INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA
14	AIDIL AZAHARY BIN ABDUL RAHMAN	INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH (IMR)
15	YU KE XIN	UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA
16	HASSANAIN AL-TALIB	UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA (UiTM)
17	BALSAM MAHDI NASIR AL-ZURFI	MAHSA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
18	MOHAMED ABDEL MONAM DKHIL FARAH IBRAHIM KHALIL AL-MARZOOQ	COLLEGE OF SCIENCE KING SAUD UNIVERSITY
19	ALUARO MONDRAGO'N-CARDONA	UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA
20	LEOPOLDO M.RUEDA	TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY OF PERIERA
21	FAZLY ANN BINTI ZAINALABIDIN	SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
22	DR NOORZAID MUHAMAD	VETERINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE
23	LEONG CHERNG SHII	UNIVERSITY KUALA LUMPUR
24	ROZIANA BINTI BUJANG	UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA
25	LELA BINTI SUUT	UNIVERSITY TEKNOLOGI MARA (UiTM)
26	SYAFINAZ BINTI AMIN NORDIN	UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SARAWAK
27	NURHIDANATASHA ABU BAKAR	UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA
28	SAFDAR IQBAL	UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA
29	ROZIAH ALI	HOSPITAL LAHAD DATU, SABAH (KKM)
30	ARINE FADZLUN BINTI AHMAD	INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH (IMR)
31	CHAN LI LI	UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA
32	CHUA ANG LIM	INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL UNIVERSITY
33		UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA (UiTM)

34 TAN GIM CHEONG
35 CHAN YOKE FUN
36 CHAIRIL ANWAR

UNIVERSITI TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN
UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA
UNIVERSITAS SRIWIJAYA

Members Updates

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 2012. 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. (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 newsletter may serve as a port

MSPTM Website

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

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