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MALAYSIAN SOCIETY OF PARASITOLOGY AND TROPICAL MEDICINE  
*PERSATUAN KAJIPARASIT DAN PERUBATAN TROPIKA MALAYSIA*

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#### **NADCHATRAM MEDALIST 1981**

**DR. MAK JOON WAH, MBBS, DAP&E, MPH, MD**

After Dr Mak Joon Wah graduated with a MBBS from the University of Singapore 1967, he worked as a house doctor trainee at Penang General Hospital in 1967 followed by 2 years as a Medical Officer in charge of Parit Buntar Hospital, Perak. As a Medical Officer in Parit Buntar Hospital, he covered Public Health duties at Gunong Semmangol, Titi Serong and Kuala Kurau Health Clinics in Perak. It was at these postings that he was exposed to the various parasitic and tropical diseases amongst the patients and the challenges involved in the diagnosis, management, control and prevention of diseases such as amoebiasis, filariasis, malaria and Japanese encephalitis, etc. The experiences he encountered stimulated his interest in Parasitology and Tropical Medicine.

Then he returned to be a Medical Officer in the Casualty Department, Penang General Hospital until 1972, after which he left to join the Institute for Medical Research, Kuala Lumpur. He obtained with distinction the Diploma of Applied Parasitology and Entomology (D.A.P.E) in 1972. Three years later, he obtained a Masters degree in Public Health (M.P.H) from the University of Malaya and then in 1980, he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) from the University of Singapore. At IMR, he headed the Division of Malaria and Filariasis and subsequently set up and headed the Division of Biotechnology. In 1981, WHO recognised the significant contributions of the institute in Filariasis and designated it the WHO Collaborating Centre for Taxonomy and Immunology of Filariasis and Screening and Clinical Trials of Drugs Against Brugian Filariasis, where he served as its Director.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the field of Parasitology, Dr. Mak was awarded the MSPTM Medal in 1981.