

# E-NEWSLETTER



Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine

Issue 1/2020 (FOR MEMBERS ONLY)

## MSPTM 2020



*Ctenocephalides canis* from cats. Picture source: Veterinary Research Institute, Ipoh

Fleas are vectors for many zoonotic diseases (can be transmitted between animals and humans). Examples include cat scratch disease (*Bartonella henselae*), murine typhus, flea-borne typhus, tapeworms, and bubonic plague (from rodent fleas).

### In This Issue

The 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Conference of the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine in conjunction with 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian *Simuliidae* Symposium.

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## From the Editor

Hi all!

I would like to say THANK YOU to the 57<sup>th</sup> council members for giving me the opportunity to contribute to the society as the MSPTM Newsletter Editor 2020.

I joined the society in 2005 (when I was so much younger). After 15 years in the society, I am so amazed and excited to see so many familiar faces of loyal members who supported and contributed to the society in so many ways. To see them actively participate in our activities EVERY YEAR for many years made me think “I want to be like them when I grow up”. Thus, I would like to encourage young members (including myself even though I’m not THAT young) to take the opportunity to learn from our amazing and dedicated seniors, and I hope our senior members will kindly guide us. The society was founded in 1964, still standing strong, and will stand strong because of dedicated members like all of you.

I hope the MSPTM Newsletter will be a good medium for us (members) to get updates on the society. For example, it is amazing to know that the society now is giving back to members by offering two funding opportunities, namely the MSPTM Community Fund and MSPTM Travel Fund. The MSPTM Newsletter will also be a place where members can share news, articles, and achievements so that we can all celebrate good news together and be motivated, while also remember those who left us.

We (the MSPTM Newsletter editorial team) has so many plans for the upcoming newsletter issues, and we would love to have more young members (postgraduate students) to join our fun team. Please do not hesitate to email us at [newslettermsptm@gmail.com](mailto:newslettermsptm@gmail.com) for any matters related to the newsletter.

Hope you enjoy reading!

*Dijah*



## Contact Us

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Participants at the 58th Annual Scientific Conference of MSPTM 2020



### The 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Conference of the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine in conjunction with 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Simuliidae Symposium.

The 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Conference of the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM) in conjunction with 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian *Simuliidae* Symposium was held successfully on the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 at Hotel Istana, Kuala Lumpur with the theme "Neglected, tropical and vector-borne diseases: The evolution of one health from challenges to solutions".

A total of 80 participants from Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and United States of America participated in the conference, presenting a total of 51 oral and poster presentations. There were three plenary speakers and two invited speakers at this conference. Thirteen post-graduate students participated in the Rapid Oral Student Competition. For 2019, the Sandosham medal was awarded to Dr Nazni Wasi Ahmad from Medical Entomology Unit, Kuala Lumpur (IMR) and the Nadchatram medal was awarded to Dr Khadijah Saad from Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Terengganu (UMT).

On the first day of the conference, there was a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between the Indonesia Parasitic Disease Control Association, the Taiwan Society of Parasitology and the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine. This MoU was aimed at strengthening relationships with our neighbours in developing a strong regional network of scientists. MSPTM also launched Tropical Biomedicine online journal system with Opusoft Team.

Appreciation goes to the sponsors for this conference which are Bayer (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd., Imaspro Biotech Sdn. Bhd., Hotel Istana Kuala Lumpur and Sumitomo Chemical for funding and supporting the event. We also like to express our gratitude to all participants, organizing committee and secretariats that have supported and have made this conference a successful one. We look forward to meeting you at the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Conference of the MSPTM next year .



Recipient of Sandosham Medal 2019



Recipient of Nadchatram Medal 2019

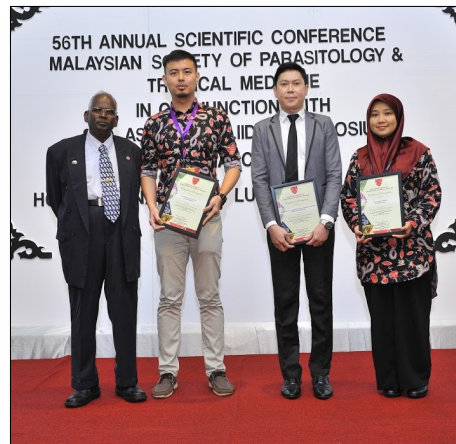


## Rapid Oral Presentation - Student Competition

Thirteen postgraduate members of MSPTM participated in this competition. The winners were chosen by Prof Rosina Krecek and Dr Sharifah Syed Hassan, the two plenary speakers for this conference.

The winners were:

1. Emmanuel Yogan Lourdes (Universiti Malaya)
2. Amelia Zheng Hua Yap (Universiti Malaya)
3. Azdayanti Muslim (Universiti Malaya)



MSPTM has awarded three members with the MSPTM 2019 Community Fund worth RM 5000 each. The recipients were;

1. Dr. Stanley Tan Tiong Kai (Universiti Malaya) "Awareness Program on Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis among Schoolchildren from Orang Asli Communities: Application of Health Education Learning Package (HELP)".
2. Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Tengku Shahrul Anuar Tengku Ahmad Basri (Universiti Teknologi Mara) "I.N.S.E.C.T. (Insect National Science Education Program Using Creativity and Technology)" and
3. Dr. Norhidayu Sahimin (Universiti Malaya) "Awareness Program among the Philippines Domestic Workers (FARA Philippines) in Kuala Lumpur: Knowledge, prevention and Control of Common Infectious Diseases "



# Members in media

Associate Professor Datuk Dr Vellayan Subramaniam, New Straits Times, 25 June 2020

MASSIVE DEVELOPMENT

## MORE ZOONOTIC DISEASES NOW DUE TO HABITAT LOSS

Covid-19, a new zoonotic disease, is believed to have originated from bats

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**S**INCE Covid-19 made its appearance, the spotlight has been thrown once again on zoonotic diseases and their impact on human health. The question is: why are we seeing an increase in zoonotic diseases now?

Zoonotic diseases are infections that can be transmitted two ways, either from animals to humans or from humans to animals (reverse zoonosis), said Universiti Teknologi Mara senior lecturer in pharmacology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Associate Professor Datuk Dr Vellayan Subramaniam.

He said some animals do carry harmful microorganisms — such as bacteria, viruses, fungi or parasites (endo, ecto, blood parasites and tissue parasites) — that can spread to humans.

Vellayan, a former assistant director and head of veterinary services at Zoo Negara and now a consultant on wildlife and exotic animals, said it's important to remember that some infected animals might not show signs of being diseased.

"A healthy animal wouldn't cause an infection. The infection to humans occurs only if the harmful microorganism is in the animal," said Dr Vellayan, a former president of the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine and the Veterinary Association Malaysia.

Zoonotic diseases are increasingly common.

The United States' Centres for Disease Control and Prevention estimated that more than six out

of every 10 known infectious diseases among humans could be spread from animals.

Additionally, three out of every four new or emerging infectious diseases in people will come from animals.

Covid-19 is a new zoonotic disease caused by a coronavirus. Coronaviruses are a large group of viruses, and animals that carry this virus include hedgehogs, bats, leopard cats, civet cats, ferrets and pangolins.

But not all coronaviruses jump directly from the host animal to humans.

Vellayan said most of the time, when a disease is transmitted from animals to humans, there will be an intermediate host.

In the case of Covid-19, this intermediate host was suspected to be pangolins or a wild animal at the now infamous seafood market in Wuhan, China, which sold exotic animals for consumption.

The original source of Covid-19 is believed to be bats.

The severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) virus was also said to have originated from bats and jumped to civet cats before infecting humans.

As for the Nipah virus (another zoonotic infection) that once affected Malaysia, Vellayan said everyone assumed pigs were the culprit and, as such, pigs were culled in large numbers.

However, pigs were only the intermediate host. The source of the Nipah virus was also bats, he added.

Besides pigs, other animals that usually act as the intermediate host for zoonotic infections include rats, lizards, mosquitoes



Pangolins are suspected to be the intermediate host for Covid-19. FILE PIC

and cockroaches.

But why is there an increase in diseases originating from animals?

Before Covid-19, there were SARS and the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome and it's only to be expected that more will follow.

Vellayan said in the past, zoonotic diseases were rare in Malaysia because wildlife was well protected in the jungles and humans did not come into contact with these animals.

Now, with massive development and the disappearance of forests and habitats, contact between wild animals and humans is increasingly common.

"We are seeing sick wild animals encroaching on human settlements, and contact with these ill animals can cause infections in humans."

He said when animals get stressed, they start to shed or excrete the harmful viruses or bacteria in their bodies.

"For example, when we catch these animals and keep them trapped for days in small cages, they get very stressed and start to expel viruses and bacteria, which can infect humans who come in contact with them."

The way wildlife is consumed also plays a role. If it's served raw or half cooked, it's very dangerous, he said.

He said Malaysia had yet to identify all potential zoonotic diseases that can arise from its wildlife, but some local universities are working on this area with the Health Ministry, Veterinary Services Department and the Wildlife Department.

"For example, in those days, we knew of only four types of malaria. Now, we have a fifth type, called monkey malaria."

"If people get infected by it, which happens when a mosquito bites an infected monkey and then bites a human, it can be difficult to diagnose."

Vellayan said it's crucial for

more research and documentation to be done on zoonotic diseases given their impact on human health.

He said Malaysians will not get Covid-19 from their pets, but infected people can transmit the infection to companion and farm animals.

However, no such case has been recorded in Malaysia.

He said given the pandemic, it's crucial that those handling animals, whether at zoos, animal shelters, farms or those working with wild animals, get themselves checked and practise preventive measures at work.

This includes washing their hands and changing their clothing after coming into contact with animals.

Zoos should be thoroughly cleaned and the animals checked regularly to ensure they are healthy.

He said zoo workers, staff and farm workers must be screened for Covid-19 as they may spread



# Members in media



the disease to animals if they are infected.

Professor Dr Syafinaz Amin Nordin, Universiti Putra Malaysia's (UPM) Medical Microbiology and Parasitology Department head, said based on reported genomic studies, bats could be a source of Covid-19, while pangolins were another possible source. Further study may provide more information, she said.

Syafinaz, a clinical microbiologist based at UPM's Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, said examples of domestic and production animals that may carry zoonotic diseases include cattle, pigs, camels and birds.

In addition, wildlife such as bats may also carry unknown or novel diseases.

"Among the reasons for in-

creased outbreaks of zoonotic diseases is the loss of wildlife habitats due to development, consumption of wildlife and human intrusions on animal ecosystems, which have increased the exposure of humans and domestic animals to wildlife," she said.

Hunting and illegal trafficking of wildlife for pets and food is also a factor.

She said when it comes to breeding animals for consumption or handling wildlife, handlers should always keep hands clean and wash with soap and water.

They should also use gloves, protective underwear or other Personal Protective Equipment and cover any cut or abrasions they may have to prevent transmission of infections through broken skin.



Professor Dr Syafinaz Amin Nordin

## ZOONOTIC DISEASES

### GLOBALLY

One billion cases and millions of deaths every year.

60 per cent of emerging infectious diseases are zoonoses.

In the last three decades, of the over 30 new human pathogens detected, 75 per cent were from animals.

### MOST AT RISK

Children under 5

Adults over 65

Those with weakened immune systems

Pregnant women

### SYMPTOMS

Range from mild to severe, or fatal

### TRANSMISSION

Direct contact: with saliva, urine or faeces of infected animals

Indirect contact: being in areas where infected animals live or roam. Touching something contaminated by an infected animal

Through bites or scratches from infected animals

Through food: consuming contaminated animal food products, inadequate cooking of these products or improper food handling

Some diseases that originate in animals are transmitted to humans through a vector such as mosquitoes or ticks

### COMMON ZOONOTIC DISEASES

#### EBOLA

Virus is believed to have originated from African fruit bats. Transmitted to humans from wild animals and spreads from human to human. Major outbreak in West Africa in 2014.

#### SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME (SARS)

Virus was identified in 2003. Thought to have originated from bats. A major epidemic, starting in China, caused infections in 26 countries with more than 8000 cases in 2003.

#### AVIAN INFLUENZA

A viral infection that affects birds, humans and other animals. First outbreak was reported in Hong Kong in 1997 among those handling infected poultry.

#### MIDDLE EAST RESPIRATORY SYNDROME (MERS)

A severe respiratory illness first recorded in Saudi Arabia in 2012. Most likely from an animal source, possibly camels.

#### RABIES

A disease transmitted to humans from the bites or scratches of infected animals, such as dogs, cats, skunks and raccoons.

#### ANTHRAX

A bacterial infection which affects domestic and wild animals. Humans get infected when they breathe anthrax spores or consume food or water contaminated with the spores, or when spores get into a cut or scrape in the skin.

Sources: www.cdc.gov, www.healthline.com, who.int, medicalnewstoday.com

THE STARPHOTO N57

# Members in media

MSPTM, New Straits Times, 11 March 2020

## Leptospirosis third deadliest after dengue and malaria

By Adrian David - March 11, 2020 @ 12:10pm



Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine president Associate Professor Dr Siti Nursheena Mohd Zain (centre) flanked by Indonesian Parasitic Disease Control Association president Dr Rita Kusriastuti and Taiwan Society of Parasitology president Prof Dr Petrus Tang at the memorandum of understanding signing ceremony involving Malaysia, Indonesia and Taiwan for collaboration on research and education on parasitology and tropical medicine in Kuala Lumpur. - Pic courtesy of Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine

KUALA LUMPUR: Leptospirosis is the third most deadly disease in Malaysia after dengue and malaria, said a leading parasitologist. Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine president Associate Professor Dr Siti Nursheena Mohd Zain said based on studies conducted by Universiti Malaya, leptospirosis was very prevalent during the wet rainy season and accounted for 12,325 cases with 338 deaths over an eight-year period from 2004.

"The risk of contracting leptospirosis is higher during this stage as urine from rodents like rats is easily transmitted through the flowing water," she added.

Dr Siti Nursheena said statistics provided by the Health Ministry found that the ratio of male victims compared with females was 4:1 in the 30-39 years age bracket, with the fatality rate recorded at 2.7 per cent, or 338 deaths, over an eight-year period from 2004.


"In total, there were 12,325 cases reported for leptospirosis during that period, with Malacca being a hotspot for the disease," she said in her presidential address at the opening of the '56th Annual Scientific Conference of the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine' at Hotel Istana here.

The event was held in conjunction with the '3rd Asian Simuliidae Symposium' themed 'Neglected, Tropical and Vector Borne Diseases: The Evolution of One Health from Challenges to Solutions'.



# Members in media

Prof. Datin Dr Indra Vythilingam, New Straits Times, 28 June 2020




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June 28, 2020

Combating Parasitic Diseases in Malaysia with Professor Indra Vythilingam

00:00:00 00:28:55

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Professor Vythilingam started working with parasitic diseases in the early 1980s and now studies the recent upsurge in *Plasmodium knowlesi* in humans, which is a malaria originating in monkey hosts.

In this podcast, she discusses

- How scientists traced the different *Plasmodium* species to discover that humans were being infected with this simian malaria that originates from different parasites,
- Why it's important that Malaysian mosquitos have adapted to biting in the early evening outdoors instead of indoors late at night, and
- How researchers and the Malaysian government are working together to find a solution to stopping these parasites.

Indra Vythilingam is a professor of parasitology at the University of Malaya. Malaria is not a virus; rather, it's a disease caused by a parasite of the *Plasmodium* species that follows a host and vector life cycle. She started working on malaria the early 80s. In the early 1990s, she worked on a study with insecticide-treated mosquito nets, proving their efficacy. However, in the years since, malaria-infected mosquitoes have adapted their behaviors and evolved in Malaysia to bite earlier in the evening and outdoors.

Furthermore, she explains that malaria is traveling from monkeys to mosquitos to people in Malaysia, a discovery made in 2004. Previously it was thought that humans could only catch malaria from a few specific species thought of as the human malaria parasites. However, a 2004 paper showed the simian parasite, *Plasmodium knowlesi*, had been transmitted to humans.

Professor Vythilingam explains that the human malaria has been almost eradicated from the area, but they now have this difficult development to face. She discusses what measures she and her colleagues are hoping to take after the COVID-19 virus pandemic slows enough to allow them to return to the field.

For more information, search for Indra Vythilingam in Google Scholar and other such research-accurring sites.

Available on Apple Podcasts: [apple.co/2Os0myK](https://apple.co/2Os0myK)

Link to the podcast: <https://www.findinggeniuspodcast.com/podcasts/combating-parasitic-diseases-in-malaysia-with-professor-indra-vythilingam/>.



# Members in media

Dr. Basripuzi Nurul Hayyan binti Hassan Basri, *Majalah Sains (online)*, 18 May 2020

## Apakah itu parasit?

Sudahkah anda menonton filem Korea berjudul 'Parasite'? Filem tersebut telah memenangi Anugerah Golden Globe yang sangat berprestij baru-baru. Tahukah anda apakah kaitan filem tersebut dengan topik perbincangan artikel ini?

Seperti yang ditonjolkan dalam filem tersebut, parasit adalah sejenis organisma yang mendiami organisma lain dan mengeksploitasi organisma yang didiaminya itu. Organisma yang didiami oleh parasit dikenali sebagai perumah. Parasit akan mendapat kebaikan seperti keperluan nutrien, perlindungan serta tempat untuk membiak dan membesar daripada perumahannya manakala perumahannya pula akan mengalami kecelakaan seperti kekurangan nutrien dan kesakitan.

Parasit yang menjangkiti haiwan terdapat dalam pelbagai bentuk seperti cacing gelang, cacing cangkuk, cacing pita, cacing pipih dan arthropod; serta dalam pelbagai keadaan iaitu endoparasit yang mendiami bahagian dalam badan haiwan, ektoparasit yang tinggal di luar badan haiwan ataupun hemoparasit yang menjangkiti darah perumah.

## Jangkitan parasit pada haiwan kesayangan dengan risiko jangkitan terhadap manusia

Kebiasaannya, haiwan kesayangan seperti kucing dan anjing mendapat jangkitan parasit secara tidak sengaja kerana tertelan telur parasit yang terdapat di dalam air, makanan atau tanah yang telah tercemar oleh najis haiwan yang telah dijangkiti. Kanak-kanak yang suka bermain dengan tanah dan pemilik haiwan kesayangan berisiko untuk mendapat jangkitan parasit seperti cacing cangkuk melalui cara ini.

Manusia, kucing dan anjing juga boleh dijangkiti apabila memakan daging haiwan lain yang mengandungi larva parasit. Haiwan yang dikenali sebagai perumah paratenik ini terdiri daripada haiwan ternakan bersaiz kecil seperti arnab, ayam

dan itik ataupun burung liar. Di dalam kes jangkitan cacing pita seperti *Dipylidium caninum*, manusia atau haiwan kesayangan boleh dijangkiti apabila tertelan kutu anjing atau kutu kucing yang mengandungi larva parasit. Kes seperti ini biasa berlaku pada bayi yang dibesarkan di dalam kediaman yang memiliki haiwan kesayangan yang telah dijangkiti.

Parasit juga boleh dipindahkan daripada ibu kucing dan ibu anjing yang telah dijangkiti kepada anak-anak mereka melalui plasenta semasa di dalam kandungan ataupun melalui ambing susu semasa sedang menyusu. Haiwan yang dijangkiti akan terbantut tumbesarannya, mempunyai bulu yang kusam, perut yang buncit dan cirit-birit. Cacing yang terkeluar dari badan melalui muntah ataupun tinja adalah petanda jelas bahawa haiwan tersebut telah dijangkiti oleh parasit.

Gejala jangkitan jarang kelihatan pada manusia. Namun, gejala klinikal yang parah boleh berlaku pada bahagian mata disebabkan migrasi parasit *Toxocara* spp. seperti kehilangan penglihatan, inflamasi pada mata atau kerosakan pada retina. Keadaan ini dikenali sebagai toxocariasis okular dan kebiasaannya hanya berlaku pada sebelah mata saja. Parasit ini juga boleh bermigrasi ke bahagian organ dalaman manusia seperti hati dan sistem saraf tunjang dengan gejala demam, kepenatan, batuk dan sakit pada bahagian abdomen. Keadaan ini pula dikenali sebagai toxocariasis visera.

Serangga yang menggigit seperti nyamuk boleh memindahkan mikrofilaria parasit ke dalam darah perumah. Mikrofilaria ini akan membesar menjadi cacing dewasa yang boleh menyebabkan masalah jantung pada haiwan yang dijangkiti. Parasit ini dikenali sebagai cacing jantung atau nama saintifiknya *Dirofilaria immitis*. Perumah yang biasa mengalami masalah parasit ini adalah anjing tetapi ia juga boleh menjangkiti kucing dan manusia.

Anjing yang dijangkiti akan mengalami batuk ringan yang berpanjangan, mudah berasa penat, kurang selera makan, penurunan berat badan dan termengah-mengah terutamanya semasa menjalani aktiviti fizikal. Dalam kes yang parah, anjing yang dijangkiti juga boleh rebah secara tiba-tiba kerana saluran jantungnya telah tersumbat oleh parasit ini. Kucing akan mengalami gejala yang lebih teruk daripada anjing sekiranya dijangkiti. Manusia yang dijangkiti pula mengalami lesi pada saluran darah paru-paru yang boleh mengganggu kelancaran sistem pernafasan.

Selain itu, terdapat juga parasit pada haiwan kesayangan yang boleh menjangkiti manusia sebagai perumah sampingan dengan menembusi kulit kaki yang tidak berkasut. Kes ini disebabkan oleh jangkitan parasit cacing cangkuk yang dikenali dengan nama *Ancylostoma* spp. Migrasi larva akan terlihat melalui birat-birat kemerahan pada permukaan kulit manusia. Haiwan kesayangan sebagai perumah utama mendapat jangkitan kerana tertelan makanan atau tanah yang telah tercemar dengan larva parasit ini. Gejala yang biasa dialami oleh haiwan yang dijangkiti ialah tinja berdarah, anoreksia, dehidrasi, muntah dan juga kekurangan berat badan.

### **Faktor risiko yang menyebabkan jangkitan parasit pada haiwan kesayangan**

Anak haiwan kesayangan adalah lebih mudah dijangkiti oleh parasit berbanding haiwan dewasa kerana sistem imunisasi terhadap penyakit masih lemah. Kucing dan anjing yang tidak diberikan ubat cacing juga mempunyai risiko yang tinggi untuk dijangkiti oleh parasit berbanding haiwan kesayangan yang diberikan ubat cacing.

Kucing dan anjing yang dibiarkan bebas keluar dari kediaman pemiliknya juga lebih mudah mendapat jangkitan parasit berbanding haiwan kesayangan yang dipelihara sepenuhnya di dalam rumah. Hal ini berlaku sekiranya terdapat kontak dengan telur atau larva parasit dalam persekitaran luar yang telah dicemari oleh najis haiwan yang telah dijangkiti. Walaupun bagaimanapun, haiwan kesayangan yang dipelihara sepenuhnya di dalam rumah masih berisiko untuk dijangkiti jika kebersihan tidak dijaga oleh pemiliknya.

### **Langkah pencegahan jangkitan parasit pada haiwan kesayangan**

Haiwan kesayangan perlu diberi air yang bersih serta makanan komersil atau makanan yang telah dimasak. Pemberian makanan mentah boleh mendedahkan haiwan kesayangan dengan risiko jangkitan parasit. Tutup bekas pasir apabila tidak digunakan dan pastikan kawasan persekitaran rumah bebas daripada pencemaran najis kucing dan anjing liar.

Elakkan daripada mengendalikan tinja atau air kencing haiwan kesayangan anda tanpa menggunakan sarung tangan. Basuh tangan dengan segera apabila terpegang najis haiwan. Hal ini penting terutamanya pada kanak-kanak dan orang tua kerana mereka mudah dijangkiti disebabkan sistem imunisasi yang lemah.

Pemilik anjing perlulah mengutip najis haiwan kesayangan mereka apabila membawa anjing keluar berjalan di tempat awam. Sebolehnya, kekalkan kucing anda berada di dalam rumah dan pakaikan anjing dengan tali di leher semasa di luar rumah untuk mengelakkan mereka bebas berjalan dan menjadi pemangsa kepada haiwan paratenik seperti burung yang mungkin mempunyai larva parasit di dalam dagingnya. Haiwan kesayangan yang dibiarkan keluar dari rumah juga berkemungkinan akan mempunyai kontak dengan anjing dan kucing liar yang telah dijangkiti.

Haiwan kesayangan perlulah diberikan ubat cacing secara berkala mengikut nasihat doktor veterinar. Sebaik-baiknya, ubat cacing diberikan apabila anak kucing atau anak anjing mencapai umur dua minggu dan diulang setiap dua minggu sekali sehingga berumur 2 bulan. Seterusnya ubat cacing diberikan sebulan sekali sehingga berumur enam bulan dan kemudian secara berkala setiap tiga bulan sekali khususnya untuk parasit yang menjangkiti usus. Mandikan juga haiwan kesayangan anda dengan syampu antikutu untuk mencegah jangkitan ektoparasit.

Pemilik adalah digalakkan untuk membawa haiwan kesayangan mereka ke klinik veterinar untuk mengesan dan mencegah kehadiran cacing jantung. Mencegah adalah lebih baik daripada mengubati kerana keadaan haiwan kesayangan berpotensi menjadi sangat parah apabila telah dijangkiti oleh parasit ini. Ubatan pencegahan untuk cacing jantung terdapat dalam pelbagai bentuk seperti pil, 'spot-on' pada bulu haiwan dan juga secara suntikan setiap enam bulan atau setahun sekali. Pastikan anda mendapat preskripsi ubatan ini daripada doktor veterinar berdaftar sahaja.

*This article was republished with the permission from the author and the Editor of Majalah Sains. The figures in the original article were removed.*

Link to the original article: <https://www.majalahsains.com/jangkitan-parasit-pada-haiwan-kesayangan-risikonya-terhadap-manusia-dan-langkah-pencegahan-yang-dianjurkan/>



## Members in media

Radio interview :

On the 19th June Dr Chen Chee Dhang was invited by Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM) Ai FM.

The title of the topic was

**“Know about dengue and Aedes**



**TOPIK:**

**ANAK KUCING DAN PARASIT**

 **26<sup>th</sup> Jun 2020 (Jumaat)**  
8.00MLM – 8.30MLM

 Secara langsung ke **Royal Canin® Malaysia**

 **5 pemenang bertuah** akan dipilih daripada penonton



**Dr. Basripuzi Nurul Hayyan binti Hassan Basri**  
(DVM, MVSc, PhD)  
Pensyarah Kanan, Jabatan Paraklinikal,  
Fakulti Perubatan Veterinar, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan.

Link to the video recording: <https://www.facebook.com/RoyalCaninMY/videos/4120223054687063/>

## Tingkat kesedaran cegah denggi melalui karya seni



Oleh **NAZWIN NAZRI**  
winwilayahku@gmail.com

**M**ENDAPATI tahap kesedaran terhadap ancaman denggi dan langkah membasminya kurang dalam kalangan pelajar, Pertandingan dan Pameran Lukisan Kesedaran Denggi 2019 (Kuala Lumpur dan Selangor) diadakan di Galeri Seni Universiti Malaya, pada 30 November lalu.

Program tersebut merupakan usaha bersama Pusat Penyelidikan Biodiversity and Ecological Research Network, Universiti Malaya serta Persatuan Kaji-parasit dan Perubatan Tropika Malaysia dengan penyertaan sekolah rendah dan menengah di Lembah Klang.

Ia bertujuan mewujudkan Malaysia yang sihat dan bebas dari denggi melalui imaginasi serta kreativiti seni pelajar, kemudian disampaikan melalui karya seni kepada orang awam dengan cara yang lebih menarik.

Majlis yang dirasmikan Ketua, Bahagian Kawalan Penyakit, Sektor Penyakit Bawaan Vektor, Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM), Dr. Rose Nani Mudin itu turut dihadiri pelajar, ibu bapa dan guru dari pelbagai sekolah di sekitar Lembah Klang.

Menurut Pengerusi program, Dr. Chen Chee Dhang, program tersebut dilaksanakan selepas beliau bersama pasukan penyelidikannya mendapati 17.18 peratus pelajar siswazah tidak mengetahui bagaimana denggi disebarkan manakala 25.54 peratus pula tidak menyedari denggi disebarkan oleh nyamuk dan 15.16 tidak mengetahui tentang gejala demam denggi.

"Kajian soal selidik itu dilakukan ke atas 900 pelajar siswazah di Lembah Klang pada tahun lalu.

"Kami telah menyediakan beberapa 'soalan mudah dan asas' dalam kajian soal selidik, serta mengangap bahawa pelajar siswazah dapat menjawabnya dengan betul.

"Walaupun pelajar siswazah yang menjawab dengan betul adalah lebih daripada 76 peratus, tetapi kami masih tidak berpuas hati dengan keputusannya," katanya kepada *Wilayahku* baru-baru ini.

Jelas beliau, keputusan itu disebabkan anak-anak muda yang berpendidikan tinggi tidak mempunyai kesedaran sepenuhnya terhadap ancaman penyakit demam denggi yang serius di negara kita.



**PEMENANG** pertandingan lukisan bergambar bersama Rosli (enam dari kiri) dan Chee Dhang (lima dari kiri).



**CHEE Dhang** (tiga dari kiri) menunjukkan lukisan-lukisan yang diperolehi daripada penyertaan pelajar sekitar Lembah Klang kepada Rose Nani.

Sehubungan itu, katanya, berlandaskan objektif untuk mempromosikan kesedaran virus itu, Program Kesedaran Denggi amat diperlukan terutama dalam kalangan pelajar.

"Pertandingan lukisan merupakan satu usaha untuk menggalakkan kesedaran denggi buat kali pertama khusus di sekolah rendah dan menengah sekitar Lembah Klang, diikuti Pameran Kesedaran Denggi yang mana semua karya seni dari pemenang dipamerkan di Galeri Seni Universiti Malaya," ujarnya.

Dalam pada itu, Ketua Pusat Penyelidikan BEN, Profesor Dr. Rosli Ramli menyatakan, penyakit berjangkit yang dibawa vektor nyamuk merupakan suatu kekhawatiran kesihatan awam yang semakin meningkat dalam beberapa dekad kebelakangan ini.

Istirahat ujar beliau, program seperti ini amat penting kerana ia terdiri daripada dua komponen utama iaitu pertandingan lukisan kesedaran yang bermula pada pertengahan Ogos

hingga pertengahan Oktober diikuti dengan pameran dari November hingga Februari 2020.

"Pertandingan ini berhasrat untuk menarik perhatian dan memupuk pelajar, guru serta ibu bapa supaya bersama-sama mengambil inisiatif dalam memperoleh maklumat tentang Aedes dan denggi demi menghasilkan karya seni.

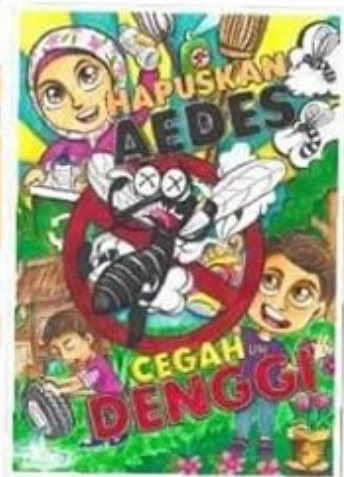
"Pihak penganjur bersyukur kepada semua pihak yang memberi sokongan kuat ke atas program ini dengan menghantar hampir 200 karya seni untuk pertandingan.

"Pameran karya seni bersama dengan pengetahuan saintifik akan terbuka kepada orang awam selama tiga bulan dari 30 November 2019 hingga 29 Februari 2020, demi memanfaatkan masyarakat kita secara luasnya," jelasnya.

Terdahulu, pada majlis itu, seramai 36 orang pelajar telah dianugerahkan sebagai pemenang pertandingan melukis yang mana 13 pelajar dari ka-



**LUKISAN** yang berjaya memenangi tempat pertama bagi kategori sekolah menengah (tingkatan 1-3).



**LUKISAN** yang berjaya memenangi tempat pertama bagi kategori sekolah rendah (darjah 4-6).

tegori sekolah rendah (Darjah 4 - 6), 10 pelajar dari sekolah menengah (Tingkatan 1 - 3) dan 13 pelajar dari sekolah menengah (Tingkatan 4 - 6).

Karya seni dari Aliya Damia Azmi, 11, dari Sekolah Kebangsaan Putrajaya Presint 5 (1); Leong Tong Yan, 13, dari Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Katholik, Selangor dan Go Jing Jie, 16, dari SMK Kepong, Kuala Lumpur telah dianugerahkan tempat pertama untuk kategori masing-masing.

Sementara itu, SMK Kepong, Kuala Lumpur dan SRIK (C) Sungai Way, Selangor telah dianugerahkan sebagai sekolah menengah dan sekolah rendah yang telah menyumbang paling banyak karya seni yang cemerlang dalam program ini.



## DENGUE AWARENESS DRAWING COMPETITION & EXHIBITION 2019

(Open for public without entrance fees)

Venue: University of Malaya Art Gallery

Period: 30 Nov 2019 – 29 Feb 2020

Open for Visit: Monday – Friday 9:00am – 4:30pm (Close on weekend and public holiday)

The launching ceremony of the Dengue Awareness Drawing Competition and Exhibition 2019 (Kuala Lumpur and Selangor) was held in University of Malaya Art Gallery, on Saturday, 30 November 2019. The ceremony was officiated by Dr. Rose Nani Mudin, Head, Disease Control Division, Vector Borne Disease Sector, Ministry of Health. This event was attended by students, parents and teachers from various primary and secondary schools in Klang Valley.

The Chairperson of this programme, Dr. Chen Chee Dhang and his research team has conducted a questionnaire survey with 900 graduate students in the Klang Valley in the past one year. The results showed that 17.18% of graduate students were not aware how dengue is being transmitted, 23.54% were not aware dengue is transmitted by *Aedes* mosquitoes, and 15.16% did not know about the common symptoms of dengue fever. This research output indicated the need for a Dengue Awareness Programme particularly among students, to educate our youngsters.

“With the objective to promote dengue awareness among the community, all stakeholders should hand in hand take the initiative to improve the health of our citizens. The drawing competition is an effort to promote dengue awareness for the first time among primary and secondary schools in Klang Valley, followed by the Dengue Awareness Exhibition on all winner’s artwork at UM Art Gallery. This programme is a joint effort by Research Center Biodiversity and Ecological Research Network (BEN), University of Malaya (UM) and Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM), with the participation of schools in the Klang Valley, with the aim of creating a healthy Malaysia, free from dengue through the artistic creativity of students,” said **Dr. Chen Chee Dhang, Chairperson, Dengue Awareness Drawing Competition and Exhibition 2019.**



**Profesor Dr. Rosli Ramli, Head of Research Center BEN** stated, “The infectious diseases carried by mosquito vectors are an increasing public health concern in recent decades. This event is held with the aim to create public awareness against dengue and its vectors. This programme consists of two major components: the first is awareness drawing competition which started in mid August until mid October followed by the exhibition from November to February 2020, to attract students, teachers and parents to acquire information on *Aedes* and dengue through the production of artwork. The joint organizations are grateful to all students, teachers and parents from various schools in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor for support and encouragement given with nearly 200 artwork received for this competition. The artworks together with the scientific knowledge will be open to the public for three months from 30 November 2019 to 29 February 2020, for the benefit of the community at large.”



**Associate Prof. Dr. Siti Nursheena Mohd Zain, President of MSPTM** commenting on the programme, “MSPTM has been actively involved in various aspects of parasitology and tropical medicine in Malaysia and in the region, since its formation in 1964. In line with the vision and mission of the society, the MSPTM is happy to promote this awareness programme, and foster active collaboration with primary and secondary schools and it is hoped this event will highlight ways and means for students, parents and teachers to promote knowledge on controlling *Aedes* mosquitoes and prevention of dengue to the public.”



"Recent statistics announced by the Ministry of Health (MoH) Malaysia, recorded a total of 116,942 cases (with 162 deaths) of dengue fever reported from January to 23th November 2019, in which Selangor and Kuala Lumpur recorded the highest number of cases across the country. This incident is worrying, and needs strategic planning for the control programmes. However, there are many among the general public who are unaware of basic info regarding dengue and its control. The MoH continues to strive to educate the public. I am grateful that UM and MSPTM have taken the initiative to assist MoH to create more awareness among our citizen, especially students, teachers and parents", said **Dr. Rose Nani Mudin, Head, Disease Control Division, Vector Borne Disease Sector, Ministry of Health.**

During the event, a total of 36 students were awarded prizes, of which 13 students were from the category of primary school (Standard 4 – 6), 10 students from lower secondary school (Form 1 – 3) and 13 students from upper secondary school (Form 4 – 6). Artwork from Aliya Damia Azmi (11 years old, Standard 5) from SK Putrajaya Presint 5(1), Leong Tong Yan (13 years old, Form 1) from SMK Katholik, Selangor and Go Jing Jie (16 years old, Form 4) from SMK Kepong Ulu, Kuala Lumpur were awarded first prize for their respective categories. Meanwhile, SMK Kepong, Kuala Lumpur and SRJK(C) Sungai Way, Selangor were awarded as secondary and primary schools which had contributed the most number of excellent artwork in this programme, respectively.

Overall, this programme created a lot of interest among the school going children and teachers and we hope the awareness they harnessed will trickle down to their families, friends and neighbors as Dengue is a household menace that can affect anyone.





# MSPTM Events

## Dengue Awareness Drawing Competition for Sabah 2020

After nearly a year of preparation, the Biodiversity and Ecological Research Network (BEN), University of Malaya and the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM) are jointly organizing the Dengue Awareness Drawing Competition



The poster features a large illustration of a mosquito on the left. The title 'Dengue Awareness Drawing Competition SABAH • 2020' is prominently displayed in the center. Below the title, logos for the organizing institutions are shown: Universiti Malaya, Biodiversity & Ecological Research Network, Malaysian Society of Parasitology & Tropical Medicine, and the Department of Health, Sabah. A banner below the logos states 'OPEN to all primary & secondary schools in SABAH'. A row of five colorful children's drawings is shown, each with a different theme related to dengue prevention. The bottom section contains important dates, categories, prize details, and a QR code for registration. A yellow speech bubble on the right says 'FREE No registration fee required!'. At the very bottom, small text lists the terms and conditions of the competition.

**Dengue Awareness Drawing Competition SABAH • 2020**

ORGANISED BY: **UNIVERSITI MALAYA** **BIODIVERSITY & ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH NETWORK**

APPROVED BY: **MALAYSIAN SOCIETY OF PARASITOLOGY & TROPICAL MEDICINE**

SPONSORED BY: **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SABAH**

**OPEN to all primary & secondary schools in SABAH**

**IMPORTANT DATES**

Competition Start : 01/06/2020  
Competition Deadline: 31/08/2020  
Judging Period : 09/2020  
Prize Announcement : 10/2020

**CATEGORIES**

Primary School : Standard 4 - 6  
Lower Secondary School: Form 1 - 3  
Upper Secondary School: Form 4 - 6

**PRIZE FOR EACH CATEGORY**

FIRST Prize : RM200 + Certificate  
SECOND Prize : RM150 + Certificate  
THIRD Prize : RM100 + Certificate  
OUTSTANDING (5 Prizes) : RM50 + Certificate  
CONSOLATION (10 Prizes) : RM25 + Certificate

**Scan me**

**Registration Form & Competition Criteria**

<https://forms.gle/uKAXegHKNwmVofzL9>

**FREE**  
**No registration fee required!**

**Terms and conditions:-**

- (1) These contest is open to all Malaysian students studying in primary and secondary schools, home schools and tuition centres.
- (2) No registration fee is required.
- (3) All participants have to register via our online registration form, follow by a scanned copy of artwork send to: dengue\_awareness.um@gmail.com
- (4) The organiser reserve the right to cancel or modify the contest, to amend these terms and conditions without prior notification.
- (5) The judge' decisions are final and no appeal will be entertained.
- (6) The organiser reserves the right to publish the artworks on the social media and printed publication.

# MSPTM Upcoming Event

## MSPTM Mid-Year Seminar 2020

**Malaysian Society of Parasitology & Tropical Medicine Mid-year Webinar**



### Covid-19 on Worldwide Dashboard: Pandemic that Unites Science Together

Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020 @ 3.00-4.30 pm  
Via Zoom

(Meeting ID & password will be sent via email to registered participants)

VAMCPD-2020.233AM  
5 CPD



**Moderator:**  
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Siti Nursheena Mohd Zain  
*Universiti Malaya*

**Current status of Covid 19 in Malaysia and impact to society**  
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Rohaizat Hassan  
*Department of Community Health, Faculty of Medicine,  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia*





**Covid-19 Research at the LSTM and highlighting  
'another epidemic' in sub-Saharan Africa**  
Prof. Dr. Russell Stothard  
*Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, LSTM*

**Diagnostics and Research Development on Covid-19**  
Dr. Siti Norlia Othman  
*Department of Medical Microbiology & Immunology, Faculty of Medicine,  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia*



For more information,  
Website:  
<http://msptm.org/mid-year-webinar/>  
Email:  
msptmevents@gmail.com

**REGISTER HERE**

To register:





## News From Members



The banner features the University of Malaya Faculty of Medicine logo on the top left. The main title 'SYARAHAN PERDANA' is in large, bold, black letters. Below it, 'Profesor Dr. Lau Yee Ling' is written in white on a blue background. The theme '“Knowlesi Malaria”' is in a light blue script. The date and time '6 OGOS 2020 (KHAMIS) / 3.00 PTG' and the venue 'AUDITORIUM T.J. DANARAJ' and 'FAKULTI PERUBATAN, UNIVERSITI MALAYA' are listed at the bottom. On the right, a portrait of Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling in a maroon graduation gown and cap is shown.

UNIVERSITI MALAYA FACULTY OF MEDICINE

# SYARAHAN PERDANA

Profesor Dr. Lau Yee Ling

“Knowlesi Malaria”

6 OGOS 2020 (KHAMIS) / 3.00 PTG  
AUDITORIUM T.J. DANARAJ  
FAKULTI PERUBATAN, UNIVERSITI MALAYA

## Congratulations to Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling

Professor Dr. Lau Yee Ling has been an active member of the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM). Over the years, she has served as council member of the MSPTM. Professor Lau was the recipient of the 2014 Nadchatram Medal which was awarded to young researchers for outstanding research in the field of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine.

Syarahan Perdana Profesor Dr. Lau Yee Ling (or click the link: <https://medicine.um.edu.my/parasitology-department>)



# Membership

## New members

We welcome new members to the society and we look forward to see them in the upcoming seminars organized by MSPTM.

1. Ms Nur Emyliana Yunos (Malaria Research Centre, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak)
2. Dr. Ammar Singh Dhillon (Dhillon Medical Centre, Rawang, Selangor)
3. Dr. Nur Raihana Ithnin (Department of Medical Microbiology and Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universiti Putra Malaysia)
4. Dr. Lai Ngit Shin (Institute of Research in Molecular Medicine (INFORMM), Universiti Sains Malaysia Penang)
5. Ms Reena Leeba Richard (Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, Uni-



## Benefits of being MSPTM member

1. Members will be included in the email group and will receive emails on upcoming activities and opportunities related to parasitology and tropical medicine.
2. After 3 years of being a member, the society's journal Tropical Biomedicine will **waive publication fees** for manuscripts if the member is either the first author or the corresponding author.
3. Members will be given **discounted registration fees** for attending the annual conference.
4. Members will have the opportunity to be awarded the Sandosham and Nadchadtram medals for the contribution in parasitology and tropical medicine.
5. Members will have the opportunity to be awarded the MSPTM Community Fund.
6. Members will have the opportunity to be awarded the CP Ramachandran Travel Grant.



### Interested to be a member?

#### Step 1

Log on to our website  
<http://msptm.org/member/>

#### Step 2

Click 'Join as Member'

#### Step 3

Fill in the online form

### For inquiries, please contact

MSPTM Honorary Secretary  
[secretarymsptm@gmail.com](mailto:secretarymsptm@gmail.com)



# Tropical Biomedicine

- The MSPTM publishes the journal – Tropical Biomedicine, 4 issues yearly. It was first started in 1984.
- **The Impact Factor for Tropical Biomedicine is 0.509 (2019).**
- Tropical Biomedicine welcomes previously unpublished papers which contribute to the advancement of knowledge of parasitology, entomology, tropical medicine and other aspects of biomedical research.
- Currently the publication charge is at USD 200 per manuscript. From the 1st January 2021, the publication charge will be increased to USD300 per manuscript.
- The editorial board would like to take this opportunity to thank all authors who have published in Tropical Biomedicine. Please continue to support our journal and submit your manuscript to Tropical Biomedicine.

The advantages of publishing with Tropical Biomedicine include:

- Four issues per year (March, June, September, December)
- Page charges will be waived for members (first author or corresponding author) with membership of three years and above.
- Free online access to publish papers (2004 and onward).
- Abstract/Indexed by **Medline, Web of Science (ISI Thompson), Scopus, CAB International, Biological Abstracts, BIOSIS Previews, Essential Science Indicators and Zoological Record.**
- Respected Editorial Board members.
- Free global dissemination of research.

Please contact the editor via email ([editor.msptm@gmail.com](mailto:editor.msptm@gmail.com)) for all communications and submissions with regards to the Tropical Biomedicine.

The current June issue is now available in the MSPTM website.

Log on to: <http://msptm.org/journal/> for more information.



# Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM) Community Fund

The Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM) Community Fund grants funding to activities which improve quality of life, health and wellbeing. RM 1000-5000 funding is available to support local charities and community projects throughout Malaysia.

The MSPTM Community Fund is seeking to support projects working within a range of themes as set out below:

**Community involvement projects**

**Community safety projects**

**Community health and wellbeing projects**

**Projects to develop skills, education & employment support**

## ***Who can apply?***

This grant is open to all MSPTM members with the following criteria:

Malaysian citizen

Project duration: 1-2 years

Amount: up to RM5000

## ***How to apply?***

Go to the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM) and scroll down to "The MSPTM Community Fund" for details.

## ***When to apply?***

Closing date 12 noon, 31<sup>st</sup> October every year.

You will hear the outcome by end of November every year.

## ***What happens after I apply?***

All applicants will be notified about their outcome in writing. If your application fits the MSPTM Community Fund priority areas, it'll be shortlisted.

## ***What happens after the grant is awarded?***

All successful applicant must present their progress once a year. An oral presentation at MSPTM annual conference AND submission of a paper to reputable ISI-indexed journal such as Tropical Biomedicine acknowledging the funder are mandatory.

Log on to <http://msptm.org/grants/> for guidelines of proposal



# CP Ramachandran Travel Grant Award

The **CP Ramachandran Travel Grant Award** gives partial financial support to members to facilitate their participation in any parasitology and tropical medicine research-related conference, up to a maximum of RM 1500 for each award. You must submit an abstract for oral presentation to apply. Poster presentation is not eligible for application of travel grant award.

## ***Eligibility***

**MSPTM members** who fulfilled the following criteria:

- Membership for at least 3 years
- Malaysian citizen
- Travel purpose: to attend parasitology and tropical medicine research-related conference
- Proof of abstract acceptance to conference (if necessary)
- Brochure of the conference
- Expected expenditure
- Amount: up to RM 1500

## ***Procedure of application***

Applicants are required to fill up the application form and submit to the MSPTM secretary at [secretarymsptm@gmail.com](mailto:secretarymsptm@gmail.com). Incomplete application form will not be processed.

All submitted applications will be reviewed by committee and applicants will be notified of their outcome in writing within (two) months from date of submission.

## ***Successful application***

1. All successful applicants must acknowledge MSPTM with at least one slide during his/her presentation in conference.
2. Grant recipients must submit copies of travel receipts within 1 (one) month of return for reimbursements.
3. Grant recipients must submit a travel report/testimonial with conference photos within 1 (one) month of return. MSPTM reserves the right to publish the travel report/testimonial on MSPTM website or any other social media.

The **CP Ramachandran Travel Grant Award** is open throughout the year.

## Nomination for medal



### The Nadchatram Silver Medal

1. The Nadchatram Silver Medal is in honour of Professor Nadchatram. This Silver Medal is awarded **annually** to outstanding scientists for their achievement in the field of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine.
2. Candidature shall be open to the **MEMBERS OF MALAYSIAN SOCIETY OF PARASITOLOGY AND TROPICAL MEDICINE (MSPTM)**.
3. Only members of **45 YEARS OLD OR BELOW** shall be eligible.
4. There shall be no restriction as to sex or profession of the candidates, nor as to the period during which the research was conducted.

All nominations to be sent to

Honorary Secretary

MSPTM Council

secretarymsptm@gmail.com

For more info please log on to: <http://msptm.org/sandoshamandnadchatrammedals/>



# Obituary

## Dr Lim Boo Liat 1926 - 2020



**“Life is just not the passing of time. Life is the collection of experiences and their intensity.” – Jim Rohn**

MSPTM lost one of our founder members who was a scientist extraordinaire and also the oldest surviving ex-staff of Institute of Medical Research (IMR), Malaysia until he passed away on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2020. He started his career at IMR in 1947 and became Head of Medical Entomology Division in 1965.

USM was proud to honour him as the first recipient to be awarded the Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) in 1977 at the university's sixth convocation ceremony. He also received the MSPTM Sandosham Gold Award in 1977.

Born in 1926, Dr Lim's achievements and contributions in the conservation of Malaysia's bio-diversity and the protection of our natural heritage, spanning close to six decades, have truly made an impact at the local and global levels.

Dr Lim was instrumental in the revival of MNS in 1948 after the Second World War and also served as an adviser to the society. He was an honorary advisor to the Department of Wildlife and National Parks and also served as a consultant for the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia. He was said to have been involved in setting up the National Zoo in the early 60's.

In 1977, he was seconded to the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Indonesia, leading the Vector Biology Control Research Unit to conduct research on plagues, malaria control and rodent control, prior to his retirement in 1987.

Lim had multiple species named after him, including snake *Oligodon booliati*, protozoans *Sarcocystis booliati* and *Plasmodium booliati*, frog *Kalophrynus limbooliati*, flea *Medwayellia limi*, chigger *Babiangia booliati*, and parasitic worms *Helimonella limbooliati* and *Brienlia booliati*.

Dr Lim received the Merdeka Award in 2013 for his contributions to the conservation of Malaysia's biological diversity, having published more than 300 papers on small mammals, reptiles and amphibian ecology throughout his six decades of research. Besides he played an instrumental role in advocating the protection of its natural heritage.

He has also been recognised with an Honorary Membership to the American Society of Mammalogists (ASM). The award dates back to 1919, and Lim was the first Southeast Asian to be honoured with the award.

Throughout his career Dr Lim discovered many new species of fauna which were named after him. These discoveries were acknowledged in two SCIMY (Scientific Malaysian magazine) articles in 2014.

Dr Lim leaves behind 3 sons, a daughter, and a host of grand & great grandchildren.

# MSPTM 57th COUNCIL MEMBERS 2020



Dr. Sam Mohan Aruputham  
President



Dr. Chen Chee Dhang  
Vice President



Assoc. Prof. Dr.  
Siti Nursheena Mohd Zain  
Past President



Dr. Nor Azlina Abdul Aziz  
Honorary Secretary



Dr. Mehru Nisha  
Assistant Secretary



Dr. Norhidayu Sahimin  
Honorary Treasurer



Dr. Chandramathi Samudi @ Raju  
Assistant Treasurer



Dr. Reuben Sharma  
Council Member



Dr. Stanley Tan Tiong Kai  
Council Member



Ms. Adela Ida Jiram  
Council Member



Ms. Nurhainis Ogu Salim  
Council Member



Dr. Hani Kartini Agustar  
Council Member



Dr. Farah Shafawati Mohd Taib  
Council Member



# Congratulations!! (Members achievements)

1. Dr Lim Ju Boo for completing his postdoctoral course on Forensic Toxicology from the university of Cambridge, February 2020
2. Dr Basripuzi Hayyan Hassan Basri for being awarded Universiti Malaysia Kelantan Top WOS Impact Publication April 2020

We depend on members input for this section so share with us your achievements related to parasitology/tropical medicine!

## We welcome contributions from members!

Dear all MSPTM members,

The Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine Newsletter was brought out by the society TWICE a year for members.

Since 2016 the issues were in electronic format and were sent to members by email. The previous issues were uploaded on the society's website (<http://msptm.org/newsletter/>)

The newsletter team is now gathering info for the 2020 issues, and we don't want to miss out interesting updates from you!

Thus, we welcome contributions from MSPTM members on activities/events that happened between January 2020 to June 2020 such as;

1. Achievements, promotions, or awards accepted.
2. Articles on workshops, conferences, seminars or knowledge transfer activities attended/organised which are related to parasitology/tropical medicine.
3. Media exposures such as newspaper clips, magazine articles, radio/tv interviews.
4. Books/chapter in books/monographs published.

Kindly send the information with any related pictures/links to [news-lettersmsptm@gmail.com](mailto:news-lettersmsptm@gmail.com) before the 25th of December 2020.

We hope that by sharing interesting news about MSPTM members, we will improve networking between each other and motivate our members to strive for excellence.

## Contact Us

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