



Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine

# e-Newsletter

Issue 2/2021 | FOR MEMBERS ONLY

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## President's Message

Dear esteemed members, my hardworking council members and friends of MSPTM,

Selamat Merdeka! to each and everyone who is reading our 3rd eNewsletter. This edition covers the last 6 months of activities & events organised by the society and other relevant information. We will archive this edition in our soon-to-be updated society website which will have much more information relevant to our members in the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine. Please stay tuned.

Sincere thanks to our new Editor Dr. Farah Haziqah and her team for their efforts and to our members and readers, do continue to contribute articles and information relevant to our society & community.

We have a new Prime Minister Dato Sri Ismail Sabri who is the 9th since Merdeka. We pray for a better future with his leadership and goodwill to all occupants, flora & fauna in Malaysia. Wish all of you good health during this continuous and very stressful pandemic.

Stay safe and Covid free.

Best always,

*Sam*

President MSPTM 2021-2022

## From the Editor

Welcome to the MSPTM Newsletter and I send warm greetings to you all. A lot has happened since the previous issue of our newsletter. While the pandemic still continues taking its heavy toll around the globe, there are a lot more reasons for optimism now than a few months ago. We love to hear news of your activities, both actual and virtual, so do keep your updates coming. Please do reach out to us if you are missing copies of the newsletter or need some help renewing your membership. See everyone in the the 57th Annual Scientific Conference of the Malaysian Society of Parasitology & Tropical Medicine (MSPTM 2021) in September!

Stay safe and healthy.

Best regards,

*Farah Haziqah*

MSPTM Newsletter Editor



## The Pandemic and the B40: What is the road ahead?

The month of March 2021 marks a full year since the imposition of the MCO, the acronym to signify the unprecedented public restrictions taken to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic. In an instant our lives had been turned upside down. Guided by the WHO, our government mandated a new social norm to reduce transmission of the virus through physical distancing, regular hand washing, and avoiding large social gatherings. Over the last 12 months we observed the MCO successfully reduce the infection rate - only to slide back when restrictions were relaxed, forcing a reimposition of the MCO. Today we still live in this limbo-land of restriction and semi-restrictions as we look out for light at the end of the tunnel.

In the meantime, we have been reminded that this crisis is not only a health crisis but also an economic one. The new norms we have been forced to adopt are unlike anything we have ever experienced before and have not affected everybody equally. Some are able to adapt, but some have had their livelihoods badly impacted. The B40 segment of our population, in particular, have been the most vulnerable even before the pandemic, and have financially been the least prepared to adapt to the effects of the lockdown.

Unlike some of us who are able to work from home, the B40 are often daily wage earners. The MCO meant that they cannot go out and earn their daily wages. A Department of Statistics Malaysia survey revealed that almost 50% of the self-employed workers interviewed had lost their jobs, while 94.8% reported a reduction of income as the result of the MCO. As husbands lost their jobs, their wives are forced to come out and help earn an income. Many have been forced to become food entrepreneurs – making meals and cakes. But they need to learn new sets of skills to market their wares on new digital platforms.



More than 50% of the B40 category live in urban cities in public housing or low-cost flats. These are often cramped dwellings sometimes with multi-generation families living together. These high-rise housing schemes often experience breakdown in services such as waste management which, in turn, causes an overall decline in hygiene and sanitation. Not surprisingly parasitic infections are on the rise among this community.





With schools and learning institutions closed for extended periods, B40 children are left idle at home. The mandate to move teaching and learning online is not working because these children have limited access to devices and insufficient data. This has also become another form of distress to parents and students. Many parents struggle to provide their children with proper computers and secure access to stable internet data. Most students sought to learning lessons through the usage of small low-quality handphone screens, which will undoubtedly reverse years of progress on education. Young children living in public housing are worst affected as they lose a sense of structure and social stimulation that is offered in daycare and school environments. These centers provide them the basic skills to read, write and count and more importantly the free nutritional meals provided by government agencies.



Heart to heart talk with a PPR resident.

The unprecedented crisis created by the Covid-19 pandemic has forced us to develop innovative approaches to support the B40 communities living under stress in the public housing schemes. One example is Think City's K2K Program that utilizes a digital platform to connect the urban poor to various support programs. Universiti Malaya's Institute of Biological Sciences has partnered with Think City to develop modules focused on community nutrition and health. As we enter the 2nd year of the pandemic, it is innovative programs like this that will help our B40 communities develop greater adaptive strategies and enhance their overall resilience to withstand future shocks.



**Prof. Dr. Siti Nursheena Mohd Zain** is a Professor at the Institute of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Malaya and Immediate Past President of the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine.

Zoonotic infections are happening all the time. A group of Malaysian and Japanese researchers recently discovered a new strain of parasitic worm that infects *Tupaia glis* and several wild animals in a tropical secondary-forest. Their findings led to the discovery of new distribution of this unusual worm in the wild. However, the infection of these parasite on human host remain unknown.

The article is **FREE** to access! Download your copy here:

<https://doi.org/10.47665/tb.37.4.1152>



Tropical Biomedicine 37(4): 1152-1157 (2008)  
Morphological characteristics of microfilariae in blood smears of the common tree shrew *Tupaia glis* (Mammalia: Scandentia) in Gemas, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia.  
Umi, S. et al.

**Tropical Biomedicine**

RESEARCH FRONTIERS

## DISCOVERY OF PARASITIC LARVAE IN MALAYSIAN TUPAIA GLIS

A scientific expedition led by a group of Malaysian and Japanese researchers in Gemas, Malaysia led to the discovery of filarial infections caused by new species of parasitic filarioids in common tree shrews (*Tupaia glis*).

Unique approach to extracting samples of the microfilaria in blood smears of the Tupaia contributed to the study of their characteristics and how they may affect infections in small mammals found at tropical forests.

Free Access 

**Interested to explore more on the findings?**  
Download the full research article here for **FREE!**



Journal Outreach Program No. MSPTM

# MSPTM Photo Competition 2020

The MSPTM Photography Competition 2020 was held from 1st December to 31st January 2021. The competition is organised with the aim of obtaining photographs for society's promotion materials, such as conference backdrop image, bunting, banners, website image. The winner's photos will be used as the cover photos for MSPTM's official journal, Tropical Biomedicine in 2021.

The themes of the competition are divided into three (4) categories:

- **Activities in the lab** - Scientific images using photographic methods to capture phenomena or activities that occur in the lab. The beauty of the resulting image creates a distinctive history of photography in the field of science seen from the perspective of the arts.
- **Activities in the field** - Capturing meaningful moments outside the lab that is related to research. The message within the image often gives a more profound meaning than words can ever express.
- **Beauty of organisms** - Discovering the beauty of organisms under the microscope, electron microscope, micro lens etc.
- **Representation art** - Art that seeks to depict the physical appearance of reality also called objective or figurative art.

The winning photograph selected by the panel of judges as below:

"Mr. and Mrs. Culex quinquefasciatus: The Malaysian Nuisance Mosquitoes" by Chen Chee Dhang (Universiti Malaya)

"Glowing Anopheles cracens in a Dark" by Nantha Kumar Jeyaprakasam (Universiti Malaya)

"Face view of parasite nematode Syphacia muris" by Siti Nursheena Mohd Zain (Universiti Malaya)

"The golden egg, a perilous gold investment" by Naim Che Kamaruddin (Universiti Putra Malaysia)



## Winner MSPTM Photo Competition 2020

"Mr. and Mrs. *Culex quinquefasciatus*: The Malaysian Nuisance Mosquitoes"  
by Chen Chee Dhang (Universiti Malaya)

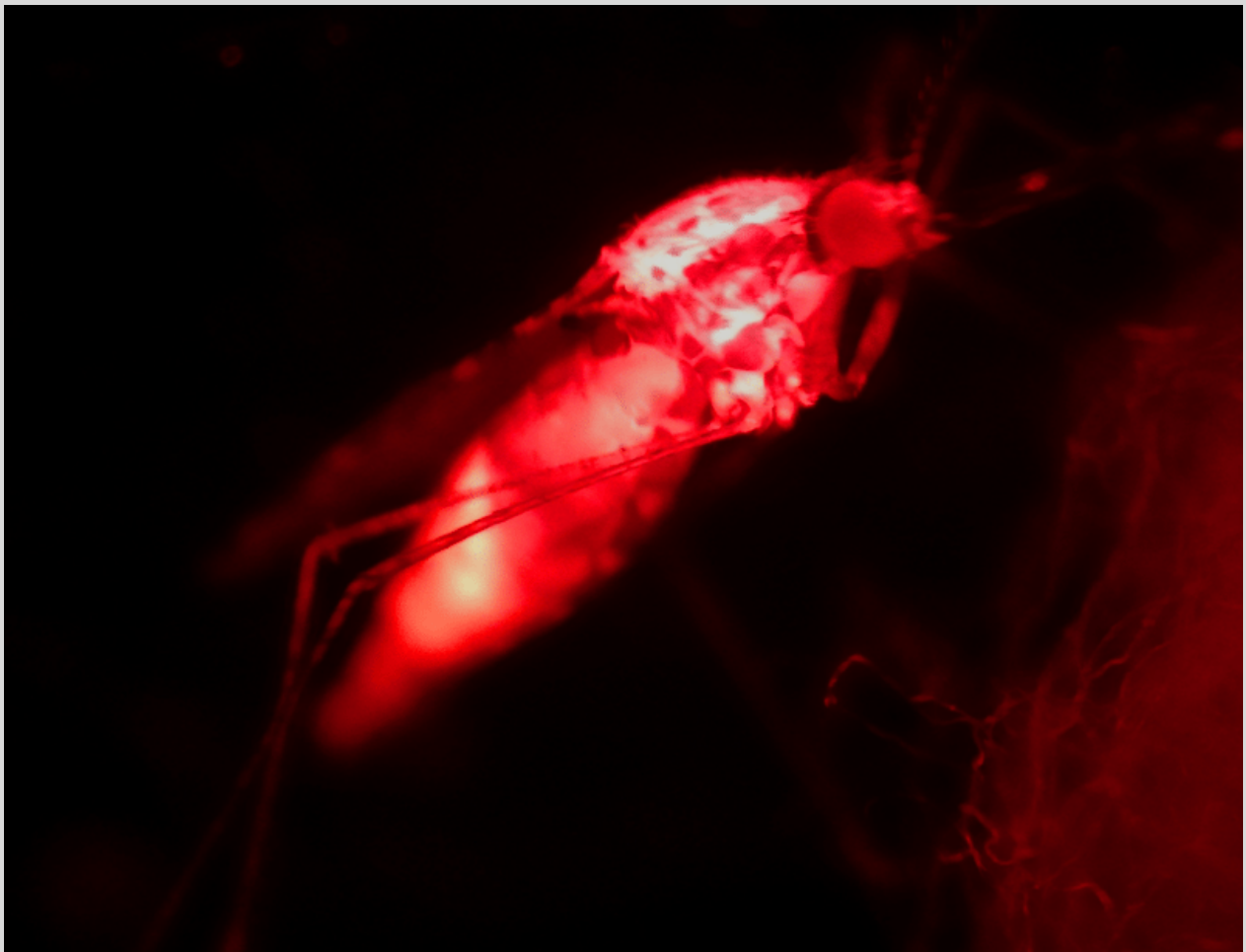
*Culex quinquefasciatus* Say (Diptera: Culicidae) is the most common Malaysian nuisance mosquito. It is also a potential vector of urban lymphatic filariasis caused by the nematode parasite, *Wuchereria bancrofti* in Malaysia. Around the world, its significance as a vector of bancroftian filariasis, West Nile virus, Saint Louis encephalitis virus, Ross River virus, and Japanese encephalitis virus. This photo shows a male (left) and a female (right) of *Culex quinquefasciatus*.



## Winner MSPTM Photo Competition 2020

"Glowing *Anopheles cracens* in a Dark"  
by Nantha Kumar Jeyaprakasam (Universiti Malaya)

The figure depicts an *Anopheles cracens* mosquito which has taken a blood meal infused with 0.1% Rhodamine B. Under the fluorescent microscope, the mosquito glows in a vibrant red colour! Being one of the important vector for knowlesi malaria in Peninsular Malaysia, blood meal analysis in *An. cracens* will result in a deeper understanding of the physiology of blood digestion and its impact on the host–vector interactions. The glowing mosquito in a dark background symbolically showcases the hope for the ongoing malaria research to shed some “light” to eradicate this disease one day in the future!





## Winner MSPTM Photo Competition 2020

"Face view of parasite nematode Syphacia muris"  
by Siti Nursheena Mohd Zain (Universiti Malaya)

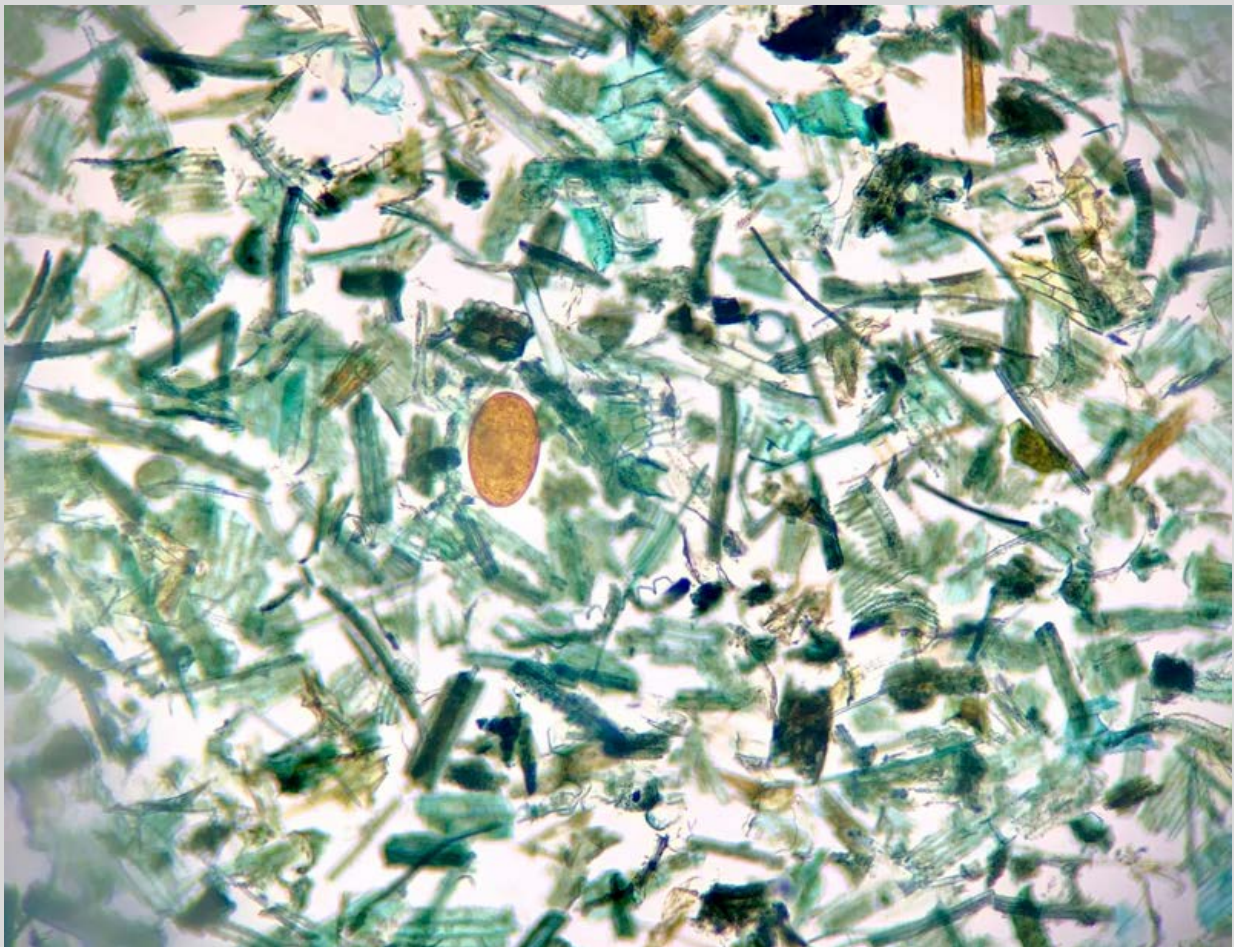
The shown image is a scanning electron micrograph shot of the on-face view of Syphacia muris, a common pinworm occurring in laboratory rats. This nematode is characterized with a rounded anterior region and tapered posterior that ends in a sharply pointed tail. This worm commonly inhabits the cecum and colon of their host and like any other pinworm, the infection is generally mildly pathogenic and known to alter the host physiology. Therefore, infection of this nematode is able to confound research findings.



## Winner MSPTM Photo Competition 2020

"The Golden Egg, A Perilous Gold Investment"  
by Naim Che Kamaruddin (Universiti Putra Malaysia)

The liver fluke (*Fasciola* sp.) egg can be easily identified with the help of microscopes because of its golden colour. Although it seems captivating to appreciate its beauty, this egg will hatch and grow to adulthood in any mammal that accidentally consumes the infective larvae, especially in ruminant livestock and sometimes in humans. The juvenile and adult flukes cause damage to organs especially the liver, consequently reducing the reproduction and production performance in animals which can lead to economic losses for farmers. Eradication of this 'golden egg' is crucial to mitigate the economic impact and zoonoses risk caused by this parasite.





## MSPTM Mid-Year Webinar 2021

The Mid-Year Webinar has been successfully conducted on 13th August 2021 (Friday) virtually via Zoom's video platform at 2.30 – 4.30pm. The mid-year webinar was organized with focusing on the latest scientific updates on Covid-19 in Malaysia.

A total of 415 personnel registered for the event and 227 (68%) participants attended the webinar, including participants from Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore and Australia. The seminar consisted of three key talks related to the role of vaccines, Covid-19-mutations-survival and also the possibility of Covid-19 transmission from animals to humans.

Speakers for this seminar were Associate Professor Dr. Sharifah Faridah Syed Omar from Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Dr. Jeyanthi Suppiah from Virology Unit, Institute of Medical Research (IMR), Malaysia and Associate Professor Dato' Dr. Vellayan from Faculty of Pharmacy, UiTM Puncak Alam, Malaysia. The plenary talks were followed by a forum moderated by Dr. Mehru Nisha whereas question and answer session moderated by Dr. Nor Azlina Abdul Aziz.

For those who missed this interesting webinar, the recording is available on YouTube. Here is the YouTube link - <https://youtu.be/FkvmtEqjPw>.




**Malaysian Society of Parasitology & Tropical Medicine Mid-Year Webinar**  
Friday, 13 August 2021  
2.30 – 4.30 pm (Malaysia time)

**Latest Scientific Updates  
on Covid-19 in Malaysia**

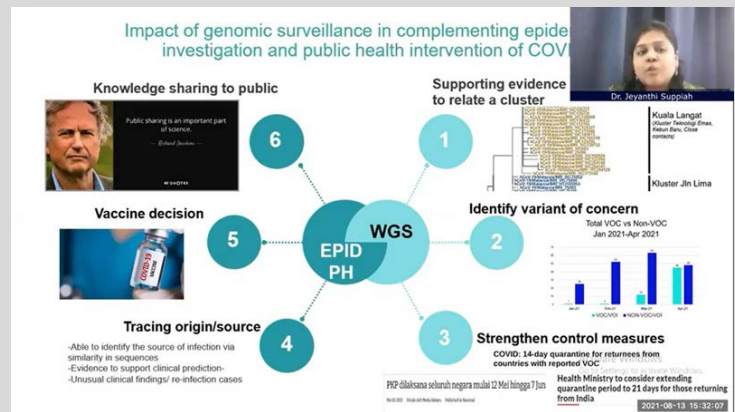
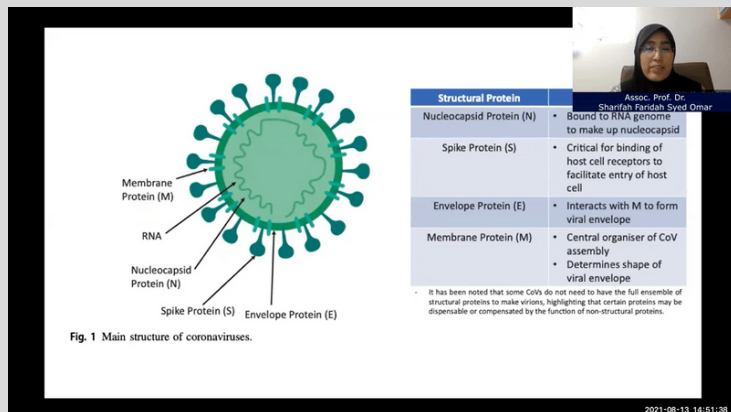
	<b>Role of Vaccines and other Agents for Prevention of Covid-19</b> Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sharifah Faridah Syed Omar Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya		<b>Covid-19-Mutations-Survival of the Fittest</b> Dr. Jeyanthi Suppiah Institute for Medical Research (IMR), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Ministry of Health Malaysia		<b>Possibility of Covid-19 Transmission from Animals to Humans</b> Assoc. Prof. Dato' Dr. S. Vellayan Faculty of Pharmacy, UiTM Puncak Alam
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Scan to register  
For more information,  
Website: <https://msptm.org/mid-year-webinar/>  
Email: [msptmevents@gmail.com](mailto:msptmevents@gmail.com)





## Thank you to all who attended the MSPTM Mid-Year Webinar 2021



### COVID IN MALAYSIAN PANGOLINS

Assoc. Prof. Dato' Dr. S. Vellayan

- Malaysia's critically endangered wild pangolins have tested negative for Covid-19, indicating that they pose no threat to human health amid reports that they are possible carriers of the virus.

Wild pangolins test negative for Covid-19



## 2021 MSPTM Annual Scientific Conference

We would like to invite you to join the 57th Annual Scientific Conference of the Malaysian Society of Parasitology & Tropical Medicine (MSPTM 2021), which will be held on 15 September 2021 (virtual conference). For more details, please visit the conference website: <https://msptm.org/msptm-2021-conference/> or contact conference secretariat via email: [msptmevents@gmail.com](mailto:msptmevents@gmail.com)



**57<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE OF THE  
MALAYSIAN SOCIETY OF PARASITOLOGY & TROPICAL MEDICINE**  
**15 September 2021 • Virtual Conference**

**CONFERENCE THEME:**  
*Practicing New Norms in Overcoming Tropical Diseases*



**A One Health Perspective of Insects**  
**Dr. Laura H. Kahn**  
Co-Founder, One Health Initiative, USA



**The Covid-19 Pandemic and Children: From Crisis to Opportunity**  
**Dato' Dr. Amar-Singh HSS**  
Senior Consultant Paediatrician & Researcher, Malaysia.



**Current Status of Human Liver Fluke Infections in the Greater Mekong Subregion**  
**Prof. Banchob Sripa**  
Senior Research Scholar, Khon Kaen University, Thailand



**Control of Schistosomiasis in Africa: A Personal Perspective of Past, Current and Future Activities**  
**Prof. Dr. John Russell Stothard**  
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK

☒ **CALL FOR ABSTRACT DEADLINE 1 SEPT 2021**  
Malaria | Dengue | Covid-19 | Emerging Zoonoses | Antibiotic Resistance | Insecticide Resistance  
Veterinary Parasitology | Vector Biology & Control | Neglected Tropical Diseases  
Medical & Forensic Entomology | Medical Microbiology & Parasitology | General Topics

☒ **REGISTRATION FEES**

MSPTM Member	MYR 80
Non-MSPTM Member	MYR 100
ASEAN Association of Parasitology*	MYR 80

\*Indonesian Parasitic Disease Association  
\*Vietnam Society of Parasitology  
\*Vietnam Society of Infectious Diseases  
\*The Philippines Society of Parasitology  
\*Parasitology & Tropical Medicine Association of Thailand

**DEADLINE 1 SEPT 2021**

Student	MYR 50
Senior Citizen (Age >65)	Complimentary

☒ **CPD POINTS WILL BE AWARDED**

☒ **WEBSITE**  
<https://msptm.org/msptm-2021-conference/>

☒ **FOR ENQUIRY**  
[msptmevents@gmail.com](mailto:msptmevents@gmail.com)

**SCAN TO REGISTER**



<https://forms.gle/e63sZn7zqAg1WPQn8>





# MALAYSIAN SOCIETY OF PARASITOLOGY AND TROPICAL MEDICINE

Council Members (2021-2022)



**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. Azdayanti Muslim**  
Honorary Treasurer



**Assoc. Prof. Dato' Dr.  
S. Vellayan**  
Council Member



**Dr. Stanley Tan Tiong Kai**  
Council Member



**Dr. Reuben Sharma**  
Council Member



**Ms. Adela Ida Jiram**  
Council Member



**Dr. Lucas Low Van Lun**  
Council Member



**Dr. Farah Haziqah Meor Temizi**  
Council Member



**Dr. Paul Cliff Simon Divis**  
Council Member



### Appointment of New Trustee for MSPTM

The 58th executive council is happy to announce **Dr. Lee Han Lim** as the new Trustee for MSPTM. Dr Lee will replace the late Dr. Lim Boo Liat who passed on in 2019.

Dr. Lee Han Lim was nominated by the 57th MSPTM Council and endorsed by the house during the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 27th March, 2021. Dr. Lee Han Lim has accepted this respected appointment and will join Tuan Haji Sulaiman Abdullah and Prof. Dr. Pakeer Oothuman as the MSPTM trustees.



**"It's a privilege of being appointed as the Society's trustee. Thanks for the confidence in me"**

**Dr. Lee Han Lim  
MSPTM Trustee**

## Dr. Vickneshwaran Muthu

**Tetamu Myhik Asyik**  
24 Mac 2021 (Rabu)  
11:30 Pagi

Dr. Vickneshwaran Muthu  
Ketua Penolong Pengarah Kanan  
Bahagian Kawalan Penyakit,  
Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia

**LIVE**  
FB: ASYIK FM

**TOPIK :**  
**Vaksin Covid-19:**  
**Dah Daftar Ke Belum?**

**Salafiah 94.9 FM**

**DAH VAKSIN KENAPA PERLU PATUH SOP**

**5.00 PM - 12.10 PM**  
TUESDAY

**DR. VICKNESHWARAN MUTHU**  
Ketua Penolong Pengarah Kanan  
Bahagian Kawalan Penyakit  
Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia

**SAKSIKAN**

**WORLD HEPATITIS DAY**

**29 JULY 2021 THURSDAY 10 PM**

**DR. VICKNESHWARAN MUTHU**  
Ketua Penolong Pengarah Kanan  
Bahagian Kawalan Penyakit  
Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia

**Time To Go TraXX fm**

**COVID-19: IMPORTANCE OF HERD IMMUNITY**

**19.00 PM - 11.15 PM**  
MONDAY

**DR. VICKNESHWARAN MUTHU**  
Ketua Penolong Pengarah Kanan  
Bahagian Kawalan Penyakit  
Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia

**SAKSIKAN**

**Awareness and Attitude Towards COVID-19 Vaccination**

**12 JULY 2021 MONDAY 10 PM**

**DR. VICKNESHWARAN MUTHU**  
Ketua Penolong Pengarah Kanan  
Bahagian Kawalan Penyakit  
Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia

**Dr. Vellayan**



Please click on the link below to access the article:

<https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2021/03/03/remembering-the-father-of-zoo-negara/>





### Dr. Heo Chong Chin



The poster is for a radio show on Melody FM. At the top left, there is a small photo of two hosts and a 'Syok APP' logo with the text '同步收听'. To the right, it says 'MELODY 每逢周五 9am-10am' and 'SO COOL'. Social media icons for a radio app and Facebook are shown with the text '现场直播'. The main title in Chinese is '昆虫学家如何帮助维持生态平衡?'. Below this, the date '6月18日 (星期五)', time '早上9点', and guest '昆虫学家 丘忠君博士' are listed with corresponding icons. On the right, a large photo of Dr. Heo Chong Chin, wearing a suit and holding a graduation cap, is displayed.

Dr. Heo Chong Chin was recently invited by Melody FM, a Malaysian Chinese-language radio station which was aired on 18 June 2021 at 9 am. The topic was "How do insects help in maintaining the balance of the ecosystem?"



This is a screenshot from a radio broadcast. The top right corner features the 'SO COOL' logo. The main area is split into two video feeds: on the left, a female host wearing a face mask; on the right, Dr. Heo Chong Chin, identified by a name tag. At the bottom left is the 'MELODY I Love You 早晨' logo. The bottom center has the text '昆虫学家如何帮助维持生态平衡?' and the bottom right has '丘忠君博士'.

## Congratulations to Prof. Dr. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian elected as Council Members of Academy of Sciences Malaysia



We would like to congratulate **Prof. Dr. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian** elected as the Council Members of Academy of Sciences Malaysia 2021/2022.

*Congratulations!*

## Congratulations to Prof. Dr. Wan Kiew Lian, Prof. Dr. Fong Mun Yik & Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling elected as Fellows of Academy of Sciences Malaysia



We would like to congratulate **Prof. Dr. Wan Kiew Lian (top)**, **Prof. Dr. Fong Mun Yik (middle)** and **Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling (below)** for appointment as Fellows of Academy of Sciences Malaysia 2021.

*Congratulations!*



# Congratulations to Dr. Chen Chee Dhang for winning the Creative and Innovative Administration Management Award



**Sambutan**  
**HARI PENTADBIR UM 2021**  
ANUGERAH PENTADBIR UNIVERSITI MALAYA

**Tahniah**  
**DR. CHEN CHEE DHANG**  
ANUGERAH TADBIR URUS KREATIF DAN INOVATIF



**ANUGERAH PENTADBIR UNIVERSITI MALAYA 2021**  
**(KATEGORI: TADBIR URUS KREATIF & INOVATIF)**  
**DR. CHEN CHEE DHANG**

Dr. Chen Chee Dhang merupakan Pegawai Penyelidik Kanan dan Ketua Skim Q yang telah berkhidmat di Universiti Malaya selama 13 tahun. Dr. Chen merupakan Ahli Kajiserangga Perubatan yang aktif dalam penyelidikan Entomologi Perubatan khususnya kawalan vektor bawaan penyakit dan kajian kerintangan racun serangga. Penglibatan aktif beliau dibuktikan dengan hasil penyelidikan yang tinggi, iaitu 150 penulisan ilmiah diterbitkan dalam pelbagai jurnal berimpak faktor dan berwasit. Selain daripada penyelidikan, beliau juga sering terlibat dalam pelbagai projek khidmat komuniti, pengurusan dan pentadbiran di peringkat Universiti, Kebangsaan dan Antarabangsa. Pencapaian luar biasa beliau telah diiktirafkan oleh 30 anugerah dari pelbagai pihak, antaranya *Ten Outstanding Young Malaysian*, *Nadchatram Medal*, *United Nations Sustainable Development Award*, *Asian Universities Alliance Scholar Award* dan Anugerah Pentadbir UM. Beliau juga merupakan pemenang Anugerah Pentadbir Gemilang MASTI tahun 2018 dan 2020 dalam kategori: Penyelidikan, Penulisan Ilmiah dan Tokoh Pentadbir.

*Congratulations!*

**Congratulations to Dr. Chen Chee Dhang elected as the President of Persatuan Pegawai Tadbir dan Ikhtisas (PEKERTI), Universiti Malaya**



**Congratulations to Prof. Dr. Siti Nursheena elected as the Director of International Relations Office, Universiti Malaya**



*Congratulations!*



## PEKERTI UM WEBINAR SERIES 6 (Memahami Penyakit Haiwan: Bolehkah ia Berjangkit Kepada Manusia?)



**MASTI** **PEKERTI UM** **RIMBA ILMU**  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

**PEKERTI UM**  
**WEBINAR SERIES**  
BERSEMPENA SAMBUTAN HARI PENTADBIR UNIVERSITI AWAM

**2021**

**12.08.2021 / Khamis / 2:30pm - 3:30pm**

**Memahami Penyakit Haiwan:  
Bolehkah Ia Berjangkit Kepada Manusia**

Dato' Dr. Chandrawathani Panchadcharam  
Mantan Pengarah  
Bahagian Penyelidikan & Inovasi, Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar  
Kementerian Pertanian & Industri Makanan

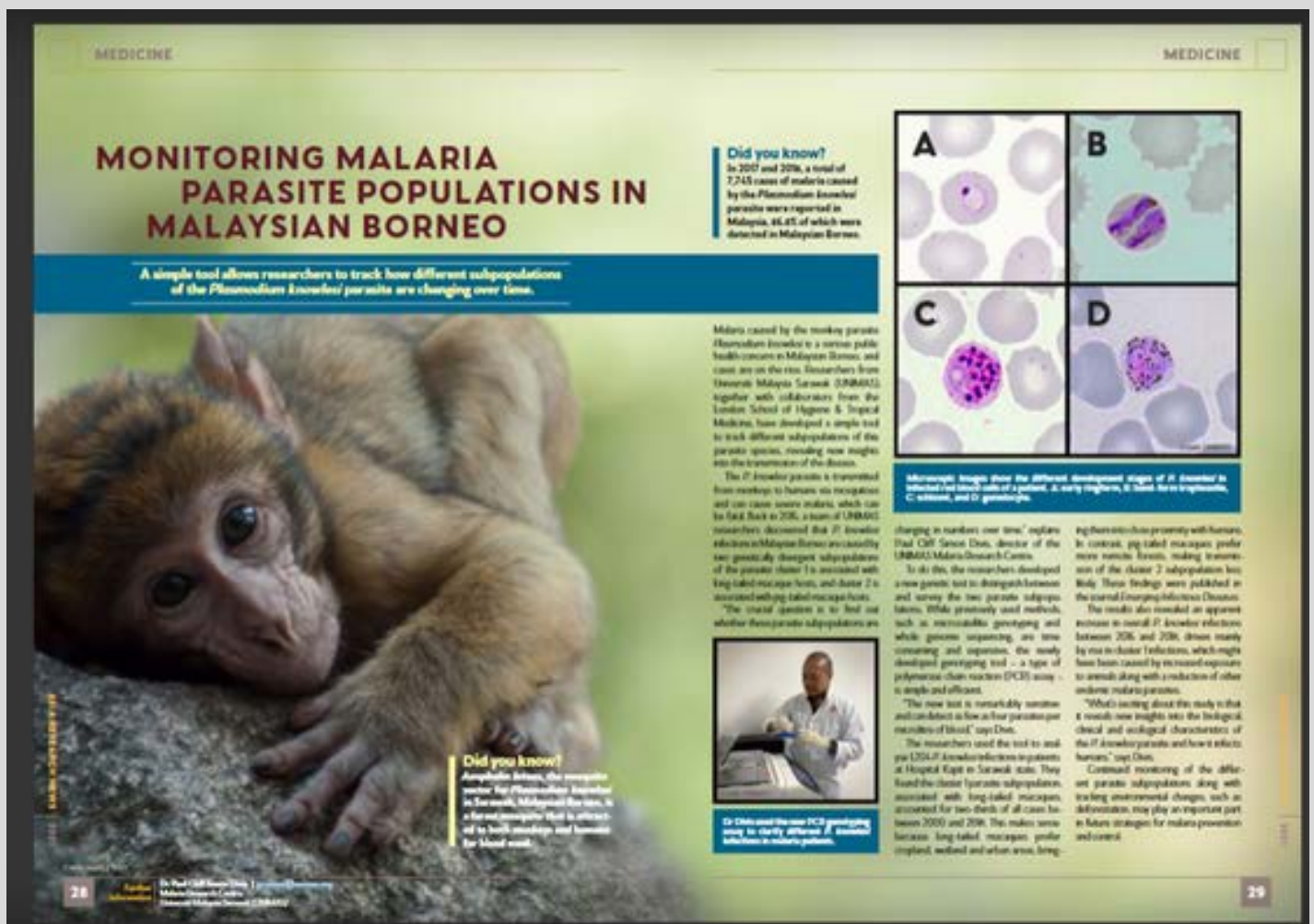
**Link Pendaftaran**  
<https://tinyurl.com/pekerti1208>

Webinar Terbuka Kepada  
**SEMUA KAKITANGAN AWAM**

# MONITORING MALARIA PARASITE POPULATIONS IN MALAYSIAN BORNEO

The article is **FREE** to access! Download your copy here:

[https://issuu.com/asiaresearchnews/docs/asia\\_research\\_news\\_2021](https://issuu.com/asiaresearchnews/docs/asia_research_news_2021)



Dr. Paul Cliff Simon Dias

pcsimon@unimas.my

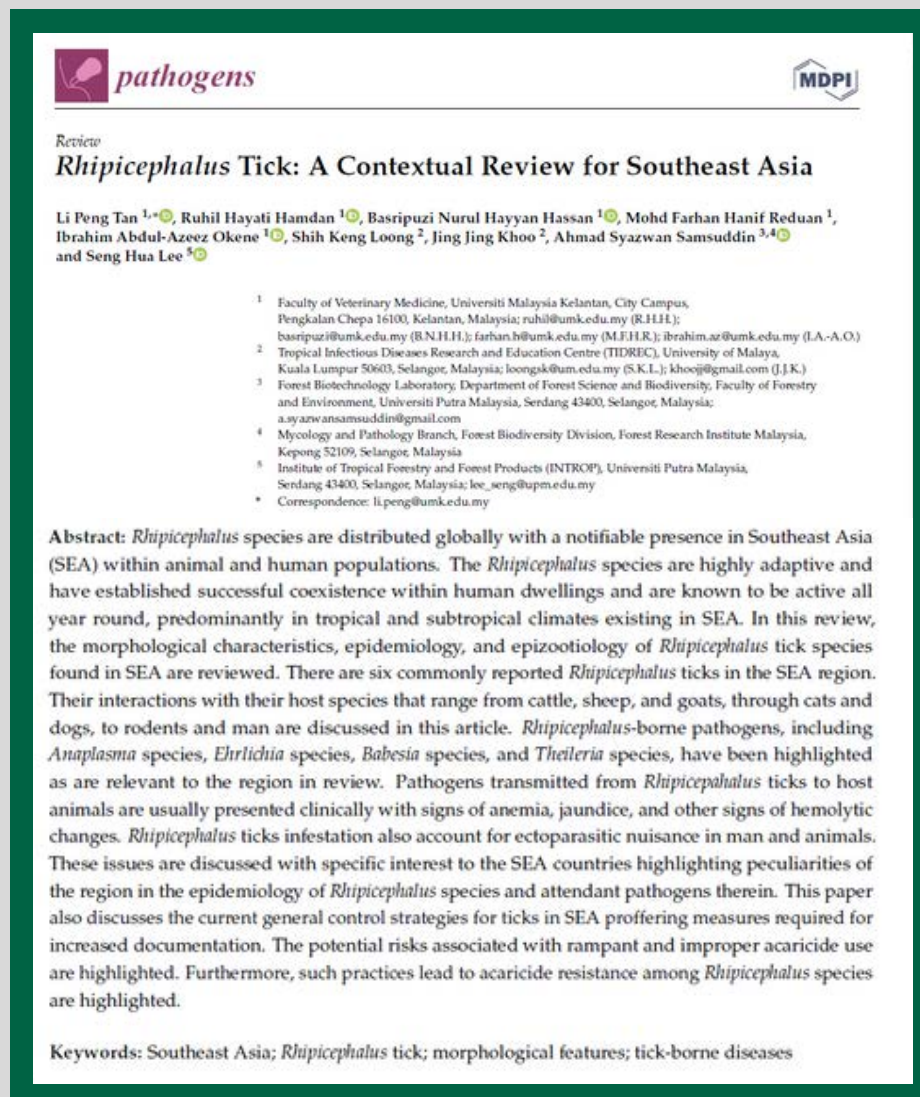
Malaria Research Centre Universiti Malaysia Sarawak  
(UNIMAS)



# Rhipicephalus Tick: A Contextual Review for Southeast Asia

The article is **FREE** to access! Download your copy here:

<https://www.mdpi.com/2076-0817/10/7/821>



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li.peng@umk.edu.my

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK)

Dr. Basripuzi Nurul Hayyan Binti Hassan Basri

basripuzi@umk.edu.my

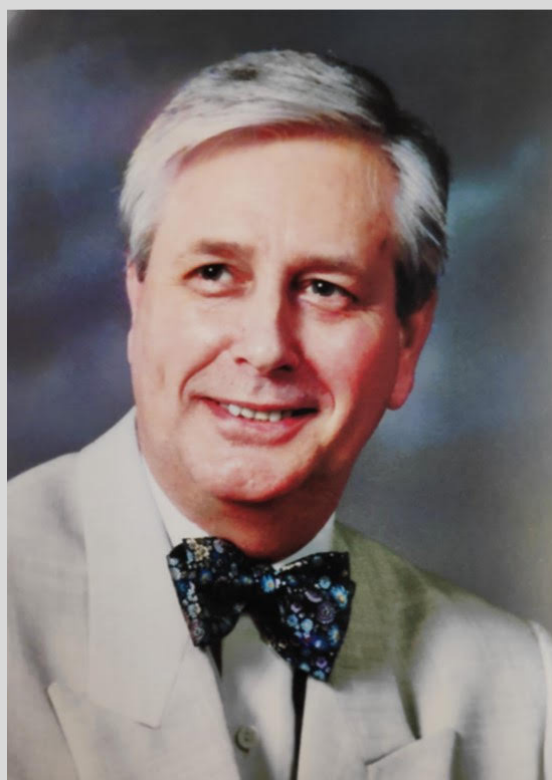
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK)



# *Mr. John Storey*

(1936 – 2021)

By  
**Dr. Kevin Palmer**



It is with great sadness that we announce that Mr. John Storey passed away on 19 February 2021 in Kuala Lumpur. Below is a tribute devoted to him by Dr Kevin Palmer who is a life member of the MSPTM.

The malaria world lost one of its legendary figures with John Storey's death on 19 February 2021 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. John was one of the last generations of malariologists who learned the full range of essential skills in the field, living and working in remote places under the most challenging circumstances. He made his way up from being a laboratory technician to be a respected global authority on malaria control and the world's leading expert on malaria microscopy.

Affectionately known as Lolo in the Philippines and Grandpa elsewhere, John was a friend, colleague, teacher, and mentor to virtually every malaria worker in the Asia-Pacific. Always the proper Englishman with his trademark bow tie, he was the voice of experience and reason in meetings. One of his basic pieces of philosophy was that in malaria, we are constantly reinventing the wheel, but in part, due to his leadership, the world is moving toward malaria elimination.

One of John's famous pieces of advice he jokingly gave to young, ambitious malaria workers was never to join the World Health Organization (WHO), but he proudly gave 37 years of service to WHO. He started his career in Pemba, the northern island of Zanzibar, after being discharged from the British Army. From Pemba, John moved on to Nigeria, where he worked from 1969 to 1976 as laboratory technician in the Garki Project, which has fundamentally shaped our understanding of malaria transmission in tropical Africa. In Nigeria, John grew from technician to malariologist, working with legendary malariologists including Louis Molineaux and Gabriele Gramiccia.



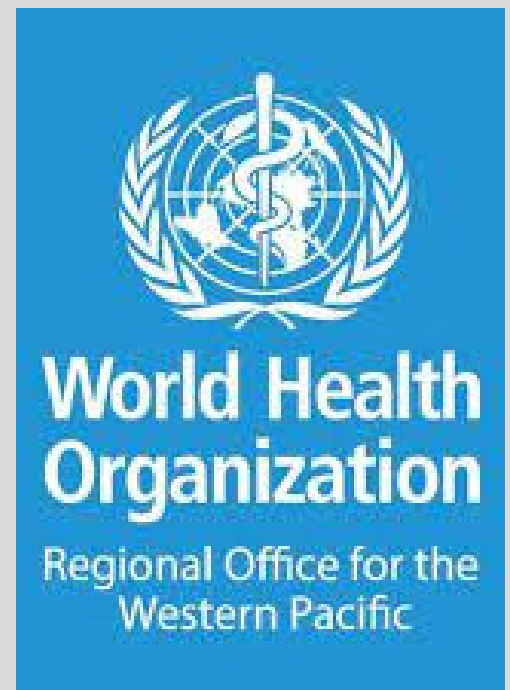
After Garki, John moved to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia where he joined the WHO Regional Anti-Malaria Team. While in Kuala Lumpur, John produced a series of training manuals. The most well-known was his Basic Malaria Microscopy that, together with the series of bench aids produced by Yap Loy Fong, became the standard references found in every malaria laboratory. Along the way, John earned a master's degree that added to his extensive set of practical credentials. John prided himself as an educator. His leadership style aimed to bring out the best in others. His focus was on people working on the frontline of malaria control, building, as we would describe it today, a community of practice.

While stationed in Kuala Lumpur at the Institute for Medical Research, John played an active teaching role in the Diploma course in Applied Parasitology and Entomology (DAP&E), an involvement that continued way past his retirement. Today, graduates of the DAP&E hold senior leadership positions in virtually every country in the Asia-Pacific Region.

From Kuala Lumpur John moved to Manila, where he took up the Regional Adviser's post in malaria at the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WPRO). As the Regional Adviser, John led a team of regional and country-based malaria professionals that helped malaria control programs set policies and provided technical guidance that facilitated the transition from the era of malaria eradication to malaria control.

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## Partners against malaria

by John Storey

**M**alaria has been responsible for millions of deaths in many developing countries. In the last 10 years, malaria has been responsible for more deaths than any other infectious disease in the world. In the last 10 years, malaria has been responsible for more deaths than any other infectious disease in the world. In the last 10 years, malaria has been responsible for more deaths than any other infectious disease in the world.

**Village health workers** in Laos are the backbone of the malaria control programme. They are responsible for identifying and treating malaria cases in their communities. They are also responsible for educating the community about malaria prevention.

John Storey, who has been working in Laos for many years, is a member of the malaria control programme. He is responsible for coordinating the programme and for providing technical support to the village health workers.

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100

John worked in the private sector for a short period before joining the European Union Malaria Control Project based in Vientiane, Lao PDR. John loved Vientiane and, for a long time, had a beautiful house overlooking the Mekong River. He was a founding member of the Vientiane Single Malt Club (VSMC), where he was famous for smoking his long Cuban cigars and enlightening his friends and colleagues on the finer points of single malt whiskies and many other things in life. The VSMC still meets regularly and has spun off similar clubs in Manila and Honolulu.

John and Annie eventually gave up their house on the Mekong and moved back to Kuala Lumpur. In recent years John served as a short-term consultant in Oman, Sudan, Myanmar, Thailand, and several countries in the Asia-Pacific Region, including one of his favorite places, Papua New Guinea.

John, the educator, mentor, and eminent malariologist, touched the lives of countless malaria and health workers across the region. He truly made a difference during his long career and will be missed.

John leaves behind his devoted Annie, two children, and six grandchildren.

## 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/>)

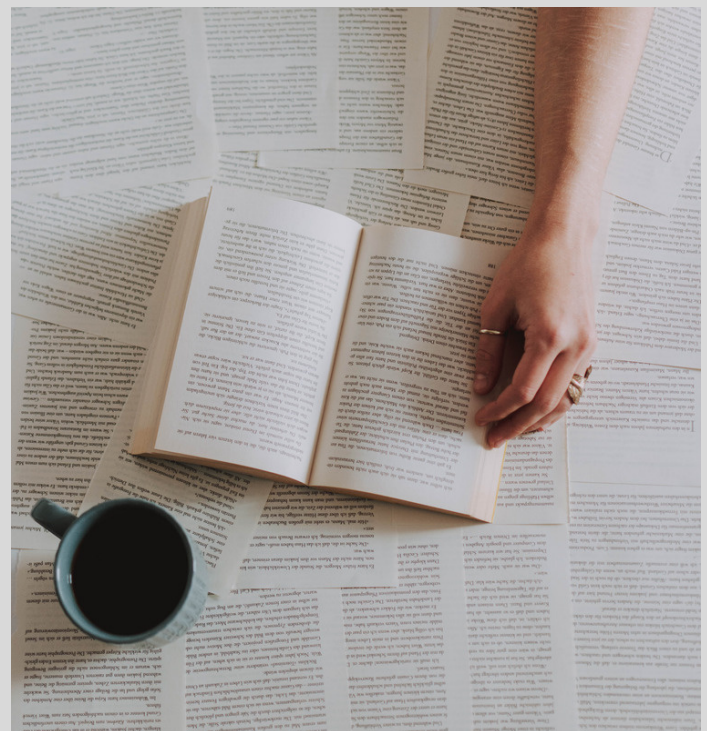
The newsletter team is now gathering info for the 2021 issues, and we don't want to miss out interesting updates from you!

Thus, we welcome contributions from MSPTM members on activities/events that happened between **September 2021 to February 2022** 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 [newslettermsptm@gmail.com](mailto:newslettermsptm@gmail.com) before the **25th of February 2022**.

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.





# Welcome new members!

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

1. Dr. Chew Ching Hong (UniSZA) - Molecular parasitology
2. Dr. Noor Azrizal Bin Abdul Wahid (UM) - Entomology, Parasitology, Vector Biology & Molecular Biology
3. Mr. Freddy Franklin (UM) - Molecular Biology & Parasitology
4. Ms. Nurul Ain Sabrina Amran (UPM) - Parasitology
5. Ms. Suey Yee Low (UPM) - Parasitology
6. Dr. Ahmad Naqib Bin Shuid (USM) - Bioinformatics & Parasitology
7. Dr. Tan Kim Kee (UM) - Molecular systematics
8. Ms. Nurul Nadiyah Binti Ab Talib (UniKL - MESTECH) – Parasitology & Molecular Biology
9. Ms. Maryam Jamielah Binti Yusoff (MSU) - Biotechnology
10. Dr. Lee Hai Yen (Natasha) (UM) - Microbiology & Vaccinology

## Interested to be a member?

### Step 1

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

### Step 2

Please download and fill in the 'New Membership Proposal & Secondar Form'

### Step 3

Once this is completed, kindly submit it through the online New/Renew Membership Application portal

For inquiries, please contact MSPTM Honorary Secretary:  
[secretarymsptm@gmail.com](mailto:secretarymsptm@gmail.com)



## Benefits of Membership

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.

## Tropical Biomedicine

### Journal Description

The Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM) publishes Tropical Biomedicine (TB) since 1984. The journal issues are published quarterly in March, June, September and December every year. The publication is fully electronic and open-access on the MSPTM website. The e-ISSN of TB is 2521-9855.

### Aims and Scope

Tropical Biomedicine welcomes original scientific manuscripts which contribute to the advancement of knowledge of parasitology, entomology, tropical medicine, zoonosis and other aspects of biomedical research.

### Abstracting / Indexing

The journal is abstracted / indexed by PubMed MEDLINE, Web of Science (Clarivate Analytics), Scopus, CAB International, Biological Abstracts, BIOSIS Previews, Essential Science Indicators and Zoological Record.

### Submission Method and Article Fee

There is a publication fee of MYR1,250 (approx. US\$300) per manuscript as of January 2021. However, the publication fee will be waived if the first author or corresponding author is a member of MSPTM of at least three (3) years' standing.

The MSPTM Tropical Biomedicine online submission system was launched on 1 Dec 2020. The Editorial team will only accept submission through the online system. For enquiry, please contact Editorial Team via email to [editor.msptm@gmail.com](mailto:editor.msptm@gmail.com)

## 2021 (Vol 38)

### VOL 38 No 1 (Mar)

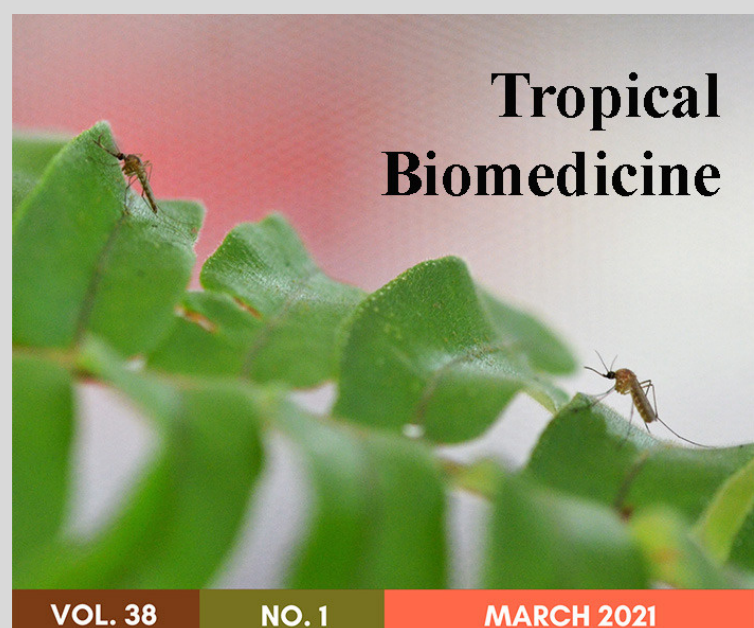
(<https://msptm.org/vol-38-no-1-march/>)

### VOL 38 No 2 (Jun)

(<https://msptm.org/vol-38-no-2-june/>)

### VOL 38 No 3 (Sep) - **NEW**

(<https://msptm.org/vol-38-no-3-september/>)





# ANNOUNCEMENT

**Dear all MSPTM members,**

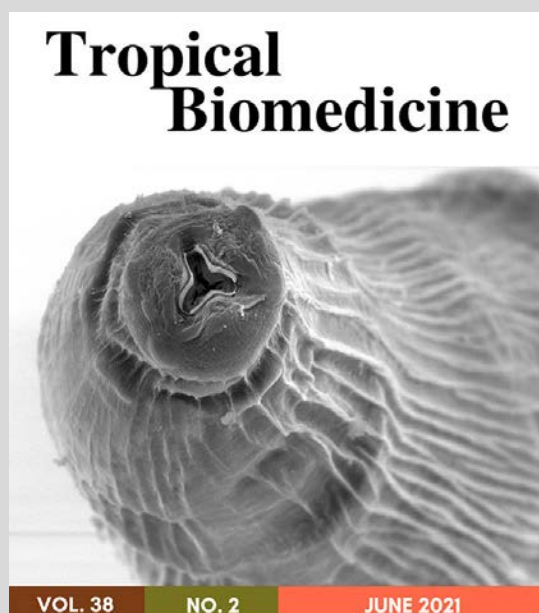
We are pleased to announce that the **Web of Science Journal Impact Factor for Tropical Biomedicine is 0.623 (2020) [0.697 (5 year)]**. (Source: Journal Citations Report, Clarivate Analytics, 2020)

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all authors who have published papers with us. Members please help to improve our Impact Factor by making references to papers published in Tropical Biomedicine. Please continue to support our Journal and submit your manuscript to Tropical Biomedicine!

All submitted manuscripts will be assessed based on their novelty, problem identification, contribution to the new body of knowledge, scope of work and plagiarism. Manuscripts having a similarity score below 25% will be accepted for review.

The advantages of publishing with Tropical Biomedicine include:

1. Four issues per year (March, June, September, December)
2. Publication fee will be waived for members (first author or corresponding author) with membership of three years and above.
3. Free online access to published papers (2004 and onward).
4. Abstracted / Indexed by **PubMed MEDLINE, Web of Science (Clarivate Analytics), Scopus, CAB International, Biological Abstracts, BIOSIS Previews, Essential Science Indicators and Zoological Record**.
5. Respected Editorial Board members will get recognition with a letter of appreciation.
6. Free global dissemination of research.



# ANNOUNCEMENT

## **TROPICAL BIOMEDICINE UPGRADE OF OPUSOFT MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION VERSION 2.0 FOR AUTHORS & USERS**

The Tropical Biomedicine editorial team are glad to announce the online manuscript submission portal is now upgraded to Opusoft version 2.0 effective from August 2021.

As such any new manuscript submission moving forward to be submitted at the new link - **tb.opussoft.net**

You would still be able to login with the same login credentials used on version 1.0. For manuscripts that have been submitted on version 1.0, please continue to login at tb.myopustech.com until the process is completed.



## **Tropical Biomedicine New Appearance Available Now on PubMed**

The Tropical Biomedicine new look journal 38 (1) for 2021, is available now on PubMed for your perusal and sharing.

It can be accessed here:

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Trop%20Biomed%22%5Bjour%5D&filter=years.2021-2021&timeline=expanded>



# ANNOUNCEMENT

## **Reviewer Invitation to MSPTM members**

The Tropical Biomedicine invites reviewers for manuscripts submitted to the journal. We encourage members with expertise in the following areas to register as a Reviewer at the OpusSoft platform:

1. Biostatistics
2. Biotechnology / Molecular diagnostics
3. Tropical Medicine
4. Special disease subjects, e.g. Dengue, Leptospirosis, Malaria
5. Bacterial, Viral, Parasitic diseases of animals and human
6. Zoonoses
7. Entomology
8. Parasite Identification (Taxonomy)
9. Antibiotic and Anthelmintic resistance, AMR
10. Immunology
11. Herbal / natural product efficacy & use in tropical diseases
12. Snake venom testing and production
13. Bioinformatics & Big data analysis
14. Vaccinology
15. Clinical case studies

We shall invite you to review manuscripts that match your area(s) of expertise as indicated at the platform.

# ANNOUNCEMENT

## Reviewer Invitation to MSPTM members

### STEPS TO REGISTER

Steps to register as a Reviewer: <https://bit.ly/3gEjfhK>

### POLICY

Please read our Review Policy here: <https://bit.ly/3aH6z5U>

### BENEFITS

[Invitation to Editorial Board](#) · You will be invited to become a member of the Editorial Board after reviewing at least 10 manuscripts.

[Letter of Appointment](#) · You will receive an official letter of appointment as a Reviewer, which you can use for your professional CV.

[Letter of Acknowledgement](#) · Every time you complete reviewing a manuscript, you will receive an official letter of acknowledgment that you can use for your professional CV.

[Recognition at Publons](#) · Verify and claim credit for your review at Publons using the Letter of Acknowledgment and generate your Publons CV. Publons is a reviewer recognition service provided by Clarivate Web of Science™.





# ANNOUNCEMENT

Invitation to submit scientific research and review articles pertaining to Covid-19 for peer review and publication – a waiver on publication fees for Tropical Biomedicine.

In lieu of the current Covid Pandemic, scientific information on Covid - 19 is most welcome for publication, for sharing and getting the best impact from latest studies. This is regarded as highly useful for the scientific community to leapfrog further research and community work to help us overcome the pandemic.

## Share your work and let's overcome the Pandemic!

To all students, researchers, lecturers, scientists, medical professionals:

**Are you carrying out research on Covid-19 Pandemic in the area of diagnostics, treatment, biotechnology, vaccinology and related fields?**

The Editorial board of the Tropical Biomedicine would like invite submission of scientific research and review articles pertaining to Covid-19 for publication with a full critical review process.

We are happy to give a waiver on publication fees for article/review paper submitted or accepted from 1 June – 31 Dec 2021, other Tropical Biomedicine terms & conditions apply.

Submission must be done through the online platform at <https://msptm.org/journal>.

For enquiries, please send email to: [editor.msptm@gmail.com](mailto:editor.msptm@gmail.com)

Sincerely,  
Chief Editor, Tropical Biomedicine ISSN (online): 2521 – 9855]



Malaysian Society of Parasitology  
& Tropical Medicine



Submission must be done through the online platform at <https://msptm.org/journal>

For enquiries, please send email to: [editor.msptm@gmail.com](mailto:editor.msptm@gmail.com)



# Tropical Biomedicine

## Plain Language Summary Program BACKGROUND

### Purpose

This program is intended to **curate** your published article into a storyboard with simpler terms and plain language.

*A questionnaire will be provided to you for this purpose.*

### Objective

To **pitch** the key aspects of the research presented in your article to a broader audience base including outside the scientific domain of the article.

*Researchers in other disciplines | Research grant and policy makers*

*Funding agencies | Newsrooms | General public*

### Benefits

Online **visibility** of your article. Increased article download rate.

Foster engagement with the greater society and global needs.

*The storyboard will be converted into a digital content (infographic) for social media promotion targeting the broader audience.*



**Curate Your  
Scientific  
Article Into A  
Story That  
Reaches  
Everyone.**



Check out our latest social media outreach of a curated article, which gained over 233 DOI hits in 4 weeks.

## Launching of the Plain Language Summary Program

The Editorial Board of Tropical Biomedicine (TB) is glad to announce the launch of its Plain Language Summary (PLS) Program and social media outreach of selected\* published articles.

The PLS program, which formally commenced in August 2021 for articles from volume 38(2), is intended to pitch the key aspects of the research presented in the article to a broader audience base including outside the scientific domain of the article such as research grant and policy makers, funding agencies, newsrooms and the general public.

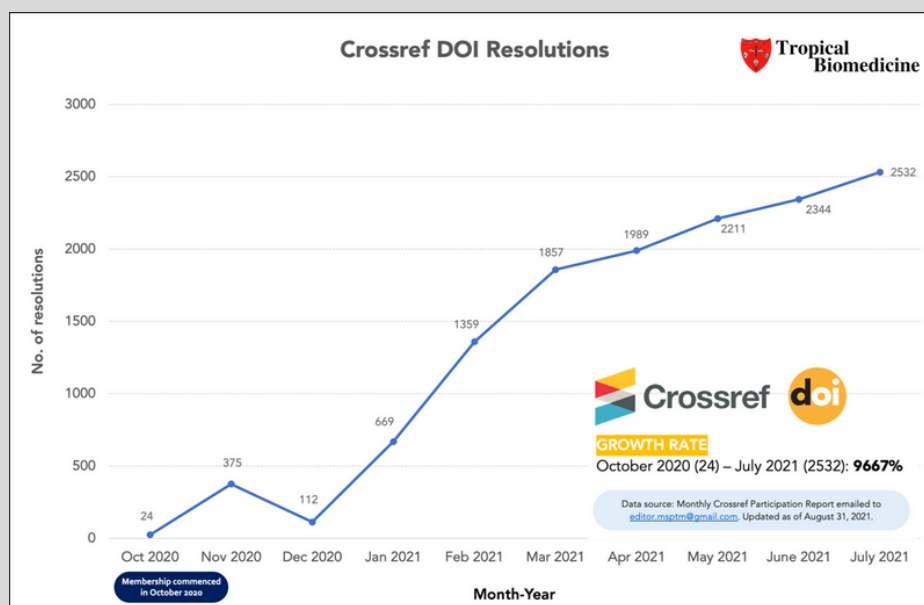
The scientific article will be curated into a storyboard using simpler terms and plain language. The storyboard will then be designed into an infographic poster or video format for publicity in the social networking platforms of MSPTM.

The visibility and download rate of PLS-articulated articles are greatly enhanced via the social media outreach. For example, our recent pilot roll out of an article in volume 37(4) on Facebook in July 2021 gained 253 DOI hits in less than 4 weeks, significantly increasing the chances of it being cited.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/MSPTM1964/posts/2987833658152828>

The Editorial Board of TB invites its authors to participate in our PLS Program. Kindly write to [editor.msptm@gmail.com](mailto:editor.msptm@gmail.com) for enrollment information.

\*This value-added service is provided at a fee that depends on the MSPTM membership status of the corresponding or first author of the article. The Editorial Board of TB will nominate a special waiver for MSPTM members of more than 3 years standing based on the significance and currency of the article topic.



**Crossref DOI Hits between October 2020 and July 2021.**



# ANNOUNCEMENT



## Call for Application

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
- At least 3 years of membership
- Project duration: 1-2 years
- Amount: up to RM5000

### How to apply?

Go to the MSPTM website

Click on Grants - "The MSPTM Community Fund"

### When to apply?

Closing date 12 noon, 31st October 2021.

### 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.

# ANNOUNCEMENT

## Call for Application

The Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM) Travel Grant Award gives partial financial support to members to facilitate their participation in any parasitology and tropical medicine research-related conference including conference registration fees, 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

The MSPTM member who fulfill the following criteria:

- Membership for more than 2 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

1. 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.
2. All submitted applications will be reviewed by committee and applicants will be notified of their outcome in writing within 2 (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.

### *Al-Fatihah*

## Allahyarham Prof. Dr. Mohd Zahedi Daud

It is with great sadness to announce that Prof. Mohd. Zahedi Daud, distinguished academician in the field of public health/parasitology has passed away peacefully at 6.30 am, on 31st July 2021 in Kuala Lumpur General Hospital from general health complications.

Prof. Zahedi was the Vice President of MSU; former Deputy VC of Sabah University and served in King Abdel Aziz University Saudi Arabia for more than 5 years. Previously he received his veterinary degree from a University of Lahore. He was an active member of the MSPTM and has held the following positions in the council:

- Honorary Treasurer (1982/83),
- Honorary Secretary (1990/91, 1991/92),
- Vice President (1992/93) and
- President (1993/94).



In 1997, he was awarded the MSPTM Silver Medal for his outstanding contribution to society. He has been the organizing chairman of the 1994 mid-year seminar, editor of its newsletter and has provided his expertise as a referee to the society's journal, Tropical Biomedicine. He has presented oral papers and posters at the society's seminars on numerous occasions and had continued to be actively involved in the society's activities, thereby ceaselessly contributing to its growth. Even recently he was actively engaged in popularizing the society's image in Sabah. In the scientific arena his interest which is diverse has resulted in the prodigious publication of more than 78 papers in international and local journals. He has unselfishly disseminated his vast knowledge to undergraduate and post-graduates and is currently engaged in molding numerous young Malaysians to follow in his footsteps in achieving excellence in the sciences. His contributions have not been confined only to our society's activities but to others as well. He is also active in other society like MVA and actively contributing papers in MVJ and Tropical Biomedicine.

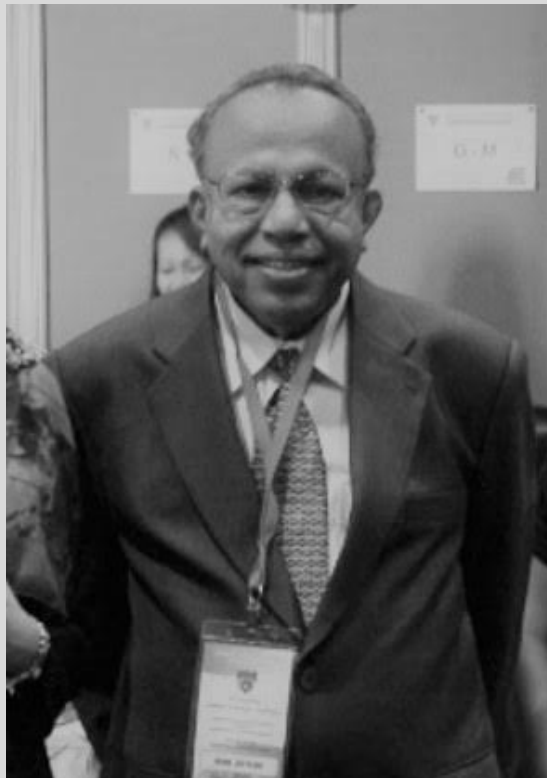
We are lucky to have known & interacted with him. The 58th MSPTM Council would like to express the deepest condolences to the family of Prof. Dr. Mohd. Zahedi Daud. May his good soul rest in peace.



*In loving memory*

### Mr. John Jeffrey

It is with great sadness we announce that Mr. John Jeffery, a distinguished member of our Society, and a prominent parasitologist and taxonomist, has passed away peacefully at 4.45pm, on 15th August 2021.



"Mr. John" as he was fondly known, was a friend and mentor to many parasitologist and scientists in the country. He was always willing to share his knowledge in entomology and parasite taxonomy, which he imparted with a generous amount of humour. John Jeffrey's illustrious career in science began when he joined the Hooper Foundation based at the Institute for Medical Research, Kuala Lumpur in 1962 as a laboratory assistant. He subsequently continued in this capacity at the Arbovirus Research Unit (University of California) at the Medical Faculty, University of Malaya. While in these institutions, he worked with distinguished scientists such as Dr. A. Rudnick, Dr. B. Knudsen, Dr. R. Garcia and Dr R. Dewey. They saw the great potential in John and urged him on in research. In 1974, he joined the Medical Faculty of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, and was promoted to Senior Medical Technologist in the Department of Parasitology and Medical Entomology. To date, John has authored over of 200 publications in varied topics on parasites and vectors in the country. He is most noted for his contributions on the taxonomy and ecology of mosquitoes, flies, ticks and domiciliary cockroaches, of which he has discovered a number of new species and noted new distribution records. He has also written books on the identification of flies and mosquitoes.

John was an avid field researcher ever since his days at the Hooper Foundation and Arbovirus Research Unit. His contribution to the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSTPM) is immense. Many will remember him as a senior member, full of wisdom and encouragement, always ensuring that the Society was on track with its activities. John has held major positions in the Society and has been a long standing member of the Executive Council. He served as the Assistant Editor for the Society's journal "Tropical Biomedicine" for over 15 years. In 1987, John was awarded the MSTPM Silver (Natchatram) Medal, in 1988 the MSP Boehringer Mannheim Award, and in 2009 the Sandosham Gold Medal, in recognition and honour of his immense contribution to academia, the Society and community. He is also one of the few in the country to have received the National Technology Award twice, in 1993 and 1996.

We are all privileged and deeply honoured to have known, interacted, and learned from such a prominent and exemplary scientist as Mr. John. We are deeply saddened by his passing, but will continue to uphold the passion for parasitology that he has so generously shared with us. God bless you Mr. John, thank you very much for your scientific contributions, and for being such a great friend and mentor.

The 58th MSPTM Council extends its deepest condolences to the family of Mr. John Jeffery. May his good soul Rest in Peace.

By,

Dr. Reuben Sharma



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

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[www.msptm.org/newsletter](http://www.msptm.org/newsletter)

