



OBITUARY

SUSAN LIM LEE HONG
February 14, 1952 – August 2, 2014

A brilliant academic and a devoted researcher, Professor Susan Lim Lee Hong, was an expert taxonomist on monogenea, in the field of parasitology. Susan graduated from University of Malaya with BSc Honours in 1975 and continued her postgraduate studies in the same University and obtained her MSc and Phd in 1980 and 1988 respectively. She started her career as a tutor at the School of Biological Sciences in 1977 and rose the ranks to be a full professor in 2003.

Born in Seremban, Susan received her early education in the Convent of Holy Infant Jesus, Seremban and completed her Form 6 in St Pauls Institution, Seremban. Susan was an easy going student during her school days, reading Millis and Boons all the time, but passing all her exams with flying colours.

During her MSc days Susan used to travel to Tasek Bera every month to study the parasites of fresh water fish. We were amazed with the hardship she had to endure during her field work. She worked on a floating platform with a roof above her head but with no tables or chairs. Toilet was in the near by jungle which had to be crossed by a small wooden plank. Her respect and awe for the organism she studied – the monogeneas was apparent. She called their structure “beautiful”.

Throughout the years, Susan stacked up plenty of memories and milestones. She authored more than 90 scientific publications in International Tier 1 journals. Susan also authored one book and 4 book chapters. She has supervised four MSc and nine Phd students.

Susan was a member of the MSPTM since 1979 and a life member since 2009. She was Honorary Secretary of the Society from 2002 to 2003. She served as Council member from 2004 to 2006. She was co-chair of the scientific and research subcommittee (2000-2001) of the International Congress of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (2001).

She was also a member of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) from 2006 -2014. Member of the National Fish Health Committee, Department of Fishery, Ministry of Agriculture Malaysia Advisory Board (1996 – 1999). She was an Evaluator on UM’s panel for FRGS and UMRG Grants. She was a reviewer for many ISI Journals like Comparative Parasitology, Tropical Biomedicine, Journal of Helminthology, Zoosystema, Systematic Parasitology, Folia Parasitologica, The Journal of Natural History, Diseases of Aquatic Organisms, Raffles Bulletin of Zoology and Asian Fisheries Science

Susan’s decades-long joy in and commitment to her work, marked by extraordinary enthusiasm, curiosity, and scientific rigor, have brought her richly deserved international recognition as one of the world’s leading fish parasite taxonomist.

What characterized Susan more than anything else was her endless fascination to get to the next level in whatever she was investigating. Therefore, she never left anything until she exhausted everything she could learn about that particular subject. This is what she expected from all her students and thus was very strict with all of them for their own good.

Susan married George Liew in 1979 and George helped Susan in all her field trips. Susan passed away peacefully on 2 August at 10 pm after battling with cancer for three years. She leaves behind George and two brilliant children, Mei Wern a daughter who is an IT specialist and a son Jien Wei, an investment banker. To them we convey our deepest condolence.

Stephen Ambu
Indra Vythilingam