

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

Newsletter

Issue 1, 2010

Malaysian Society of Parasitology
and Tropical Medicine
c/o Institute for Medical Research
Jalan Pahang 50588
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
www.msptm.org

Issue 1, 2010

(for members only)

Editor ~ Dr Siti Nursheena Mohd Zain
nsheena@um.edu.my

Presidents Message 45th MSPTM Council 2008/09

On behalf of the 46th MSPTM Council and its member, I would like to WISH ALL MEMBERS A BELATED HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR 2010. We have been in existence for 46th years and we have grown in many aspects in leaps and bounds. MSPTM would be celebrating her 50th birthday in 2013, and we shall be celebrating the "Golden Jubilee". The council deliberated on this issue and a sub-committee was formed to commemorate this event. We seek input from all members how best we like to remember the society and we encourage new ideas and most importantly welcome member's participation. Please contact any of the council members if you want extend your vision and mission to celebrate the Golden Jubilee, as MSPTM is one of the oldest Scientific NGO in Malaysia.

Our new newsletter Editor is Dr. Siti Nursheena binti Mohd Zain effective from 1st January, 2010. On behalf of MSPTM and the council, I would like to thank Dr. Reuben Sharma for his excellent job, despite his busy schedule as senior lecturer and active researcher at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, UPM, Serdang. Dr. Reuben began as the Newsletter Editor since 2007.

I do sincerely hope all members will continue to give the same support to Dr. Sheena as the new editor. She has been an active member since 2000 and served the council as the assistant secretary to the 39th MSPTM council and, presently as a council member. She welcomes all contributions from members and future write-up should be sent via email to her directly at nsheena@um.edu.my

A membership drive was recently conducted in several higher institutions organized by Dr.

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Corporate members

Sumitomo (M) Sdn Bhd
BASF (M) Sdn Bhd
TreeMed Sdn Bhd
BP Automation Sdn Bhd
IPSH Gasmaster Sdn Bhd
Harris Enterprise
Unggul Impiana Sdn. Bhd
D.I. Scientific Sdn Bhd

Tan Tian Chye and Mr. Heo Chong Chin in Universiti Malaya, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, International Medical University and Universiti Teknologi MARA. This drive was to publicize the 46th Annual Seminar as well as to recruit new members. I would like to thank both of them and also in particular Mr. Jahangir Kamaldin for their active role. As a result, we have recruited 73 new ordinary members with a good number of clinicians and working pathologists as members and 2 Corporate members for the year 2009 (names appears in this newsletter).

I regret to inform that the Registrar of Societies at Putrajaya has rejected the application for the formation of the Federation of Asean Parasitologist earlier this year. This matter will be discussed in details at the forth coming AGM on 24th March, 2010.

Beginning 2010, our Annual Scientific seminar will be known as the Annual Scientific Conference, due to its active participation. It is my dream and vision that by 2020, it should be known as the Annual Scientific Congress. I hope the in-coming Presidents will work for this status.

A winner of the Sandosham Medal and the Society's Silver Medal will be announced this year. The Sandosham Memorial lecture will be delivered by Prof Dr. Mak Joon Wah, Dean, Postgraduate Studies and Research, IMU on the 25th March 2010.

With a sad heart I inform all the demise of an honorary member, Prof Chamlong Harinasuta. We carried the full obituary of Prof Dr. Chamlong Harinasuta in the Tropical Biomedicine Journal Vol. 26. No.3, December 2009. I thank Prof Emeritus Dato' Dr. C. P. Ramachandran for providing the write up and Dr. V. Indra for publishing it with excellent photographs of him.

Due to his demise, there was a vacancy in the Honorary Membership. The council has nominated Prof Dr. Mak Joon Wah to fill this vacancy and await for the endorsement at the forthcoming AGM. A vacancy for the post of trustee existed and the council has nominated Dr. Inder Singh.

Mr. S. Parameswaran of the Epidemiology and Biostatistic Unit, IMR is the Chairman for the Outreach Program. He is in the process of organizing talks with the retired grass root

members who have excelled well. This will be an on-going program for 2010-2011 session.

Based on last year's AGM the council has withdrew from the membership from COSTAM. As president I feel the strong urge that we should continue the membership. This will be tabled at the AGM on 24th March, 2010.

To date the council had met 12 times, Ms Wong Yi Ching of Medigene Sdn Bhd has been co-opted into the council. I thank her in assisting financial support for last Mid Year Seminar.

Regarding the CPE, we managed to host only one for this session. On 16th November 2009, Dr. Robert I. Ross from USA, gave a talk on "Biotechnology in Controlling Mosquitoes" at IMR, KL. I thank Drs. Mohd Khadri Shahar and Nazni Wasi Ahmad for the effort.

The constitution review sub-committee headed by Mr. John Jeffery has been inactive. I feel that this is crucial, as there is a need for clauses to be reviewed in the constitution. It is hoped that this sub-committee will during the 2010-2011 session attend to this need.

Due to time constraint, the council of Past Presidents were not able to meet. It is also noted that a small number of Past President has not continued their membership. As President, I urge those in arrears to pay RM150 and continue their membership (based on the constitution).

I am also pleading to all senior retired members with MSPTM materials and old photos to hand them over to the society for safekeeping and records of the society. This calling came about when the society lost the original regulation certificates from the ROS. We have obtained new copies from the ROS. This has now been framed and will be officially handed over to the in-coming President during the handling over the chain of office.

As regards the society's Website, Mr. Lee Woon Kai had made some improvements after meeting the council on two occasions. Mr. Chang Kum Wah, the Vice President has agreed to render his services to the website.

Among the changes made are, articles from the Tropical Biomedicine from 2005 to current issue has been scanned into the PDF file and uploaded to the website. He is in the process of scanning the articles from 1983 to 2004.

Tropical Biomedicine was recently given an ISI impact factor of 0.59. This journal now is abstracted and indexed by Medline, ISI Thompson, CAB International, Zoological Abstract and SCOPUS. The Editor has executed an agreement in EBSCO Publishing, USA on 17th April, 2009. As regards to the new status of Tropical Biomedicine, the council would like to congratulate Dr. V. Indra and Mr. John Jeffery for the excellent job.

The current auditor, Prof Dr. Fong Mun Yik is on sabbatical leave in the UK and the council has co-opted Dr. Inder Singh as auditor to audit the 2009-2010 accounts. I, on behalf of the council extend our heartfelt gratitude to him for accepting this responsibility. The council was unable to meet with the Trustee's, due to their busy schedules.

Associate Professor Dr. Steven Ambu was invited to the 11th council meeting to spearhead the purchase of the 2nd office building. This will be deliberated in detail at the AGM on 24th March, 2010.

We are happy to note that the Australian College of Tropical Medicine has given an Honorary Membership to MSPTM on 2nd October, 2001.

Before I end, I like to take the opportunity to invite members to attend the 46th AGM and Scientific Conference on the 24th and 25th March, 2010 at Grand Seasons Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The theme of the conference is Infectious Diseases: From Epidemic to Pandemic. Your participation and support is very essential for the continuous growth of our society.

On behalf of the council once again I wish all members a belated HAPPY NEW YEAR 2010 and to all Our Chinese Members a belated Gong Xi Fa Cai.

See you on 24th March, 2010.
Assoc. Prof. Dr. S. Vellayan
President

Assoc. Prof. Dr. S. Vellayan
President MSTPM 2009-2010
c/o Faculty of Medicine
Universiti Teknologi MARA, (UiTM),
Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia

FORENSIC ENTOMOLOGY TRAINING IN NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, UK

Heo Chong Chin
Hon. Secretary MSPTM 2009/2010

The Natural History Museum is one of three large museums on Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London. This museum is the home to life and earth science specimens comprising nearly 70 million items within five main collections: Botany, Entomology, Mineralogy, Paleontology and Zoology. The museum is a world-renowned centre of research, specializing in taxonomy, identification and conservation.

I was lucky to attend a 5-day attachment (from 3 August 2009 to 7 August 2009) at the Department of Entomology, Natural History Museum and this attachment was guided by Dr. Martin Hall, Head of Biomedical Science, NHM, a well known forensic entomologist in the UK. New techniques, new updates and new skills were acquired during this valuable attachment and applicable in my future research in forensic entomology. The training began with introduction to forensic entomology on the first day, followed by collection and pinning of insects specimens. On the third day, Dr Cameron and his researcher Ms. Amoret Whitaker demonstrated the processing forensic maggots collected from corpses. This included preservation method and mounting of maggots on to slides. The training ended with basic and advance adult fly taxonomy.

I would like to acknowledge the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM) for supporting my application for the attachment to the Natural History Museum. The travel grant of this attachment was funded by the Lee Foundation, State of Malaya through the MSPTM. I would like to acknowledge Dr. Nazni Wasi Ahmad (IMR) for her assistant during my travel and Dr. Lee Han Lim (Head of Entomology unit, IMR) for his encouragement and guidance.



Fly collection at the Natural History Museum, London, UK.



Dr. Martin Hall and Heo, in his office at the Department of Entomology, NHM, UK.



Emanuel Wolinsky Award for malaria research at UNIMAS

Professor Balbir Singh
Director, Malaria Research Centre
Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences
University Malaysia Sarawak

A paper published in *Clinical Infectious Diseases* (CID) by researchers from the Malaria Research Centre (MRC), Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences, UNIMAS, and collaborators, received the Emanuel Wolinsky Award. The paper entitled '*Plasmodium knowlesi* malaria in humans

is widely distributed and potentially life threatening' by Janet Cox-Singh, Lee Kim Sung, Sunita Shamsul and Balbir Singh (MRC, UNIMAS), Tim Davis (University of Western Australia), Asmad Matusop (Sarawak Health Department) and Hasan Abdul Rahman (Pahang Health Department), was selected by the Editors of CID as the best original clinical research article published in CID for the year 2008. CID is one of the leading journals in infectious diseases with an impact factor of 6.75. The award letter from CID stated that the studies of Cox-Singh and colleagues have radically changed the view of the zoonotic potential of *P. knowlesi*. It further added that in their important article, the researchers retrospectively review the recent Malaysian experience with *P. knowlesi* infection, describe four fatal cases, and draw several important practical lessons from the experience.

Professor Janet Cox-Singh was presented with the award (a plaque and cheque for US \$1,000) on 29th October 2009 at the 47th Annual Meeting of the Infectious Diseases Society of America in Philadelphia, USA. During her acceptance speech she said that discovering knowlesi was at times hard work but the research team felt privileged to do the work and in Malaysian Borneo. She further added that the research was made possible by support and encouragement from colleagues and friends in the field and financial support from the Wellcome Trust, the Malaysian Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation and UNIMAS. She concluded by saying that the research team were grateful to CID for publishing the findings and that they were immensely proud to receive the award.



Professor Janet Cox-Singh (on-right) presented with the Emanuel Wolinsky award

Continuous Medical Education (CME) at IMR by Dr. Robert Ross

Dr Nazni Wasi Ahmad
Institute of Medical Research, KL



*Dr. Robert Rose (5th from right) flanked by
members of the society.*

The MSPTM Scientific Update was successfully conducted in collaboration with Institute for Medical Research (IMR) at the Auditorium Ungku Omar, IMR, Kuala Lumpur on 16th November 2009.

A paper was entitled “Biotechnologies for Control of Mosquito that Transmit Human Disease” was presented by Dr Robert I. Rose from Maryland, USA. Dr Rose, an independent biotechnology regulatory and product development consultant, recently visited Malaysia for UNDP on biotechnology risk assessment on ‘EntoGeneX’ a new product development. His presentation was on Aedes vector control which he emphasized on Intergrated Vector Control Measures. The scientific update was well attended by members as well as non members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 4th ASEAN Congress of Tropical Medicine & Parasitology 2-4th June 2010, Raffles Town Club, Singapore.

The ASEAN Congress of Tropical Medicine & Parasitology was inaugurated in 2004 to provide an affordable platform for Scientists, Researchers and Public Health Practitioners from the ASEAN region to present their findings and network within the region. We strongly encourage all interested professionals to take this opportunity to present their research and control strategies to reduce the burden of diseases like dengue, chikungunya and malaria. We also welcome the participation of international scientists who wish to contribute or gain insights into tropical diseases in this region.

REGISTRATION FEE

Before 31 March 2010 SGD\$250
After 31 March 2010 SGD\$350

For more information about
the Congress, visit

<http://www.ssmb.org.sg/>

or email

4ACTMP@fordemedia.com



THE AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF TROPICAL MEDICINE

Incorporated in Qld

This is to certify that
*Malaysian Society of Parasitology and
Tropical Medicine*


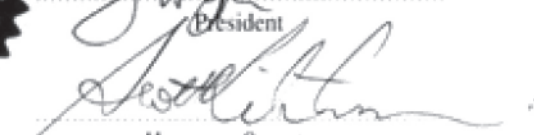
has been admitted as a

Honorary Member
of the College

Given under the seal of the College

this the 9th day of October, 2001




President

Honorary Secretary

**Our Honorary Membership certificate presented from
The Australian College of Tropical Medicine**

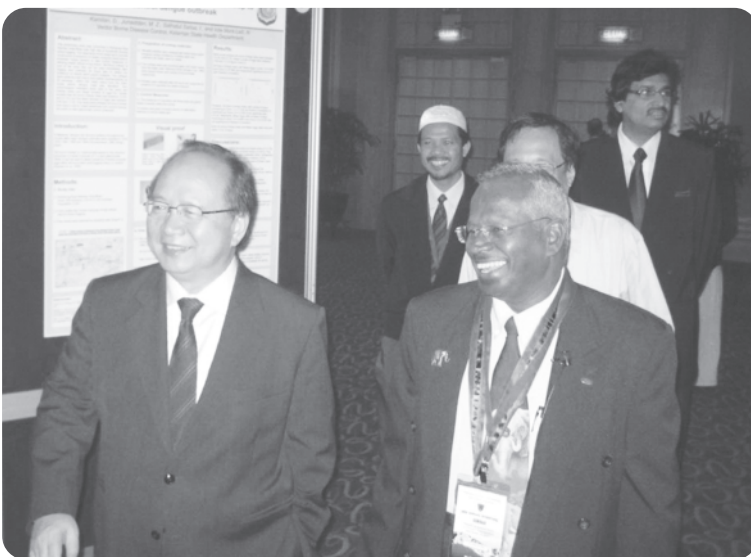
Candid shots of the 45th MSPTM Conference (18-19 March 2009)



Few of the international and local participants taking time to pose with the president



Minister Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok flanked by the committee members in the waiting room



Dr Vellayan, all smiles during the poster viewing session with the minister



Dr Vellayan presenting a token of appreciation to Tan Sri



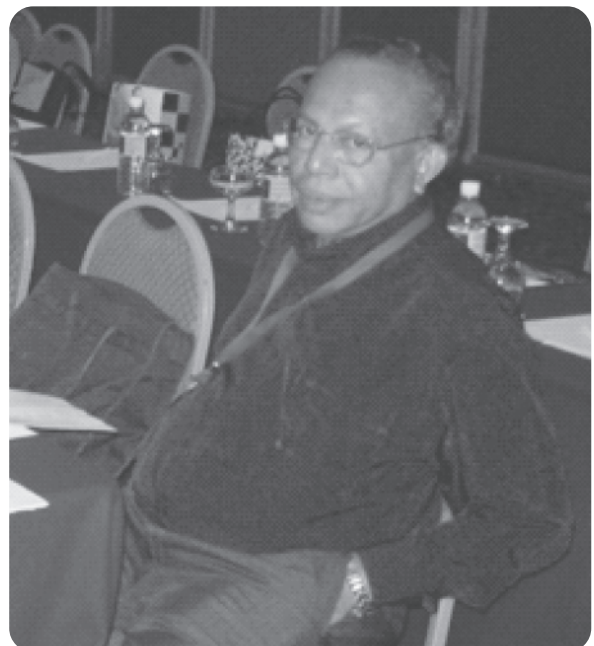
Dr Reuben reminding participant to collect their certificate of attendance.



*From left to right:
Madam Heah, Madam Guldip,
Dr Nazni and Dr Rohani
during the Conference*



Dr Lee Han Lim is one of the panel speakers



Mr John Jeffery listening to the presentation

MSPTM Membership News

The society's drive to recruit new members in the year 2009 was successful with a total of 73 new members already signed up. The committee gives a warm welcome to all new members.

1	TEGUH WAHJU SARDJONO, PROF. DR.	Brawijaya University, East Java Indonesia.
2	CHOONG SIEW SHEAN	Department of Wildlife and National Park
3	NAIDU A/L SANNASI	Hospital Sri Manjung
4	ALEX FRANCIS	Hospital Tengku Ampuan Afzan
5	MUHAMED KHADRI B. KASSIM	Hospital Tengku Ampuan Afzan
6	LUTFHI NURLAELA FUADI, DR	Indonesia
7	TEH CHIEN HUEY	Institut Kesihatan Umum
8	IMELDA LYNN A/P VICTOR MANGALA DASS	Institut Penyelidikan Veterinar
9	NORAKMAR BINTI ISMAIL	Institut Penyelidikan Veterinar
10	MARLIAH BINTI ANUAR	Institut Veterinar Malaysia
11	HAIDA BINTI ZAINAL ABIDIN	Institut Veterinar Malaysia,
12	ADELA IDA ANAK JIRAM	Institute for Medical Research
13	UMUL HANINAH ALI	Institute for Medical Research
14	B. VIMALA A/P R.M.T. BALASUBRAMANIAM	Institute for Medical Research (IMR)
15	HUSNIZA BT. HUSSAIN	Institute for Medical Research (IMR)
16	POT SWEE SHIANG	Institute for Medical Research (IMR)
17	LIM KWEE WEE	Institute for Medical Research (IMR)
18	ARCHANA SINGH SIKARMAR, DR	International Medical University (IMU)
19	UMMI KALTHOM SHAMSUDIN, DR	Jabatan Kesihatan Wilayah Persekutuan
20	EMMA MARDLIYAH HADIYAT, DR	Jenderal Achmad Yani University, West Jawa, Indonesia.
21	KHOO YING JO	Kedah
22	SIVASHANMUGANATHAN S., DR	Klinik Keluarga Siva
23	SYARIFAH BT HASBOLLAH	Kolej PTPL Shah Alam.
24	WONG YI CHING	Kuala Lumpur
25	LEE CHAI HA,DR.	Makmal Veterinar Kawasan Kota Bharu
26	SUSY TIAHJANI, DR	Maranatha Christian University
27	TEO BEE HSIEN	Negeri Sembilan
28	ABUBAKAR SADIQ UMAR, DR	Nigeria
29	NORZIHAN BINTI MOHAMED HASSAN	Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah Kluang
30	MOHD. MAHER BIN IBRAHIM	Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah Lipis
31	HO LAI YEE	Selangor
32	WONG WEY LIM	UCSI, KL

33	NORASHIKIN @ SUZANI BINTI MOHD SHAHARUDIN	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
34	PUTRI NORADYANI MEGAT HASHIM	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
35	HASIDAH MOHD. SIDEK, DR	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
36	NORAMIWATI RASHID	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
37	NORASHIKIN @SUZANI BT MOHD SHAHARUDDIN	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
38	ZATUL' IFFAH ABU HASAN	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
39	RAJA MUHAMMAD ZUHA B. RAJA KAMAL BASHAH	Universiti Kebnagsaan Malaysia
40	KAVITHA RAJAGOPAL	Universiti Malaya
41	AMBAR SULIANTI, DR	Universiti Pendidikan Indonesia (UPI), Bandung, West Java Indonesia
42	MALAIKA WATANABE, DR	Universiti Putra Malaysia
43	AHMADU ALI FAROUQ	Universiti Putra Malaysia
44	CHIN YUN YAN	Universiti Putra Malaysia
45	ELSHAFIE IBRAHIM ELSHAFIE, DR	Universiti Putra Malaysia
46	HO GIM CHONG	Universiti Putra Malaysia
47	IBRAHIM ABUBAKAR ANKA, DR	Universiti Putra Malaysia
48	MAHIRA WATANABE	Universiti Putra Malaysia
49	NUR MAHIZA MOHD ISA, DR	Universiti Putra Malaysia
50	WONG MENG TACK	Universiti Putra Malaysia
51	LIM SU YEE, DR	University Putra Malaysia
52	GOH YONG MENG, DR	University Putra Malaysia
53	MOHAMED ADEL MOHAMED A. RAHIM EL KADI, PROFFESOR DR.	Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM)
54	NORADILAH SAMSEH BINTI ABDULLAH	Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM)
55	SUPALETCHIMI KATHERASON, DR	Universiti Sains Malaysia
56	SUARTI RUSLI, DR	Universiti Teknologi MARA
57	HOH BOON PENG, DR	Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)
58	MARIAM BT. MOHAMAD, DR	Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)
59	MOHAMMAD NASIMUL ISLAM, PROF. DR.	Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)
60	NIK NAIRAN ABDULLAH, DR	Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)
61	NARIMAH ABDUL HAMID HASANI, DR	Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM),
62	ABDULELAH HUSSIEN AHMED ALADHROEY	University Malaya,
63	AZDAYANTI BT MUSLIM	University of Malaya
64	BELLO ARKILLA MAGAJI, DR	University of Malaya
65	LEE II LI	University of Malaya
66	NORAISHAH MYDIN ABDUL AZIZ, DR	University of Malaya
67	SARINDER KAUR A/P KASHMIR SINGH, DR	University of Malaya
68	TAN PENG CHIANG	University of Malaya
69	TAN SIEW HWA	University of Malaya
70	YEONG YZE SHIUAN	University of Malaya
71	JOHNSON SAN CHE MIN	University of Malaya,
72	NORHIDAYU BINTI SAHIMIN	University of Malaya
73	ZULQARNAIN MOHAMED, ASSOC. PROF. DR	University of Malaya

Members Updates

Congratulation to the members below for their recent promotion:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fong Mun Yik, from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya and MSPTM past president has been promoted to Professor.

Dr. Veeranoot Nissapatorn (life member) of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya has been promoted to Associate Professor.

Mr Paramesvaran, S. of the Epidemiology and Statistic Unit received his MSc. (Veterinary Parasitology) from the University Putra Malaysia. He is now registered for his PhD with OUM with collaboration with Prof Fujiyama, advisor to Mahidol University.

Dr Teguh Wahyu Sardjono was recently been ranked Top 100 medical doctors in the pioneering research doctors category.

Dr. Sam Mohan is now the Manager of Asia Pacific Regional Sales since 2008.

Associate Professor Dr. Stephen Ambu, is now the Associate Dean, Postgraduate Studies and Research, International Medical University.

Error on Dr Rahmat Sharif's appointment as lecturer at the Faculty of Science, University of Technology Mara (UiTM), Shah Alam as reported in the last newsletter issue 2nd Issue 2009.



Upcoming Parasitology and Tropical Medicine Conferences 2010

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 26-28 Feb 2010 | The 2010 International Conference on Cellular and Molecular Biology Science (CMBS 2010). Singapore
www.iacsit.org/cmbs/index.htm |
| 12-16 May 2010 | European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians and IZW Conference. Madrid, Spain.
www.eazwv.org/ |
| 09-12 Mar 2010 | 14th International Congress on Infectious Diseases (ICID)
Miami, Florida, USA.
www.isid.org |
| 02-04 June 2010 | The 4th Asean Congress of Tropical Medicine & Parasitology. Singapore
www.ssmb.org.sg |
| 06-10 June 2010 | 29th World Congress of Biomedical Laboratory Science. Nairobi, Kenya.
www.akmlso-ifbls2010.org |
| 11-14 June 2010 | 25th Annual North Queensland Conference/ 19th Annual ACTM Scientific Meeting. Townsville, Australia.
www.aims.iamevents.com.au/index.php |
| 08-13 Aug 2010 | 7th International Congress of Dipterology. San José, Costa Rica
www.inbio.ac.cr/icd7 |
| 15-20 Aug 2010 | XIIth International Congress of Parasitology (ICOPA). Melbourne, Australia. www.icopaxii.org |
| 22-27 Aug 2010 | IXth European Congress of Entomology, Budapest, Hungary.
www.ece2010.org |
| 08-11 Sept 2010 | European Association for Forensic Entomology (EAFE) Meeting. Murcia, Spain.
www.eafe.org |
| 03-07 Nov 2010 | 59th Annual Meeting: American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH)
Atlanta, Georgia, USA
www.astmh.org/eve |

Notice Board

MEMBERSHIP Subscription

Dear MSPTM members,

A gentle reminder that you are required to pay up your membership subscription by the 1st of January 2010. According to our constitution membership in arrears of 2 years or more may be terminated. Please act NOW. The society depends on you and your support. Contact Dr Tan Tian Chye at tantianchye@um.edu.my (treasurer) for further details or to check your membership status.

Contribution of Articles

The MSPTM Newsletter thrives on the support of its members. Everyone is invited to contribute articles, photographs, comments and vacancy adverts which may be of interest to the Society. We also encourage researchers to submit updates on research projects and publications, so that this newsletter may serve as a portal for disseminating current information on parasitology and tropical medicine in Malaysia.

MSPTM Website

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

www.msptm.org/

