

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

Newsletter

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

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(for members only)

Editor - Yvonne Lim

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42nd Annual General Meeting of MSPTM

The 42nd Annual General Meeting of MSPTM was held on 1 March 2006, at the Casaurina Hotel, Ipoh. The key event of the meeting was the election of the 43rd MSPTM Council for the term 2006-2007. The new council members are as follows:

President

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fong Mun Yik (UM)

Vice President

Dr. Rahmat S. M. Sheriff (RVLBT)

Hon. Secretary

Miss Noor Azian Md. Yusuf (IMR)

Assistant Secretary

Mr. John Jeffery (UKM)

Hon. Treasurer

Mrs. Tengku Rogayah Tengku A. Rashid (IMR)

Council Members

Dr. Stephen Ambu (UiTM)

Dr. Indra Vythilingam (IMR)

Dr. Nazni Wasi Ahmad (IMR)

Dr. Ngah Zasmy (UPM)

Dr. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian (UM)

Miss Khadijah Saad (VRI)

Mr. Paramasvaran S. (IMR)

Past President

Dr. P. Chandrawathani (VRI)

Honorary Auditor

Dr. Inder Singh

42nd Annual Scientific Seminar of MSPTM

The seminar was held on 1 – 2 March 2006, at the Casuarina Hotel, Ipoh. It was officiated by the Deputy Director General II of Department of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Dr. Abdul Aziz Jamaluddin. The theme of the seminar was 'Exploring New Frontiers: Emerging and Reemerging Zoonosis'.

Three panel lectures were delivered:

- **Avian influenza: veterinary control strategies**, by Dr. Sharifah Syed Hassan (Director, Veterinary Research Institute)
- **Pandemic threat of current circulating avian influenza (H5N1) virus**, by Dr. Chua Kaw Bing (Consultant Virologist, National Public Health Laboratory, Ministry of Health)
- **Surviving the bird flu**, by Dr. Ranjit Kaur (Deputy Director, Department of Health, Perak)

Papers comprising 2 plenary, 25 oral and 20 posters were presented. The programme was divided into four free paper sessions. The seminar was well attended by Malaysians and foreigners from Cambodia, Indonesia, Sweden, Japan and Nepal.

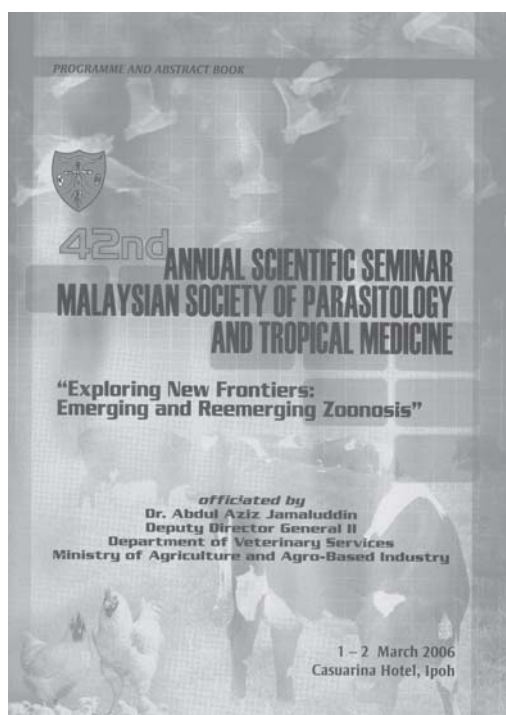


Photo Gallery 42nd Annual Scientific Seminar of MSPTM



(a)



(b)

(a) Left to right
Dr. Chandrawathani (President of 42nd MSPTM Council), Dr. Abdul Aziz Jamaluddin (guest of honour) and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fong Mun Yik (President of 43rd MSPTM Council)

(b) Left to right
Dr. Lee Han Lim, Dr. Chua Kaw Bing, Dr. Inder Singh, Prof. Dato' Dr. Khairul Anuar Abdullah, Dato' Dr. Pratapha Senan, Prof. Dato' Dr. C.P. Ramachandran and Dr. Shamshad Begum bt. Shafie

Message from the newly elected President

Firstly, I would like to thank members of the Society for electing me to be the President of the 43rd MSPTM Council (2006-2007). I shall do my very best to keep up the good work of my predecessors. The task ahead of me is indeed challenging. However, I am very fortunate because with me is a wonderful team of dedicated council members – consisting of the senior and experienced, plus the young and eager.

Here, I would like to thank our immediate Past President, Dr. Chandrawathani, who has done a great job in leading the Society for the past one year. I especially congratulate her for excellent organization of our 42nd Annual Scientific Seminar, held in Ipoh, on 1-2 March 2006. When she first proposed that the seminar be held in Ipoh, we were rather concerned that participant turnout might be poor. However, we were proven wrong for more than a hundred participated in the seminar. We had a great time at the seminar, especially during the official dinner in which we had great food, lucky draws, a talk on the history of Ipoh, and live entertainment – songs and jokes by a talented psychiatrist of Hospital Bahagia Tanjung Rambutan!

Over the years, I have seen a number of scientific societies being de-registered or merged due to poor membership or inactivity. However, this is not the case for MSPTM, which is now in its 42nd year. As far as I know, MSPTM is one of the oldest but yet active scientific societies in Malaysia. I have no doubt that every member is very proud of MSPTM's strength, history and achievements. In this context, I am glad to inform members that MSPTM has added a few more feathers to its cap.

The Society's journal *Tropical Biomedicine* is now cited and indexed in MEDLINE (PubMed). This is indeed a recognition of quality and standard of the journal by the international scientific community. To obtain such recognition is by no means a simple task, and we have to thank Dr. Lee Han Lim, Editor of *Tropical Biomedicine* (May 1997 – December 2005) for his persistent hardwork that led to the MEDLINE citation. The journal now is under the

Editorship of Dr. Indra, and I have full confidence that she will continue the good work of Dr. Lee.

MSPTM now owns an office lot at Jalan Gombak, Setapak. This office lot is now being rented out, and therefore will generate a steady source of income for the Society. We have to thank the past and present council members, especially Dr. Indra, for their tireless effort in making our Society's desire to own a building a reality.

The ASEAN Federation of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine is near fruition, and MSPTM as one of the founding members. Dr. Indra has played a key role in the formation of this federation. The federation will definitely serve as a platform for closer co-operation, collaboration and networking among the scientists and researchers of the ASEAN countries. Incidentally, the 2nd ASEAN Congress of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine was recently held in Bandung (May 21 – 23, 2006) and I was glad to note that Malaysia (*viz* MSPTM) sent the largest foreign contingent to the congress.

The Society is now in its effort to establish its own website. Once it is up and running, we shall announce it to the members. The website will be filled with the latest news or updates of the Society, and I urge members to contribute to the website by providing materials, news, photos, etc., so that the website will always be active and interesting.

Finally, on a sad note, I announce the passing of two of our very senior members – Dr. Donald R. O'Holohan and Dr. K. Chandra Shekhar. Dr. O'Holohan, who passed away in March 2006, was the Honorary Member of MSPTM. Dr. Chandra Shekhar, a life member of the Society, passed away in August 2005. The obituary of Dr. Chandra is in the December 2005 issue of *Tropical Biomedicine*. The obituary of Dr. O'Holohan will appear in the June 2006 issue.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. M. Y. Fong
President

43rd MSPTM Council (2006-07)

MSPTM OFFICE LOT

All formalities on the acquisition of the MSPTM office lot have been completed. The Society has received the strata title and the keys to the office lot at Diamond Square Business Centre, Jalan Gombak on September 2005.

The office unit is located on the 5th Floor, Block F, Diamond Square Business Centre bearing postal address:

No. 21-5-2, Jalan 3/50,
off Jalan Gombak,
53000 Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia.



The office unit is now tenanted out at RM750 per month to Global Centric. A tenancy agreement has been signed. The Council has requested an agent to

collect the monthly rental and to bank into the Society's account. The fee for the agent is RM50 per month.

All documentations regarding the MSPTM office lot (eg. strata title and other relevant documents) are filed and kept by the Society. However, copies of these documents will be given to the Building Trustee which comprises of Prof. Dr. Mak Joon Wah, Dr. Nadchatram and Dr. Lim Boo Liat.

MSPTM HOMEPAGE

The MSPTM Homepage is up and running. Access to the webpage can be done by typing www.msptm.org. You will also be able to contact the society via this email address: msptm@msptm.org



TROPICAL BIOMEDICINE



Dr. Indra Vythilingam has been appointed as the new editor for Tropical Biomedicine replacing Dr. Lee Han Lim (May 1997 – December 2005). Dr. Indra can be contacted via email at indra06@streamyx.com or indra.vythilingam@gmail.com.

Please follow journal format carefully when sending articles for publication. You can visit the society’s website for more information on the journal format once the webpage is fully launched.

Since 5 July 2005, Tropical Biomedicine has been accepted for citation and indexing in MEDLINE. The zoological records and CAB International have been updated with all issues of Tropical Biomedicine.

Tropical Biomedicine is also being highly recognized especially in the Asia continent. Libraries that are currently subscribing

to Tropical Biomedicine include:

1. Singapore Medical Library
2. Brunei Shell Medical Library, Serian Brunei
3. Library of Vector Control Research Center, Pondicherry, India
4. The Library of Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhana, Sri Lanka

MILESTONES OF MSPTM MEMBERS

- Dr. Rohela Mahmud and Dr. Suresh Kumar from the Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya have been promoted to the position of Professors.
- Dr. P. Chandrawathani, MSPTM past president (2004/2005) from Veterinary Research Institute, Ipoh has been appointed as the regional director for Asia for the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP).
- Dr. Chan Boon Tek has been promoted to the position of Associate Professor. He is attached to the Department of Parasitology and Medical Entomology, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.



The MSPTM Society welcomes nomination of qualified candidates for the Sandosham Medal and MSPTM Medal for the year 2006.

Sandosham Medal, Year 2006 – call for nomination

Sandosham Medal is awarded triennially and is the Society’s **highest mark of distinction**. It is made to a living person in recognition of original and outstanding contributions in the fields of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine in Southeast Asia. There is no restriction on the candidate’s age, sex, profession, race or nationality. Candidature shall be open to members of MSPTM. A candidate should have been a member of the Society for at least two years preceding his candidature. Consideration for the award will be based on the candidate’s work and accomplishments without restriction as to period during which the contributions were made.

Any member of the Society who has been a member for two (2) full years shall be entitled to nominate a candidate. The following details are required for each nomination:

- Full name of the candidate, candidate’s address and the candidate’s curriculum vitae, which should include the candidate’s qualification, academic achievements, professional appointments and other contributions at national or regional level.
- Full list of candidate’s publications, including accepted papers for publication. Three reprints or Photostat copies of each of the papers listed should also be included.
- Reasons why the proposer feels that the candidate is worthy of consideration for the medal.

MSPTM Medal, Year 2006 – call for nomination

MSPTM Medal is awarded annually to a living person in recognition of outstanding scientific contributions in Parasitology and Tropical Medicine in Southeast Asia. The candidate must be a member of the Society for at least two (2) years preceding the nomination, and **forty-five years of age or below**. There will be no restriction as to sex or profession of the candidates, or as the period which the research was carried out.

Any member who has been subscribing to the Society in the past two (2) years is entitled to nominate a candidate. The following details are required for each nomination:

- Full name of the candidate with **satisfactory evidence of the date of birth**, and the candidate’s address, qualifications and academic distinctions.
- List of candidate’s publications, including accepted papers for publication.
- Reasons why the proposer feels that the candidate is worthy of consideration for the medal.

Nominations for both the awards must be submitted **no later than 30th September 2006** to:

Cik Noor Azian Md. Yusuf
Honorary Secretary
Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine
c/o Institute for Medical Research
Jalan Pahang
50588 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Conference News

2nd ASEAN Congress of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology, themed “Management and Control of Tropical Diseases to Promote the Welfare of ASEAN Community”, was held on 21-23 May 2006 in Bandung, Indonesia. The congress was well attended and the largest delegate came from Malaysia.

The 3rd ASEAN Congress will be held in Thailand in 2008.



Note: Formation of ASEAN Federation of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine was mooted by Dr. Indra Vythilingam (Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine) during the 1st ASEAN Congress of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology in Malaysia in 2004. Thusfar, the Thailand Society of Parasitology, Persatuan Pemberantasan Penyakit Parasit Indonesia, Perkumpulan Penyakit Tropis Indonesia, Asosiasi Pemberantasan Nyamuk Indonesia and Perhimpunan Spesialis Parasitologi Klinis Indonesia has shown interest to join the Federation. ASEAN countries which do not have society of Parasitology will be invited to join the Federation. The Secretariat of this Federation will be based in Kuala Lumpur but the headship/chair will be rotated among member countries.

Conference Announcements

1) MSPTM Mid-year Seminar

MSPTM Mid-year seminar will be on the 18/8/2006 (Friday), 10.00 am at Dewan Ungku Omar, IMR. Two speakers will be delivering their talks:

(i) *A laboratory diagnosis of parasitic infections: A clinical perspective*, by Prof. Dr. Rohela Mahmud (Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya)

(ii) *Curent AIDS situation and management*, by Dr. Christopher Lee (Infectious Diseases Unit, Department of Medicine, Hospital Kuala Lumpur)

2) Dr. David Gibson from the Natural History Museum London will be giving a talk on “*Helminth collection, databases and systematics*” on 14/9/06 (Thursday), 3 pm at Bilik Seminar S1, Institute Sains Biology (ISB), UM. MSPTM is the co-organizer.

3) **5th Seminar on Food- and Water-Borne Parasitic Zoonoses (5th FBPZ)** will be held on 28-30 November 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand.

4) **Joint International Tropical Medicine Meeting 2006 and 6th Asia-Pacific Travel Health Conference (JITMM 2006-6th APTHC)**, themed “Health and Travel in the Tropics: an Asian Perspective”, will be held on 29 November - 1 December 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand.

To register or request more information on items (3) and (4), please contact the Meeting Secretary Dr. Achara Asavanich, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, 420/6 Ratchawithi Road, Bangkok 10400, Thailand.

Phone: (662) 3549100-19 ext. 1524, 1576

Fax: (662) 6435578, (662) 6435582

E-mail: jitmm@mahidol.ac.th

Web: <http://www.tm.mahidol.ac.th>

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FEE



Your membership subscription fee is only RM 0.137 per day... Please contribute to the society by paying to:

Mrs. Tengku Rogayah Tengku A. Rashid
Honorary Treasurer
Malaysian Society of Parasitology and
Tropical Medicine
c/o Institute for Medical Research
Jalan Pahang
50588 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

CHANGES OF CORRESPONDENT ADDRESS/EMAIL



Please notify the Secretary of any changes of correspondent address/email. This is to ensure that you receive the latest update of the society.

Miss Noor Azian Md. Yusuf
Honorary Secretary
Malaysian Society of Parasitology and
Tropical Medicine
c/o Institute for Medical Research
Jalan Pahang
50588 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
(noorazian@imr.gov.my)

ORBITUARY



DONALD R O'HOLOHAN 1929-2006

Dr. Donald R O'Holohan was born on August 5 1929 in Dublin and died on March 25, 2006 in Seremban. He was a medical practitioner in Seremban and was actively associated with our Society.

He carried out a lot of work on amoebiasis. In 1975 he became the 12th President of our Society. He wrote the editorial in the July issue of the Society's newsletter when the MSPTM was entering its 12th year. That was the first issue of the Newsletter.

Dr. O'Holohan was a well respected physician with a solid record of achievements in the Malaysian and International scientific scenario. He has also been chairman of many scientific seminars and has presented numerous clinical papers. Prior to the 80's he took an active part in the Society.

He later took a "Career Break" in order to devote some time to medical writing. He was an active member of the Society for many years. He had always maintained a keen interest in our Society and in recognition of his valuable services and contributions in clinical parasitology, he was elected as an Honorary Member of the MSPTM in 1994.

Due to poor health in later years, he was unable to attend the Society's functions. However, he always sent his good wishes and followed the Society's activities through Newsletters and Journals. The last letter that we received from O'Holohan was in 2004.

Dr O'Holohan was a friendly, kind and generous person who will be greatly missed by all who knew him. His career as a Clinical Parasitologist was an inspiration and role model for other doctors in private practice. His contributions to parasitology and tropical medicine will be embedded in the annals of Science for decades to come. He is survived by three brothers and three sisters.