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.
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

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.

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

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 Integrated 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
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
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 NUR LAELA 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
    Institute for Medical Research
12. ADELA IDA ANAK JIRAM
    Institute for Medical Research
13. UMUL HANINAH ALI
    Institute for Medical Research (IMR)
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
    International Medical University (IMU)
17. LIM KWEE WEE
    Jabatan Kesihatan Wilayah Persekutuan
18. ARCHANA SINGH SIKARMAR, DR
    Jenderal Achmad Yani University, West Jawa, Indonesia.
19. UMMI KALTHOM SHAMSUDIN, DR
    Kedah
20. EMMA MARDBLIYAH HADIYAT, DR
    Klinik Keluarga Siva
21. KHOO YING JO
    Kolej PTPL Shah Alam.
22. SIVASHANMUGANATHAN S., DR
    Kuala Lumpur
23. SYARIFAH BT HASBOLLAH
    Makmal Veterinar Kawasan Kota Bharu
24. WONG YI CHING
    Maranatha Christian University
25. LEE CHAI HA, DR.
    Negeri Sembilan
26. SUSY TJAHJANI, DR
    Nigeria
27. TEO BEE HSIEN
    Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah Kluang
28. ABUBAKAR SADIQ UMAR, DR
    Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah Lipis
29. NORZIHAN BINTI MOHAMED HASSAN
    Selangor
30. MOHD. MAHER BIN IBRAHIM
    UCSI, KL
31. HO LAI YEE
32. WONG WEI LIM
33 NORASHIKIN @ SUZANI BINTI MOHD SHAHARUDIN
34 PUTRI NORADYANI MEGAT HASHIM
35 HASIDAH MOHD. SIDEK, DR
36 NORAMIWATI RASHID
37 NORASHIKIN @SUZANI BT MOHD SHAHARUDDIN
38 ZATUL’ IFFAH ABU HASAN
39 RAJA MUHAMMAD ZUHA B. RAJA KAMAL BASHAH
40 KAVITHA RAJAGOPAL
41 AMBAR SULIANTI, DR
42 MALAIKA WATANABE, DR
43 AHMADU ALI FAROUQ
44 CHIN YUN YAN
45 ELSHAFIE IBRAHIM ELSHAFIE, DR
46 HO GIM CHONG
47 IBRAHIM ABUBAKAR ANKA, DR
48 MAHIRA WATANABE
49 NUR MAHIZA MOHD ISA, DR
50 WONG MENG TACK
51 LIM SU YEE, DR
52 GOH YONG MENG, DR
53 MOHAMED ADEL MOHAMED A. RAHIM EL KADI, PROFFESOR DR.
54 NORADILAH SAMSEH BINTI ABDULLAH
55 SUPALETCHIMI KATHERASON, DR
56 SUARTI RUSLI, DR
57 HOH BOON PENG, DR
58 MARIAM BT. MOHAMAD, DR
59 MOHAMMAD NASIMUL ISLAM, PROF. DR.
60 NIK NAIRAN ABDULLEAH, DR
61 NARIMAH ABDUL HAMID HASANI, DR
62 ABDULELAH HUSSIEN AHMED ALADHROEY
63 AZDAYANTI BT MUSLIM
64 BELLO ARKILLA MAGAJI, DR
65 LEE II LI
66 NORAISHAH MYDIN ABDUL AZIZ, DR
67 SARINDER KAUR A/P KASHMIR SINGH, DR
68 TAN PENG CHIANG
69 TAN SIEW HWA
70 YEONG YZE SHIUAN
71 JOHNSON SAN CHE MIN
72 NORHIDAYU BINTI SAHIMIN
73 ZULQARNAIN MOHAMED, ASSOC. PROF. DR

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
Universiti Malaya
Universiti Putra Malaysia
Universiti Putra Malaysia
Universiti Putra Malaysia
Universiti Putra Malaysia
Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM)
Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM)
Universiti Sains Malaysia
Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)
Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)
Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)
Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM),
University of Malaya,
University of Malaya
University of Malaya
University of Malaya
University of Malaya
Congratulations 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 Wahju 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

- **09-12 Mar 2010** 14th International Congress on Infectious Diseases (ICID). Miami, Florida, USA. [www.isid.org](http://www.isid.org)
- **06-10 June 2010** 29th World Congress of Biomedical Laboratory Science. Nairobi, Kenya. [www.akmlso-ifbls2010.org](http://www.akmlso-ifbls2010.org)
- **08-11 Sept 2010** European Association for Forensic Entomology (EAFE) Meeting. Murcia, Spain. [www.eafe.org](http://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](http://www.astmh.org/eve)
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.

Notice Board

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/