

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

Newsletter

Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine
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Jalan Pahang 50588
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(for members only)

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43rd Annual Scientific Seminar of MSPTM and the Centenary Celebration of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (UK)

The 43rd Annual General Meeting of MSPTM and the Centenary Celebration of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (UK) will tentatively be held on 20–22 March 2007, at the Grand Seasons Hotel, Kuala Lumpur with the theme “*Advances of Biotechnology in Tropical Medicine*”.

From the parasite laden desk of Yvonne:

This October issue of our MSPTM newsletter is filled with goodies. Our forthcoming seminar in 2007 (i.e. 43rd MSPTM seminar) will be a joint event with the Centenary Celebration of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (UK). In conjunction with the Centenary, the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (RSTMH) will not only have meetings at its home base in UK but also other parts of the world such as Gambia (for West Africa), Tanzania (for East Africa), Pakistan (for the Indian sub Continent), Canberra (for Australia) and Malaysia (for South East Asia). It is indeed a great privilege for the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine to be given this honour to host this very prestigious and historic event.

Interestingly, from 1962-64, the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM) has been conducting its meetings and seminars under the auspices of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene until MSPTM was registered fully as a Malaysian society in 1964. Hence, we have more reasons to celebrate the Centenary together. There will be a half day symposium by the RSTMH with the aim of revisiting the contributions to tropical medicine from this region, especially from Fellows both locally and globally. This will be a platform for those who at various times have worked in this region to attend, and to meet with old colleagues and acquaintances.

Our Society is also very technology savvy. We now have our very own MSPTM Homepage and it is up and running. It features many interesting current and past news about MSPTM. The latest feature is a weblog. Yes it is a discussion board for all members. Just post your opinion, suggestion, queries, articles, anything and everything in the weblog. So visit the homepage and start blogging!

This issue also carries a write up by our new *Tropical Biomedicine* editor (Dr. Indra Vythilingam). In view that our journal is expanding and gaining international recognition (it is now indexed in Medline), the council members have decided to create an archive. So we are making an appeal to any members who have been faithfully keeping especially the old issues of the journal to donate these issues back to the Society. God bless you for being so far-sighted!

Congratulations to our members who have been promoted and who has successfully obtained a grant. Find out who they are in the column ‘Milestones of MSPTM members’. Those who missed the Mid-year seminar can read the synopsis of the talks in this issue. Well, I hope you enjoy this short but sweet issue. Have a nice day!

MSPTM *TROPICAL BIOMEDICINE*

Message from the Editor of *Tropical Biomedicine*

Since the inception of the *Tropical Biomedicine* in 1984, a volume has been published every year without fail. Since December 2004 the journal is abstracted by Medline. The articles are now available for all to read and use free of charge. The published version of your article will be immediately placed in PubMed Central, thus ensuring high visibility of your research.

We are also working towards getting an Impact Factor from Thompson Scientific (ISI). In order to achieve this, we need high quality articles. All articles will be peer-reviewed by scientists working in that particular area of research.

I apologise for the late publication of the June issue. The delay was partly due to problems in obtaining the KDN number from the Ministry of Internal Security. We hope to get the December issue published on time. I therefore appeal to all those who have had their papers reviewed to please submit the revised version by the end of September so that we can process for printing.

Please pass this information to your fellow colleagues, both local and international, so that we will be able to receive more articles for the journal. Also visit the home page of MSPTM to get more information about the journal. We appeal to all those sending articles to conform to the format of the journal. Please have a look at the latest issues of the journal for "Instructions to Authors" and the format of the journal.

Thank you.

Indra Vythilingam
Editor
Tropical Biomedicine

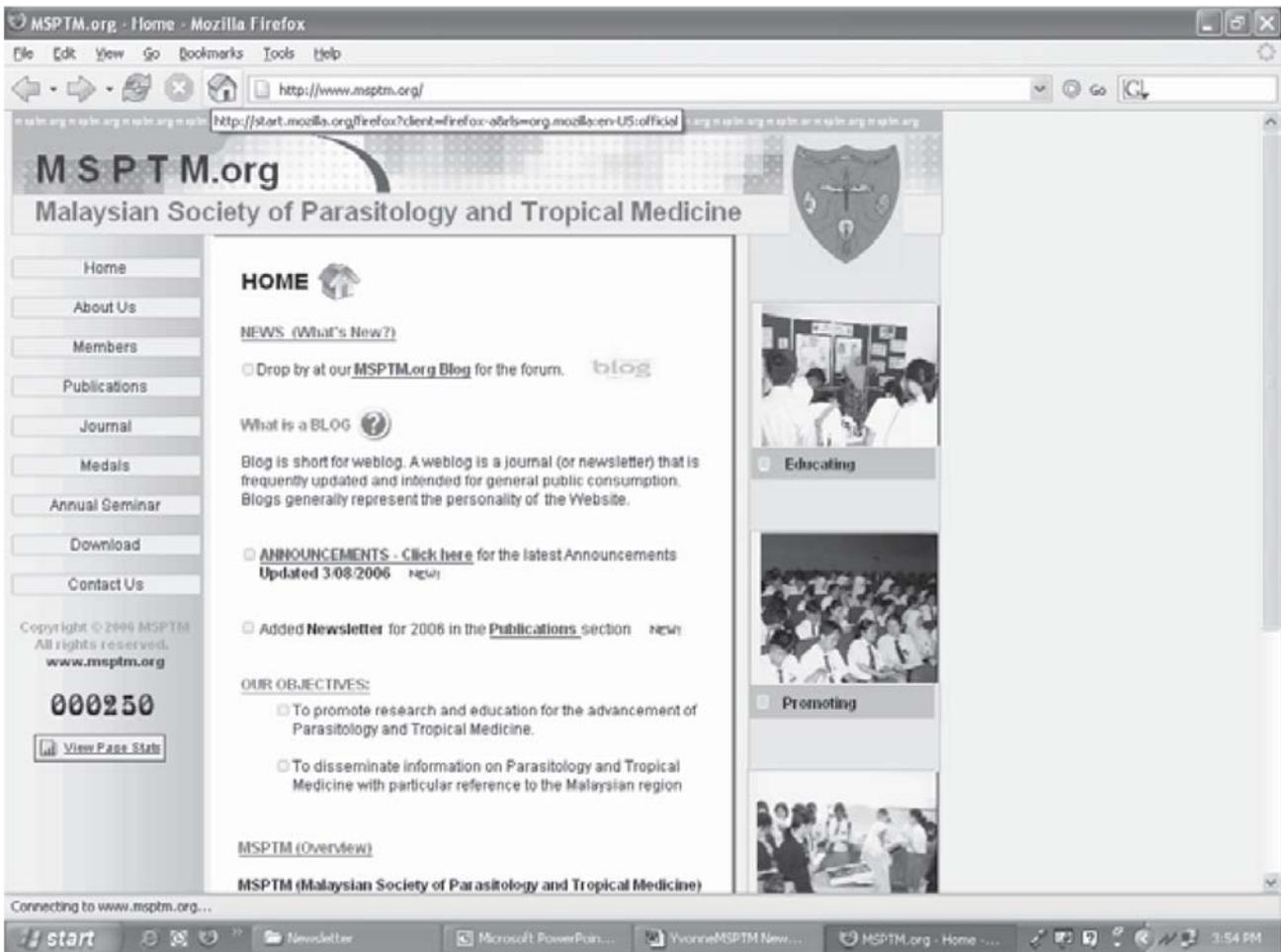


What is on Medline?

There are currently 56 articles that are indexed by Medline. These articles are from the three most current issues:

- Volume 22 (2), Dec 2005
- Volume 22 (1), June 2005
- Volume 21 (2), Dec 2004





MSPTM HOMEPAGE

This is the main page of the MSPTM homepage. Access to the webpage can be done by typing www.msptm.org. There are many interesting features on this homepage. We hope this homepage will get everyone connected at the speed of light. This will be the fastest platform to disseminate the latest info and to get feedback from members via email (msptm@msptm.org). All members are encouraged to participate and spice up our discussion board via the MSPTM BLOG!

Milestones of MSPTM members

- Associate Professor Dr. Noor Hayati Mohd Isa has been promoted to the position of Professor. She is attached to the Department of Parasitology and Medical Entomology, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.
- Associate Professor Dr. Lee Chow Yang has been promoted to the position of Professor. He is attached to the School of Biological Science, Universiti Sains Malaysia.
- Dr. Vellayan S. has been awarded a grant of RM5,000 by the Lee Foundation. He is currently in US for 3 months. We hope to get some news from him soon.

Mid Year Seminar

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

Laboratory diagnosis of parasitic infections: a clinical perspective, by Prof. Dr. Rohela Mahmud (Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya)

Synopsis:

This presentation is mainly to introduce the activities of Parasitology Lab, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya. One of the main activities is to provide diagnostic services to University Malaya Medical Centre, University Malaya Specialist Centre and other government and private hospitals and clinics.

The presentation also highlights some of the parasitic infections seen in the laboratory especially those associated with immunosuppressed patients. It is important for the medical consultant of the laboratory to liaise well with doctors in the wards to get the right specimens and to give proper advice on specimen collection. A definite and correct diagnosis is important for proper management. In immunosuppressed patients, doctors should be aware of specific parasitic infections such as toxoplasmosis, cryptosporidiosis and strongyloidiasis.

This presentation also aims to make the doctors aware of parasitic infections that are brought into Malaysia by immigrant workers. Malaysian traveling to endemic areas may be at risk of being infected with some of these parasitic diseases.

With the burgeoning of Japanese restaurants in Malaysia and as supplies of raw fish are imported from Japan, doctors should also be aware of the likelihood that patients developing parasitic infection associated with eating raw fish.

Current AIDS situation and management, by Dr. Christopher Lee (Infectious Diseases Unit, Department of Medicine, Hospital Kuala Lumpur) (synopsis not available)

Dr. David Gibson of the Natural History Museum, London gave a talk on **"Helminth collection, databases and systematics"** at the Institute of Biological Sciences (ISB) on the 14 September 2006. MSPTM was the co-organiser of this talk together with the British Council and ISB, UM. Dr Indra Vythilingam represented MSPTM to present a souvenir to Dr. Gibson.

Announcements

Tropical Biomedicine Archive

Our Society's journal - the *Tropical Biomedicine* is already 22 years old. It was first published in 1984. For the benefit of future parasitologist, entomologist and tropical medicine specialists, the MSPTM council members feel that it is important to create an archive for the journal.

Since some old issues are not in our keeping, we would like to request any members who have been faithfully keeping the old issues of the Journal to contribute/donate them back to the Society for our future reference. All contributors will be acknowledged. Potential contributors can email us at msptm@msptm.org to inform us which issue(s) you intend to donate. Thanking you in advance.

Calendar of Events

- 5th Seminar on Food- and Water-Borne Parasitic Zoonoses** will be held on 28-30 November 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Joint International Tropical Medicine Meeting 2006 and 6th Asia-Pacific Travel Health Conference** will be held on 29 November - 1 December 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand.
- 43rd Annual General Meeting of MSPTM and the Centenary Celebration of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (UK)** will be held on 20-22 March 2007, at the Grand Seasons Hotel, Kuala Lumpur with the theme "Advances of Biotechnology in Tropical Medicine".
- Royal Society of Tropical Medicine Centenary Celebration, Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London, 13-15 September 2007 with the theme "One hundred years of tropical medicine: from molecular medicine to the millennium development goals".**