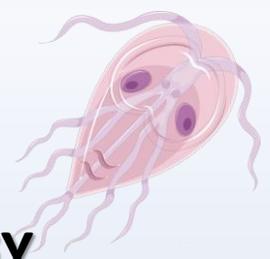




UNIVERSITI  
MALAYA



## DEPARTMENT OF PARASITOLOGY FACULTY OF MEDICINE

NEWSLETTER 2023



The Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya is a very active department managed by 26 staff members. Among these members, 14 are lecturers (including 2 honorary professors). The department plays critical roles in teaching, research and diagnostic services. The department has contributed its teaching services to various programs offered by the Faculty of Medicine such as the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS), Bachelor of Nursing Science, Bachelor of Biomedical Science, Master of Pathology (MPath), as well as external elective course for students from other faculties in the university. Besides, the department has provided teaching service via laboratory postings for Diploma program in Medical Laboratory Technology by University Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC). In addition, the department has launched a new one-year master program by coursework (Master of Medical Parasitology and Entomology) in September 2022. On top of that, the department has groomed many scientists via its MSc and PhD programs (research mode), as well as various workshops organized by the department. To date, this department has produced numerous local and overseas talents. In line with the vision of Universiti Malaya, the department strives to be the centre of excellence for research, innovation, publication and teaching in medical parasitology and entomology.



# FOREWORD BY THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

**Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling**



First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Lee Wenn Chyau and his team for the preparation of this year's newsletter. The Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya is committed to provide excellent education to our students and conduct research that will benefit our communities. Through the years, the department has groomed hundreds of talents for the fields of healthcare and life sciences for the academia, as well as other related industries. The department has been consistently ranked among the top three departments in the faculty for research publications. Members within the department have tried their best to contribute to the academia and the community. Notably, our students and academic staff have won multiple local and international research awards for their remarkable work. In addition, we have launched our new Master in Medical Parasitology and Entomology Program that is offered to local and international students intended to deepen their knowledge and research skills in modern tropical medicine. Currently, we have six professors (including two honorary professors), one associate professors, and six senior lecturers. Our research activities cover various aspects of Parasitology such as protozoa, nematodes, medically important arthropods, and vector control, with emphasis on both modern and traditional tropical medicine. In year 2022, the department produced the highest number of publications per staff among all departments (pre/para-clinical) in the Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya. We will try our best to improve ourselves to achieve higher and contribute more to the nation.



## Academic staff

# Prof. Datin Dr. Indra Vythilingam

### Honorary Professor

Datin Dr Indra Vythilingam is a Professor at the Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya (UM). She has been with the Department since September 2011. Prior to that, she worked at the Institute of Medical Research (IMR), Malaysia and the Environmental Health Institute, Singapore. At UM, she was instrumental in designing and seeing through the establishment of the Arthropod Containment Level 2 Laboratory (ACL2) at Department of Parasitology. This facility was the only one in the university, and it allows work on mosquito infection.

Indra has been the key person playing a vital role in spearheading many projects on vectors of malaria and dengue. She was the pioneer to incriminate the vectors of *Plasmodium knowlesi* in the current era and was responsible for establishing that *P. knowlesi* was also found in humans from all states in P. Malaysia. She has also established a new proactive paradigm for dengue surveillance, where infected mosquitoes are detected before cases are reported. A cluster randomized control trial is underway to establish the effectiveness of this paradigm. Along with her fellow colleagues she has obtained an LRGS grant from the Ministry of Education to study the vectors of zoonotic malaria throughout Peninsular Malaysia.

She has published more than 166 scientific papers in peer-reviewed international and local journals, ten book chapters and one book. From 2012 onwards, 11 PhD students and 3 MSc students have graduated under her supervision. In recognition of her outstanding contribution to the field of parasitology and tropical medicine in Malaysia and Southeast Asia, she was awarded by the Malaysia Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine the most prestigious award, the Sandosham Medal in 2006. In 2017 she was awarded Malaysia's Research Star Award for outstanding national research in Tropical Diseases by the Ministry of Higher Education. She was the president of the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine in 1998 and 2004.

She was appointed as the WHO malaria consultant for Lao PDR from 1999 to 2002. During this time (in 2000), her team conducted studies on the bionomics of malaria vectors in southern part of Lao PDR and the epidemiology of malaria resulting in the incrimination of *Anopheles dirus* for the first time as vector of malaria in Lao PDR.

Indra has been appointed a member of the WHO Expert Advisory Panel on Vector Biology and Control since 1998 (till 2021). She has been appointed as temporary adviser, WHO on many occasions. In 2013 until 2016, she was appointed as member of the WHO Vector Control Advisory Group (VCAG) on New Tools for vector control.

She was the Editor of *Tropical Biomedicine* from 2006-2014 and was responsible for obtaining the ISI status from Thompson Web of Science. It is the first local medical journal to obtain impact factor in the country. She was the subject editor for an international journal *Parasites and Vectors*, from 2016 to 2020. Currently, she is an editorial board member of this journal.

Tel: 03 – 79674747

Email: [indrav@um.edu.my](mailto:indrav@um.edu.my)

Research interest: Medical entomology, vectors for malaria, dengue, JE & filariasis

Link: <https://umexpert.um.edu.my/indrav.html>



## Academic staff

# Prof. Dr. Suresh Kumar

### Honorary Professor

Professor Dr. Suresh Kumar Govind completed his PhD from the National University of Singapore in 1994. He became a lecturer at the Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, and Associate Professor in 2001 and a full Professor in 2006. He also served as the Head of the Department of Parasitology, UM from 2015 to 2019.

His special focused dedication was on *Blastocystis* and for the past 25 years have generated more than 140 scientific papers, presented more than 270 conference papers, and written several chapters in publications by the WHO. He has supervised more than 100 elective, diploma, graduate and post-graduate students including at doctorate level. His expertise in *Blastocystis* has enabled him to be appointed as reviewer for internationally refereed journals and is responsible for placing the organism for the first time in the fact list of the WHO publication on the drinking water guidelines. He was the winner of the National Young Scientist Award, Malaysian Toray Grant Award, Commonwealth Scholarship Award, ITEX Gold Innovative Award (National), ITEX gold medal (International), Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine Silver Medal, the Prime Minister's Productivity Award, the prestigious Malaysian Toray Science Award as well as winning a few times the University Malaya excellence award. He was conferred the global Malayalee Award, National Educators Award from the Association of Private Institutions for research and Fellow to the Malaysian Academy of Science in 2015. He won the Parija Oration Award from the Indian Academy of Tropical Parasitology and Sandosham Medal Award from MSPTM in 2016 and 2017, respectively, for his outstanding contribution to the field of Parasitology.

He has served as an expert member for the Drinking Water guidelines committee for the World Health Organization since 2004. He has also served as an International Consultant for Indian Ocean Center for Education in Human Values, Mauritius. He has been appointed by the Prime Minister of Malaysia to be a member of the National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC) and the committee for inter-faith promotion (JKMPKA) a board member to IKLIN and currently the Chairman of Board of Trustees for the Yayasan Perpaduan Malaysia. Prof Dr Suresh Govind was the former President of the Sathya Sai International Organization, Malaysia, an organization dedicated to the promotion of human values, service and national unity. He is currently the International coordinator for community engagement for 120 countries for the World Sathya Sai International Organization as well as the Coordinator for the Friendship Group of Inter Religious Service, consisting of members from all the major religious groups in Malaysia.

Tel: 03 – 79674743

Email: [suresh@um.edu.my](mailto:suresh@um.edu.my)

Research interest: *Blastocystis*, drug trials & parasite biology, diagnostic parasitology

Link: <https://umexpert.um.edu.my/suresh.html>



## Academic staff

### Prof. Dr. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian

Dr. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian is a professor at the Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. Currently, she is the Associate Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement), Universiti Malaya and a council member of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia. Prior to this, she has taken on leadership roles as the Deputy Dean (Research) at the Faculty of Medicine and the Director of International Relations Office, Universiti Malaya.

Her research focuses on host-parasite interactions and the epidemiology and control of neglected tropical diseases primarily among the indigenous communities. Her work has been funded by various national and international grants (eg. US NIH grant). Using multidisciplinary approaches and bioinformatics analysis, her team's landmark publication in *Science* with collaborators from New York University unravelled the mechanisms of how low levels of helminth infection promote growth of probiotic gut microbiota which may lead to the discovery of potential biomarkers and novel interventional strategies towards utilising helminths as a therapeutic approach. Together with researchers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), USA, her team is further elucidating the role of gut microbiota-helminth association with nutritional status and inflammatory responses.

She has published more than 250 scientific papers, 9 book chapters and 3 books. She has supervised 37 PhD and MSc students to completion. She also has a vast network of local and international partnerships. She was a visiting researcher at the Scottish Parasite Diagnostic and Reference Laboratory (formerly SPDL), Glasgow, Scotland, a visiting fellow at the Department of Veterinary Science, University of Melbourne, Australia and a visiting professor at the Department of Molecular Parasitology and Tropical Diseases, Taipei Medical University, Taiwan and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA.

She is a member of the International Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) in the Infectious Diseases Data Observatory Schistosomiasis and Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis Data Treatment Platform. She was also involved in the formulation of the National Policy for the Development of Orang Asli (Indigenous) with the Department of Orang Asli Development (JAKOA), Malaysia. She was one of the women leader mentors in the Asia Pacific Women in Leadership (APWiL) Mentoring Programme.

She has received numerous awards and recognitions, among which were the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Centenary Scholarship, Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine Medal for being an outstanding young scientist, the Universiti Malaya Excellence Award for outstanding achievement in the category of Excellent Lecturer (for Sciences) and the Top Research Scientists Malaysia Award. She was also awarded the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine Life Membership and was appointed a fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia. She was featured as one of the 10 Science Stars of East Asia in *Nature* and cited in a study by Stanford University as one of the top 2% scientists for the years 2019 and 2021. In 2021, she was awarded the Fulbright Scholar Award 2021/2022 for an attachment at the Laboratory of Parasitic Diseases, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institutes of Health (NIH), USA. Recently, she was appointed the co-chair of the APRU Asia Pacific Women in Leadership (APWiL) Program from 2022-2025.

Tel: 03 – 79674748

Email: [limailian@um.edu.my](mailto:limailian@um.edu.my)

Research interest: Protozoa & helminth, gut microbiota, indigenous health, molecular epidemiology, waterborne parasites (*Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia*)

Link: <https://umexpert.um.edu.my/limailian.html>



## Academic staff

### Prof. Dr. Fong Mun Yik

Professor Dr. Fong Mun Yik obtained his PhD degree from the University of Malaya (UM) in 1996. He joined the Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, UM in 1998 as a junior lecturer. He was promoted to the position of Associate Professor in 2003, and to full Professor in 2008.

As an academician in the university, he teaches Medical Parasitology at various levels such as Masters of Pathology, MBBS, Pharmacy, Biomedical Science and Nursing Science degrees. He was a guest lecturer and external examiner for the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Tropical Medicine Network (SEAMEO-TROPMED) Advanced Diploma of Applied Parasitology and Entomology programme at the Institute for Medical Research, Kuala Lumpur.

Professor Fong's main research interest is in molecular parasitology, particularly in the areas of molecular epidemiology and development of recombinant antigens for serodiagnosis of parasitic infections. His main focus now is on the zoonotic malaria parasite *Plasmodium knowlesi*.

Professor Fong has received numerous research grants from various external funding bodies including China Medical Board, Academy of Science Malaysia, Malaysian Toray Science Foundation, the Ministry of Science's Intensified Research Priority Area (IRPA) and ScienceFund, Ministry of Higher Education's High Impact Research Grant, Long-Term Research Grant and Fundamental Research Grant Schemes.

Professor Fong was elected as the President of the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM) in 2006-2007 and 2011-2012. In 2007, he was given the honour to chair the organising committee of the joint MSPTM and Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (London) Centenary Celebration. He was the President of the Malaysian Society of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology in 2007-2009.

Professor Fong has served as research proposals assessor for UM Wellness, UM Biotechnology & Bioproduct clusters, FRGS, MyLab and ScienceFund grant schemes. He was appointed by the USM Vice Chancellor to serve in the university's Industry and Community Advisory Panel in 2013-2015, and by the USM Senate to be in the Committee of Studies, Master of Biomedicine Programme. He also was an academic assessor for new Master (USM) and Bachelor (UiTM) degree programmes. He also reviews research proposals for the National Science Center, Poland.

Professor Fong serves as the member of the Editorial Board of Tropical Biomedicine, and the Asian-Pacific Journal of Tropical Medicine. He is a regular reviewer of manuscripts for PLoS One, Malaria Journal, Parasites & Vectors, AJTMH, Acta Tropica, Infection, Genetics and Evolution and BMC Infectious Diseases.

Professor Fong joined the UM Quality Management and Enhancement Centre (QMEC) in 2005, appointed QMEC's Head of Documentation Unit in 2009-2016, and Deputy Director in 2016. He is a MOHE-appointed auditor for the Malaysian Research Assessment (MyRA). He is a member of the Board of Governors of the International University of Malaya-Wales (IUMW) since 2013.

Professor Fong has been awarded the UM Excellent Service Award four times – in 2002, 2006, 2009 and 2013. He was awarded the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM) Medal in 2007. He was elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia in 2021.

Tel: 03 – 79674755

Email: [fongmy@um.edu.my](mailto:fongmy@um.edu.my)

Research interest: Genetic diversity and molecular & epidemiology of malaria parasites, diagnostic parasitology

Link: <https://umexpert.um.edu.my/fongmy.html>



## Academic staff

### Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling

Professor Dr Lau Yee Ling is at present the Head of the Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine at Universiti Malaya (UM). She started her academic career as a lecturer at Monash University Sunway Campus while waiting for her PhD viva in 2008. During her time as a lecturer in Monash University, she was awarded two Monash University Research Grants in which enabled her to continue her research in the field of molecular parasitology. She then returned to her alma mater, University of Malaya, as a Senior Lecturer in 2009. She was granted tenure in 2010 and promoted to Associate Professor in 2013, and Professor in 2019. She was appointed a fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia in 2019. Professor Lau's scientific career has been dedicated to the study of protozoan parasites, including *Plasmodium knowlesi* and *Toxoplasma gondii*, the causative agents of malaria and toxoplasmosis, respectively. These parasitic diseases exact enormous social and economic burdens. Her research interest mainly focuses on using molecular methods for the detection and characterization of these parasites infecting humans and animals. She has collaborated with local and international researchers, leading to publication of more than 230 ISI journals, with H-index of 33. This research excellence has enabled her to acquire and be a part of many international and local research grants, i.e., Hubert Curien Partnership-Hibiscus (PHC-Hibiscus), ASEAN-India Collaborative R&D scheme, GCRF Global Impact Acceleration Account (GIAA) Impact Fund, High Impact Research Grant, University of Malaya Research Grant, FRGS, E-science, LRGS and others, with cumulative research funding amounting to at least RM5 million. These were followed by several intellectual property rights under her belt on rapid molecular diagnosis of dengue, malaria and COVID-19. Since 2009, 13 Masters and 19 PhDs have completed their studies with success under her guidance. Currently, they are 4 Masters and 6 PhDs under her supervision. With her experience in grant management, she had held numerous administrative posts such as the Head of Grant Management Unit, of Health and Translational Medicine Cluster and Faculty of Medicine, besides being a committee member in evaluating applications for FRGS, LRGR and TRGS at the national and international levels. She established the Science Café in 2017, which continues to be the main channel of research communication between clinicians and scientists at the Faculty of Medicine. She was also a committee member of the University of Malaya Institutional Biosafety and Biosecurity Committee (IBBC), Animal Experimental Unit, Faculty of Medicine Risk and Quality Management and an internal auditor of Faculty of Medicine. Currently, she is the editor-in-chief for the Journal of Health and Translational Medicine (JUMMEC) for Universiti Malaya, editor of Asia Pacific Journal of Molecular Biology & Biotechnology and associate editor of BMC Infectious Diseases. Professor Lau has been an active member of the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM). She was a council member of the MSPTM in year 2018-2019. She is also active in the Malaysian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (MSBMB). She was the Honorary Secretary of the MSBMB in 2017-2019 and the current President. Professor Lau's passion for research can only be matched with her passion for teaching and education. When conducting classes, besides ensuring her lectures are easy to follow, she makes all attempts to infuse interest and solicit students' participation by incorporating more recent articles and real-life scenarios in order to illustrate the day-to-day relevance of the teaching subject matter. And because of her enthusiasm for education, she has volunteered to be the Problem-Based Learning (PBL) Phase II coordinator in 2011 then became the PBL main coordinator in 2018. Recently, she has been actively participating in organizing PBL training workshops for UMMP program. Professor Lau has been awarded the MTSF's Science & Technology Award for Year 2020, University of Malaya Excellent Service Award three times in 2011, 2013 and 2015. She was awarded MSPTM Nadchadtram Medal in 2014. She has also been awarded a few times for her innovation in research including the Grand Prize in National Exclusive Innovation Challenge Award 2018.

Tel: 03 – 79674749

Email: [lauyeeling@um.edu.my](mailto:lauyeeling@um.edu.my)

Research interest: Malaria, diagnostic parasitology, molecular cloning & expression

Link: <https://umexpert.um.edu.my/lauyeeling.html>



## Academic staff

### Prof. Dr. Hesham M. Al-Mekhlafi

Hesham Al-Mekhlafi has a PhD in public health (UM, 2009), master's degrees in medical science (parasitology) (UKM, 2004) and in applied statistics (UM, 2012) as well as a bachelor's degree in medical laboratories (1997). Since early 2000s, he has been actively engaged in research on the epidemiology and prevention of infectious diseases including malaria, neglected tropical diseases, NTDs (such as soil-transmitted helminthiasis, schistosomiasis, leishmaniasis and dengue fever), and waterborne parasites. He joined the department of parasitology, Universiti Malaya in 2009 as a senior lecturer and promoted to associate professor in 2012. In 2016, he joined Jazan University, Saudi Arabia and promoted to full professor in 2022. He re-joined Universiti Malaya in July 2023.

He has taught several courses in parasitology, epidemiology, biostatistics, and research methodology at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. He has established passionate research teams that involved diligent postgraduate students, enthusiastic colleagues, and inspiring national and international collaborators. The research dedicated to helping vulnerable rural and aboriginal communities in Malaysia and other countries including Yemen, Nigeria and Libya against the NTDs, malaria and other infectious diseases. He has published more than 150 articles in ISI & Scopus indexed journals; with h-index of 37 (WoS).

Prof. Hesham has been a member of several academic, scientific and administrative councils and committees. He is a member of the editorial boards of several renowned journals, and a regular reviewer for many peer-reviewed journals as well as a panel member of assessors for various national and international research grant schemes and postgraduate programs. He has been listed among the Top 2% scientists in the world in the field of tropical medicine in 2020–2023 for both singular year and career-long citation impact by Stanford University through Scopus-Elsevier.

Tel: 03 – 79673789

Email: [halmekhlafi@um.edu.my](mailto:halmekhlafi@um.edu.my)

Research interest: neglected tropical diseases, waterborne parasites, health education, molecular epidemiology

Link: <https://umexpert.um.edu.my/halmekhlafi.html>

## Academic staff

### Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wan Yusoff Wan Sulaiman



Dr. Wan Yusoff obtained his PhD from Keele University, UK in 1999. He is life member of British Society for Parasitology since 1995, member of Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine.

He has been appointed as consultant for many projects/companies such as Putrajaya Lake and Wetland Water Quality and Biological Monitoring Services for Perbadanan Putrajaya, Evaluation of Insecticides product from CUBA, Water-borne vector and mosquito.

Dr. Wan Yusoff has received University Malaya Excellent Award – Consultancy in 2018, and numerous time of certificate of excellent service from UM.

Dr. Wan Yusoff has involved in the teaching activities for the students of various programs, such as Medical Bachelor and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS), Bachelor of Biomedical Science, Master of Medical Parasitology and Entomology, as well as external elective courses for the undergraduate students in Universiti Malaya.

Currently, he is the Deputy Dean of Development, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya. He has published numerous papers and chapters in book. He has received grants from various funding bodies including UM internal RU grant, UMRG, FRGS, and international funding. His research interests focus on mosquito geospatial and temporal distribution monitoring, insect immunology, and vector-borne diseases.

Tel: 03 – 79675732

Email: [wanyus@um.edu.my](mailto:wanyus@um.edu.my)

Research interest: Medical parasitology, medical entomology, forensic entomology

Link: <https://umexpert.um.edu.my/wanyus.html>



## Academic staff

### Dr. Cheong Fei Wen

Cheong Fei Wen obtained her Bachelor Degree in Biomedical Science (with distinction) from Universiti Malaya (UM), Malaysia in 2009. She passed her PhD with distinction early 2015 and received her PhD scroll in UM convocation 2015. She is currently holding the post of senior lecturer in Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, UM.

Since PhD study, she explored into several malaria-related aspects, including protein expression of the *Plasmodium knowlesi* merozoite surface proteins; immunogenicity study using animal model; and epitope mapping. Her current research interests include phenotypic and genotypic measures on *Plasmodium* sp. resistance against anti-malarials, immunogenicity profiling of potential malarial vaccine candidates, and genome engineering in *P. knowlesi* using CRISPR-Cas9 system.

With her deep passion in research, she has been successfully selected and awarded to attend several international workshops/courses including Ungku Omar-Newton Fund Researcher Links Workshop: Neglected Disease in SEA: Building Capacity in Epidemiological Modelling (University of Malaya, Malaysia & Imperial College London, UK) in 2017 and Wellcome Genome Campus Advanced Course: Malaria Experimental Genetics (WGCAC, UK) in 2018. She has also obtained and be part of several research grants, including UM Research Fund Assistance (BKP), Postgraduate Research Fund (PPP), Frontier Research Grant (FRG), Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS), and Long-Term Research Grant Scheme (LRGS). With that, she has published about 20 research articles in ISI-indexed journals.

She is currently the editor of the Journal of Health and Translational Medicine (JUMMEC), associate editor of Asia Pacific Journal of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (APJMBB), and editorial board member of Tropical Biomedicine. She was the council member for Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM) in 2019-2020.

She has received certificate of excellent service, UM in 2019. She is currently the department Course Coordinator for Diagnostic Parasitology and Entomology in Bachelor's Degree of Biomedical Science Programme, committee member of Programme Quality Assurance - Quality Committee Faculty of Medicine (FOM), Programme Coordinator for Master of Medical Parasitology and Entomology and Programme Quality Assurance Expert (ProQAE) FOM.

Tel: 03 – 79676618

Email: [fwcheong18@um.edu.my](mailto:fwcheong18@um.edu.my)

Research interest: Molecular cloning, malaria, protein expression, epitope mapping

Link: <https://umexpert.um.edu.my/fwcheong18.html>



## Academic staff

### Dr. Wahib Mohammed Mohsen Atroosh

Dr. Wahib M. Atroosh, hailing from Yemen, became a member of the Department of Parasitology at UM in 2019, taking on the role as a senior lecturer. His postgraduate journey commenced as a Master's student within the same department back in December 2009. Then, he continued pursuing his PhD in 2012 and successfully earned his PhD with Distinction in 2017. Dr. Wahib's scientific pursuits have been dedicated to the falciparum malaria parasite, the most common cause of severe human malaria, known for its high mortality rate and the development of resistance to antimalarial drugs. Dr. Wahib's research endeavors have primarily revolved around monitoring antimalarial drug resistance through *in vivo* clinical trials and the utilization of molecular gene markers. He is also an active contributor to both international and local research collaborations, partnering with the Medical Research Center at Jazan University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the School of Biological Science at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). Together, they have delved into the epidemiology, genotyping, and molecular evaluation of antimalarial drug resistance among falciparum malaria isolates from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Nigeria, respectively. Beyond his work on malaria, Dr. Wahib has been involved in other parasitology research projects, encompassing intestinal protozoa, schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminths (STH), and health education programs for parasitic infections. He has also played a pivotal role in designing a novel gene marker for discriminating falciparum malaria isolates, particularly suitable for correcting the *in vivo* malaria drug efficacy outcomes. Throughout his tenure at the Department of Parasitology, Dr. Wahib has significantly been involved in publishing 35 papers in indexed journals, amassing an h-index of 17 and garnering a total of 1220 citations. Furthermore, he has actively served as a reviewer for esteemed journals, including PLoS ONE, PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases, Parasites & Vectors, Malaria Journal, Transaction of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, BMC Medicine, Pathogens and Global Health, International Research Journal of Public and Environmental Health, and Tropical Biomedicine. More recently, Dr. Wahib has been awarded the Universiti Malaya Excellent Service Award (APC) for the year 2023.

Tel: 03 – 79673798

Email: [wahib@um.edu.my](mailto:wahib@um.edu.my)

Research interest: Malaria epidemiology & genotyping, *Plasmodium falciparum*, antimalarial drug resistance.

Link: <https://umexpert.um.edu.my/wahib.html>



## Academic staff

### Dr. Lee Wenn Chyau

Wenn-Chyau Lee received his BSc (Hons) degree in Biomedical Science from University of Malaya, Malaysia in 2011, and graduated with his PhD in Medical Sciences from University of Malaya in 2014. Subsequently, he joined Singapore Immunology Network (SIgN, A\*STAR) as a research fellow in Laurent Renia's Laboratory. He was appointed as SIgN fellow after receiving the prestigious OF-YIRG grant awarded by the National Medical Research Council (NMRC) of Singapore in 2018. He joined the newly formed A\*STAR ID Labs as an investigator in 2021. Subsequently, he joined the Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya as a senior lecturer. Currently, he is also an adjunct investigator of A\*STAR ID Labs, Singapore.

As a parasitologist, he has involved in studies encompassing several medically important parasites. His main research interest revolves around the immuno-pathobiology of malaria. He has been investigating and deciphering the roles of rosetting (a phenomenon where a *Plasmodium*-infected red blood cell is stably adhered to uninfected red blood cells, forming a flower-like structure called 'rosette') in the pathogenesis of malaria. Besides, he is exploring the potential of applying different biocontrol strategies to eliminate vector-borne diseases. He has worked as a research fieldworker in different places including the Thai-Burmese Border, China, peninsular Malaysia and Malaysian Borneo. As different laboratory settings are equipped differently, he enjoys adapting and improvising facilities available in the field sites to conduct experiments, as well as coordinating the insectarium and Arthropod Containment Level 2 (ACL2) facility in the Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya. To date, he has published (as first/ corresponding author) in reputable journals such as *Blood*, *Frontiers in Immunology*, *eLife*, *EBioMedicine*, *Frontiers in Microbiology*, and *Trends in Parasitology*. Apart from reviewing manuscripts for various journals, as well as evaluating grant proposals for local and overseas funders, he is also an editorial board member of *Frontiers in Microbiology* and the newly founded *Decoding Infection and Transmission*. Besides, he is a guest editor for *Tropical Medicine and Infectious Disease*. He has involved in the teaching activities for the students of different programs in Universiti Malaya, such as the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS), Bachelor of Biomedical Science, Master of Pathology (MPath), and Master of Medical Parasitology and Entomology, as well as the students from overseas institutes, such as the Master of Science Program in Public Health, Infectious Diseases and Epidemiology, Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, Thailand. Besides participating as the coordinator for courses and several projects in the department, he is also the instructor of the microscopy training for the Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (DTM&H) co-organized by the University of Glasgow and Universiti Malaya. He has been a member of the Research Management Unit (RMU), Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya since 2022. He was appointed as Ahli Jawatankuasa bagi Kajian dan Penetapan FTE, Universiti Malaya in 2023. He is also a member of the A\*STAR Global Network (A\*GN), Singapore, since 2023. He was awarded the Certificate of Excellent Service by Universiti Malaya in 2023.

Tel: 03 – 79674753

Email: [wcllee@um.edu.my](mailto:wcllee@um.edu.my)

Research interest: Malaria immuno-pathobiology, host-parasite interactions, vector biocontrol

Link: <https://umexpert.um.edu.my/wcllee.html>



## Academic staff

### Dr. Tan Tiong Kai

Tan Tiong Kai (Stanley) received his bachelor's degree in Conservation and Biodiversity Management from the Universiti Malaysia Terengganu in 2010. He then earned his PhD from the Universiti Malaya in 2016, for his studies on nematology and drug resistance. Following the completion of his PhD study, he was enrolled as a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Biodiversity Research Center, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan. Subsequently, Dr. Tan was appointed as a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya. Currently, he is a senior lecturer at the Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya.

His current research interests include (1) Epidemiology of blood and gastrointestinal parasites and vector-borne diseases; and (2) Medico-veterinary parasitology and entomology, particularly in the aspects of anthelmintic and insecticide resistance.

Dr Tan TK also actively involves in one of the oldest professional societies in Malaysia, the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM). He serves as a council member for the 59th MSPTM 2022/2024. He was Honorary Secretary for the 56th Council of MSPTM 2019/2020; and Honorary Assistant Secretary for the 55th Council of MSPTM 2018/2019. In addition, he is also a Managing Editor of Tropical Biomedicine, an ISI-indexed journal for parasitology, entomology, tropical medicine and other aspects of biomedical research.

Tel: 03 – 79677450

Email: tantk@um.edu.my

Research interest: Vector-borne diseases, filariasis, helminthiasis & protozoan diseases, anthelmintic resistance

Link: <https://umexpert.um.edu.my/tantk.html>

## Academic staff



### Dr. Arutchelvan A/L Rajamanikam

Dr. Arutchelvan Rajamanikam is a researcher and senior lecturer from the Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, University Malaya (UM). He has been active in understanding the role of highly prevalent protozoan parasite, mainly, *Blastocystis* sp. in healthy and diseased individuals. Arutchelvan completed his undergraduate studies in the field of Resource Biotechnology in 2010 and ventured into Parasitology during his Masters studies (MMedSc) in University of Malaya (2015). His interest in understanding the interaction and synergism of intestinal parasite and gut microbiome led him to complete his doctoral studies (PhD) in University of Malaya in the year 2019. Arutchelvan currently aims to make use of data analytics and data science to decipher the gut microbial diversity patterns, metabolic profile and function in understanding health and explore the predictive ability of the gut microbiome for the benefit of preventive medicine. He has currently embarked into various projects relating to gut microbiome in colorectal cancer and mental illness. He is currently a reviewer for various ISI-indexed journals. He has also contributed in curriculum review and development of postgraduate degree program in Parasitology and Entomology. Recently he was appointed as a working group member for European Cooperation in Science and Technology action (CA21105).

Tel: 03 – 79675734

Email: arun04@um.edu.my

Research interest: Data analytics, predictive modelling, intestinal parasitology, host-parasite interaction

Link: <https://umexpert.um.edu.my/arun04.html>



## Academic staff

### Dr. Junaid Olawale Quazim

Dr. Junaid Olawale Quazim is a senior lecturer at the Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. He obtained his PhD in Medical Parasitology from the Universiti Malaya (UM) in 2018. Prior to this, he did his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Nigeria before he joined academics, at Federal University Kashere, Gombe State, Nigeria, as a Lecturer in 2012.

He got scholarship from the Nigerian Government for his PhD programme in 2014. Hence, he went back to Nigeria after his PhD to continue his job as a Lecturer until he joined the Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya in May, 2023 as a senior lecturer.

Dr. Junaid's work centers on mosquito-borne parasitic diseases (malaria and filariasis), zoonotic filariasis, interactions between the parasites, hosts and vectors, and immunology. Presently, he has an international collaboration with Humboldt Research Hub-Center for Emerging & Re-emerging Infectious Diseases (HRH-CERID) at Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Ogbomoso Oyo State, Nigeria, working on 'Molecular Surveillance for HRP2/3 Gene Deletion in Nigeria'. He has published over 17 articles in various categories of journals.

Tel: 03 – 79674978

Email: [junaid.quazim@um.edu.my](mailto:junaid.quazim@um.edu.my)

Research interest: Zoonotic filariasis

Link: <https://umexpert.um.edu.my/junaid-quazim.html>



## Academic staff

### Dr. Aida Syafinaz Mokhtar

Dr. Aida Syafinaz Mokhtar holds a Bachelor Degree in Biomedical Science (2009), Master of Medical Science (Molecular Microbiology) (2012) and PhD in Parasitology (2017); all three Degrees were conferred by the Universiti Malaya. She then pursued her postdoctoral study in UM Centre of Innovation & Commercialisation (now known as UM Centre of Innovation & Enterprise, UMCIE), working on the establishment of ISO 13485 (Medical Devices) to translate UM life science proprietary technologies into validated marketable products, processes, and services.

Dr. Aida started her teaching career when she joined Manipal University College Malaysia (MUCM) as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Microbiology in year 2021. A year later, she was offered a position at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Cawangan Negeri Sembilan Kampus Kuala Pilah as a Senior Lecturer, School of Biology.

With her strong interest and passion in research, she recently joined the Department of Parasitology, UM to continue working on a topic for which she feel passionately; medically-important ectoparasites among underprivileged children from disadvantaged communities in Malaysia.

Tel: 03 – 7967 4978

Email: [aidasyafinaz@um.edu.my](mailto:aidasyafinaz@um.edu.my)

Research interest: DNA barcoding of medically-important ectoparasites

Link: <https://www.webofscience.com/wos/author/record/AAK-1857-2020>

## Parted academic staff



**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Romano Ngui**

Serving period:  
11 Feb 2014 – 5 June 2023



**Dr. Amirah Amir**

Serving period:  
5 Sep 2011 – 12 July 2023

**A big thank you for your contribution**

# Support staff



**Mazni Mohamed Ali**

Administrative Assistant



**Awang Bhukhari Bin Matsat**

Administrative Assistant



**Dzuzaini Mohd Ghazali**

Research Officer



**Mohd Khairul Bin Roslan**

Medical Laboratory Technologist



**Sharifah Nor Akmar Syed Mohd**

Medical Laboratory Technologist



**Mohd Redzuan Ahmad Naziri**

Medical Laboratory Technologist



**Mohd. Azmi bin Kamarulzaman**

Pembantu Am Pejabat

# Retired support staff



**Mohd Sazalle Jamil**

**Pembantu Am Pejabat**

Serving period:  
3 Jan 1989 – 30 Apr 2023



**Mazni Mohamed Ali**

**Administrative Assistant**

Serving period:  
26 Nov 1996 – 31 Dec 2023

**A big thank you for your contribution**

# Diagnostic unit

## Medical Laboratory Technologist (UMMC staff)



Hasidah binti Omar



Wan Hafiz bin Wan Ismail



Farikha binti Sarip

- **Parasitology Diagnostic Unit** is the diagnostic division stemming from the Department of Parasitology.
- It is a component of the “Unit Pengurusan Makmal”, University of Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC).
- It offers the following services:
  - Malaria detection
  - Microfilariae detection
  - Filariasis IgG
  - Schistosomiasis IgG
  - Amoebiasis IgG
  - Echinococcosis IgG
  - Toxoplasmosis IgG & IgM
  - Toxocariasis IgG
  - Cysticercosis IgG
  - Strongyloidiasis IgG
  - *Acanthamoeba* culture
  - Identification of dipteran larvae/ ectoparasites/ helminths
  - Stool FEME
  - Urine/ vaginal discharge examination (parasite detection)
  - *Leishmania donovani* detection (bone marrow smear)
  - PCR for toxoplasmosis
  - PCR for malaria

# Post doctoral research fellows



**Dr. Lai Meng Yee**  
Malaria  
(*Plasmodium knowlesi*)  
mengylai11@um.edu.my



**Dr. Yap Nan Jiun**  
Molecular epidemiology &  
parasite characterization  
nanjiunyap@um.edu.my



**Dr. Tee Mian Zi**  
Intestinal helminth  
infections & gut microbiome  
mianzi@um.edu.my



**Dr. Wong Meng Li**  
Medical entomology  
Left: Aug 2023

# Research Grants

Principal Investigator (PI)	Grant	Amount (RM)
Prof. Dr. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian	• Interactions between helminth colonization and the gut microbiota; NIH grant (US NIH R01: IF019-2018), 2018 – 2023: PI	1,877,746.36
	• Association of skin microbial dysbiosis and host genetics with fungal skin infections among underserved communities; FRGS (FRGS: FP017-2021), 2021 - 2024: PI	150,940.00
	• Early life effects on later life biological outcomes, evolutionary and molecular mechanisms; NSF grant (IF056-2022), 2022 - 2025: PI	353,471.55
Prof. Dr. Fong Mun Yik	• Genetic diversity of <i>Plasmodium knowlesi</i> invasion-related proteins; LRGS (LRGS: LR002A-2018), 2019 – 2024: PI	951,200.00
	• Characterizing the zoonotic potential of <i>Plasmodium cynomolgi</i> , a malaria parasite prevalent in macaques in Malaysia and Southeast Asia; FRGS (FRGS: FP012-2020), 2020 – 2023: PI	163,000.00
Prof. Datin Dr. Indra Vythilingam	• Geographical distribution and bionomics of the vectors of <i>Plasmodium knowlesi</i> malaria with reference to malaria elimination in Peninsular Malaysia; LRGS (LRGS: LR002C-2018), 2019 – 2023: PI	624,250.00
Prof. Dr. Suresh Kumar A/L P. Govind	• Elucidating the interaction between <i>Blastocystis</i> sp. and microbial diversity to study its effect on healthy individuals and patients with different stages of colorectal cancer.; TRGS (TRGS: TR001A-2018A), 2019 - 2023: PI	219,800.00
Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling	• Rapid Point-of-Care (PoC) tests for the detection of malaria; LRGS (LRGS: LR002D-2018), 2019 – 2024: PI	630,000.00
	• In vitro and ex vivo anti-plasmodial activity of <i>Vernonia amygdalina</i> against <i>Plasmodium knowlesi</i> ; FRGS (FP007-2021), 2021 - 2024: PI	157,200.00
	• Socioecological dynamics of zoonotic and vector-borne diseases in changing landscapes implications for surveillance and control; Wellcome Trust Award (IF050-2022), 2022 – 2026: PI	393,215.06
	• Unravelling rodent malaria gametocytogenesis to unlock a zoonotic transmission model; Wellcome Discovery Award (IF006-2023), 2023 – 2028: PI	1,213,850.81
Dr. Cheong Fei Wen	• Decipher the effect of genetic polymorphisms in <i>Plasmodium knowlesi</i> duffy binding protein alpha on parasite fitness using CRISPR-Cas9 system; FRGS (FRGS: FP025-2023), 2023 – 2026: PI	161,000.00
Dr. Amirah Amir Dr. Wahib M. Atroosh	• Zoogeographical distribution, epidemiology, and multilocus genotyping of <i>Plasmodium knowlesi</i> among primates in Peninsular Malaysia; LRGS (LRGS: LR002B-2018), 2019 – 2023: PI	289,600.00
Dr. Lee Wenn Chyau	• Investigation on the susceptibility of <i>Aedes aegypti</i> to insecticides and dengue viruses after the infection of <i>Wolbachia</i> ; FRGS (FRGS: FP026-2022), 2022 – 2025: PI	158,500.00
Dr. Tan Tiong Kai	• Susceptibility assessment and insecticidal molecular resistance mechanism of neonicotinoid insecticides in <i>Aedes aegypti</i> ; BKP (project no. :pending), 2023 – 2025: PI	*50,000.00
Dr. Arutchelvan Rajamanikam	• Exploring the dynamic duo of <i>Blastocystis</i> sp. and intestinal bacteria in inflammation, oxidative damage and activating WNT signaling pathway for colorectal cancer (CRC) aggravation; BKP (project no. :pending), 2023 – 2025: PI	*50,000.00
Dr. Junaid Olawale Quazim	• Zoonotic <i>Brugia filariasis</i> in Klang: a multi-faceted approach to prevalence, vectors, and transmission risk factors; BKP (project no. :pending), 2023 – 2025: PI	*50,000.00

\*pending for finalization and signing of contract

**Amount of new research fundings secured in 2023: RM 1,374,850.81**

**Total amount of active grants in the department: RM 7,493,773.78**

# Protégé

In 2023, there were 41 active research projects handled by students of different programs and degrees, under the supervision of our principal investigators.

## PhD students

No.	Name of candidate	Studentship registration number	Project title	Supervisor	Recruited year
1	Eira Nurfarisha Binti Mohd Latif	17116098/2	Genetic diversity and erythrocyte binding phenotypes of <i>Plasmodium cynomolgi</i> duffy binding protein 2 and reticulocyte binding protein 1A	Prof. Dr. Fong Mun Yik Dr. Cheong Fei Wen Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling	2021
2	Er Yi Xian	17169664/2	Epidemiology, skin microbiota and host genetics of common skin diseases (scabies and tinea) among Orang Asli	Prof. Dr. Yvonne Lim	2021
3	Freddy Franklin A/L Anthony Joseph	17218454	Studies to elucidate the association between gut microbiome and immunity in persons with mental illness	Prof. Dr Suresh Kumar Associate Prof. Dr. Chandramathi A/P samudi @ Raju (Dept. Microbiology)	2020
4	Lee Phone Youth @ Zen Lee	17202081/2	Development of point-of-care Loop-mediated isothermal amplification lateral flow (LAMP-LF) assay for detection of <i>Plasmodium</i> species	Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling Dr. Lai Meng Yee	2018
5	Manal Ali Saleh Al-Ashwal	17006117/1	Cutaneous leishmaniasis in Yemen: molecular epidemiology and assessment of knowledge, attitude and practices among rural population in Utmah District	Dr. Wahib Atroosh Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling	2016
6	Naqib Rafieqin Bin Noordin	17198072/1	Genetic and phenotypic characterization of <i>Plasmodium knowlesi</i> merozoite surface protein-1 (PkMSP-1) corresponding to Peninsular Malaysia and Malaysian Borneo	Prof. Dr. Fong Mun Yik Dr. Cheong Fei Wen Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling	2018
7	Ng Yee Ling	17217909/2	Genetic diversity and functional characterization of <i>Plasmodium knowlesi</i> apical membrane antigen 1 (PkAMA-1) and <i>Plasmodium knowlesi</i> thrombospondin-related apical merozoite protein (PkTRAMP) from Malaysia	Prof. Dr. Fong Mun Yik Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling Dr. Lee Wenn Chyau	2019
8	Nur Zulaikha Binti Zulkefli	S2135943/1	In vitro and ex vivo anti-plasmodial activity of <i>Vernonia amygdalina</i> against <i>Plasmodium knowlesi</i>	Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling Dr. Cheong Fei Wen	2023
9	Phang Wei Kit	17219440	Genetic diversity of <i>Plasmodium knowlesi</i> and modelling of its transmission in Peninsular Malaysia	Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling Prof. Dr. Fong Mun Yik Associate Prof. Dr Chuang Ting-Wu (TMU, Taiwan)	2019
10	Shahhaziq Shahari	17219544/1	The biodiversity of <i>Plasmodium knowlesi</i> in wild macaques from Peninsular Malaysia and the establishment of a <i>Plasmodium knowlesi</i> in vitro culture	Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling	2022
11	Siti Waheeda Binti Mohd Zin @Zain	17020182/3	Epidemiology and study of candidate Neural Tube Defects gene variants in Malaysia	Dr. Wahib Atroosh Associate Prof. Dr. Azizi Abu Bakar (UKM) Prof. Dr. Nicholas Greene (UCL, UK) Dr. Noraishah Mydin Abd Aziz	2021
12	Tan Jia Hui	17068070/2	Characterization of <i>Plasmodium knowlesi</i> blood stage-specific protein, P. knowlesi serine repeat antigen 3 antigen 2 (PkSERA3 Ag 2)	Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling Dr. Lee Wenn Chyau	2019
13	Tan Pei Yee	17199122/1	Effects of $\beta$ -Carotene rich-red palm oil-fortified biscuit on nutritional status, ocular status, intestinal parasites and gut microbiota among vitamin A deficient (VAD) primary school children in rural areas of Malaysia.	Prof. Dr. Yvonne Lim Consultants: Dr. Lee Soo Ching (NIAID, USA) Dr. Teng Kim Tiu (MP) Dr. Radhika Loganathan (MPOB)	2019

## MSc (research mode) students

No.	Name of candidate	Studentship registration number	Research project	Supervisor	Recruited year
1	Nisheljeet Singh A/L Jogineder Singh	S2029043/1	Rescue of mouse neural tube defects in a chemical and genetic model of spina bifida and its implication on human spina bifida pathophysiology	Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling Prof. Dr. Dharmendra A/L Ganesan (Dept. Surgery) Associate Prof. Dr. Ramalinggam Rajamanickam (UKM)	2021
2	Nurmanisha Majid	S2131964/1	Co-infection of soil-transmitted helminth infections and malaria among indigenous communities in Malaysia	Prof Dr. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian Dr. Yap Nan Jiun	2023
3	Siti Farah Norasyikeen Binti Sidi Omar	17062142/3	Association of gastrointestinal parasites and gut microbiota among patients with cancer in University of Malaya Medical Centre	Prof Dr. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian Associate Prof. Dr. Romano Ngui Dr. Syaza Zafirah Binti Ab Rahman (Dept. Pediatrics)	2020
4	Syahirah Nadiah Binti Mohd. Johari	17157589/2	a cross-sectional study of soil-transmitted helminth (sth) infections, nutritional status and associated risk factors among rural school children in Malaysia	Prof. Dr. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian Associate Prof. Dr. Romano Ngui	2019
5	Wan Siti Maryam Binti Wan Nazri	17138657/3	Evaluation of antigen-specific polyclonal antibodies using sandwich enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) method for <i>P. knowlesi</i> detection	Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling Dr. Cheong Fei Wen	2021
6	Zulhisham Bin Zulzahrin	22058086/1	Impact of temperature, humidity, and starvation stress on the fitness of <i>Wolbachia</i> -infected <i>Aedes aegypti</i>	Dr. Lee Wenn Chyau Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling	2023

## MSc (coursework mode) students

### Master of Medical Parasitology and Entomology Program

No.	Name of candidate	Studentship registration number	Research project	Supervisor	Year
1	Abdul Jabir Jaafar	S2168085/1	Genetic diversity of <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> malaria isolates from Jazan, Saudi Arabia using merozoite surface protein 1 ( <i>m</i> sp1) gene	Dr. Wahib Atroosh	2022 - 2023
2	Ainaa Nadrah Sohairi	S2109209/1	Loop-mediated isothermal amplification assay for the diagnosis of malaria	Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling	2022 - 2023
3	Muhammad Nabil Azim	S2182197/1	Spatial modelling of <i>Plasmodium inui</i> in Malaysia	Dr. Amirah Amir Dr. Lee Wenn Chyau	2022 - 2023
4	Nurul Izza Binti Zakaria	17176848/2	Characterization of phagocytosis of <i>Plasmodium</i> -infected red blood cells	Dr. Lee Wenn Chyau	2022 - 2023
5	Rishitharan A/L Subramaniam	17093309/2	MOI study on <i>Plasmodium knowlesi</i> in macaques based on PkMSP1 block IV genetic marker	Prof. Dr. Fong Mun Yik	2022 - 2023
6	Anis Amira Azhar	22072587/1	The study on wild <i>Anopheles</i> mosquito microbiota and the impact on their vectorial capacity	Dr. Arutchelvan Rajamanikam	2023 – 2024
7	Nabil Mohamed Suliman	22110089/1	Genetic diversity of <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> malaria isolates from Jazan, Saudi Arabia using merozoite surface proteins 1 and 2 ( <i>m</i> sp 1 & 2) genes	Dr. Wahib Atroosh	2023 – 2024
8	Norhayati Binti Awang Teh	17061667/3	Molecular epidemiology of <i>Cryptosporidium</i> infection in Orang Asli communities	Dr. Tan Tiong Kai	2023 – 2024
9	Nur Farahain Ismail	S2170236/1	Effect of mitragynine on the cytoadherence dynamics of <i>Plasmodium</i> -infected erythrocytes	Dr. Lee Wenn Chyau	2023 – 2024
10	Nur Nadiah Binti Bakar	S2193683/1	Entomological study of zoonotic <i>Brugia</i> filarial vectors in association to environmental factors	Dr. Junaid Quazim	2023 – 2024
11	Nurul Farah Nadia Rusly	22072587/1	Molecular epidemiology of <i>Giardia duodenalis</i> infection in Orang Asli communities	Dr. Tan Tiong Kai	2023 – 2024
12	Sharifah Nor Akmar	S2164338	Effect of <i>Wolbachia</i> infection on the dengue virus (DENV) susceptibility of <i>Aedes aegypti</i>	Dr. Lee Wenn Chyau	2023 – 2024

# BSc students (FYP projects)

## Biomedical Science Program, Universiti Malaya

No.	Name of candidate	Studentship registration number	Research project	Supervisors	Recruited year
1	Ahnaf Akram bin Mohamad Khairul Anuar	17204874	Insecticide susceptibility profiles of <i>Wolbachia</i> -infected <i>Aedes aegypti</i>	Dr. Lee Wenn Chyau	2023
2	Chin Joo Yie	U2004192	Effect of IGFBP7 on cytoadherence properties of <i>Plasmodium knowlesi</i>	Dr. Lee Wenn Chyau	2023
3	Law Xue Yi	17205588	Molecular surveillance of PfCRT 72-76 point mutations: a reflection of <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> chloroquine resistance in Nigeria	Dr. Wahib Atroosh Dr. Junaid Quazim	2023
4	Muhammad Na'Im Bin Mohd Hanif	17205013	Genetic diversity of <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> malaria isolates from Jazan, Saudi Arabia using merozoite surface protein 2 (msp2)	Dr. Wahib Atroosh Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling	2023
5	Nurin Syasya Qistina Binti Farid	17204429	The role of bacteria towards the pathogenicity of <i>Blastocystis</i> sp.	Associate Prof. Dr. Chandramathi A/P samudi @ Raju (Dept. Microbiology) Dr. Arutchelvan Rajamanikam	2023
6	Nurul Aida Binti Sanusi	17204808	Molecular Surveillance of <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> resistance to sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine in Nigeria through detection of mutations along the <i>Pfdhfr</i> and <i>Pfdhps</i> genes	Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling Dr. Wahib Atroosh	2023
7	Phong Zhi Ying	U2004258	Characterization of periostin 2 (OSF-2) on the rosetting phenomenon by malaria parasites	Dr. Lee Wenn Chyau	2023
8	Sherly Lam Wai Ying	U2004201	Establishment of gametocyte production in <i>Plasmodium knowlesi</i> in vitro culture	Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling Dr. Cheong Fei Wen	2023
9	Siti Zulaikha Othman	17207189	Novel <i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i> antibiotic potentiating compounds derived from <i>Cleistanthus bracteosus</i>	Associate Prof. Dr. Chandramathi A/P samudi @ Raju (Dept. Microbiology) Dr. Arutchelvan Rajamanikam	2023
10	Tan Zhi Wei	U2004246	Molecular Surveillance of PfMDR1 drug resistance marker for <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> isolates in Nigeria	Dr. Junaid Quazim Dr. Wahib Atroosh	2023

# Publications (1 Jan – 15 Nov 2023)

1. Abu Bakar, N., Sahimin, N., Lim, Y. A. L., Ibrahim, K., & Mohd Zain, S. N. (2023). Poverty related diseases amongst Malaysia's low-income community: a review. *Tropical biomedicine*, 40(1), 65–75. <https://doi.org/10.47665/tb.40.1.013>
2. Al-Ashwal, M. A., Atroosh, W. M., Al-Adhroey, A. H., Al-Subbary, A. A., Yee-Ling, L., & Al-Mekhlafi, H. M. (2023). A disfiguring neglected tropical disease sweeps war-torn Yemen: a community-based study of prevalence and risk factors of cutaneous leishmaniasis among rural communities in the western highlands. *Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, trad044. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1093/trstmh/trad044>
3. Azzani, M., Ba-Alawi, E., Atroosh, W. M., & Yadav, H. (2023). Awareness of cervical cancer and its associated socio-demographic factors among Yemeni immigrant women in Malaysia. *BMC women's health*, 23(1), 19. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12905-023-02172-y>
4. Fornace, K. M., Zorello Laporta, G., Vythilingam, I., Chua, T. H., Ahmed, K., Jeyaprakasam, N. K., de Castro Duarte, A. M. R., Amir, A., Phang, W. K., Drakeley, C., Sallum, M. A. M., & Lau, Y. L. (2023). Simian malaria: a narrative review on emergence, epidemiology and threat to global malaria elimination. *The Lancet. Infectious diseases*, S1473-3099(23)00298-0. Advance online publication. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099\(23\)00298-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(23)00298-0)
5. Fu, J. Y. L., Chua, C. L., Abu Bakar, A. S., Vythilingam, I., Wan Sulaiman, W. Y., Alphey, L., Chan, Y. F., & Sam, I. C. (2023). Susceptibility of *Aedes albopictus*, *Ae. aegypti* and human populations to Ross River virus in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. *PLoS neglected tropical diseases*, 17(6), e0011423. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0011423>
6. Jeyaprakasam, N. K., Low, V. L., Pramasivan, S., Liew, J. W. K., Wan-Sulaiman, W. Y., & Vythilingam, I. (2023). High transmission efficiency of the simian malaria vectors and population expansion of their parasites *Plasmodium cynomolgi* and *Plasmodium inui*. *PLoS neglected tropical diseases*, 17(6), e0011438. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0011438>
7. Kaur, C. P., Yong, C. C., Rajamanikam, A., Samudi, C., Kumar, S., Bhasu, S., Mohamad, S., Venugopal, K., & Kareem, S. A. (2023). The role and influence of bacteria on the growth of *Blastocystis* sp. subtype 3. *Parasitology research*, 122(7), 1463–1474. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00436-023-07842-2>
8. Kumarasamy, V., Rajamanikam, A., Anbazhagan, D., Atroosh, W. M., Azzani, M., Subramaniyan, V., & Abdullah, S. R. (2023). Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis: Epidemiology of Human *Blastocystis* spp. Infection in Malaysia. *Tropical medicine and infectious disease*, 8(8), 415. <https://doi.org/10.3390/tropicalmed8080415>
9. Lai, M. Y., Abdul Hamid, M. H., Jelip, J., Mudin, R. N., & Lau, Y. L. (2023). Evaluation of A Simple DNA Extraction Method and Its Combination with Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification Assays for Rapid *Plasmodium knowlesi* Diagnosis. *Tropical medicine and infectious disease*, 8(8), 389. <https://doi.org/10.3390/tropicalmed8080389>
10. Lai, M. Y., Abdul Hamid, M., Jelip, J., Mudin, R. N., & Lau, Y. L. (2023). Lateral Flow Recombinase Polymerase Amplification Assays for the Detection of Human Plasmodium Species. *The American journal of tropical medicine and hygiene*, 108(5), 882–886. <https://doi.org/10.4269/ajtmh.22-0657>
11. Lai, M. Y., Zen, L. P. Y., Abdul Hamid, M. H., Jelip, J., Mudin, R. N., Ivan, V. J. S., Francis, L. N. P., Saihidi, I., & Lau, Y. L. (2023). Point-of-Care Diagnosis of Malaria Using a Simple, Purification-Free DNA Extraction Method Coupled with Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification-Lateral Flow. *Tropical medicine and infectious disease*, 8(4), 199. <https://doi.org/10.3390/tropicalmed8040199>
12. Lee, W. C., Cheng, Y., Kosaisavee, V., & Renia, L. (2023). Editorial: Zoonoses—a rising threat to healthcare system. *Frontiers in microbiology*, 14, 1232183. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmicb.2023.1232183>
13. Ng, Y. L., Lau, Y. L., Hamid, M. H. A., Jelip, J., Ooi, C. H., Mudin, R. N., Jaimin, J. J., & Fong, M. Y. (2023). Genetic polymorphism of the thrombospondin-related apical merozoite protein (TRAMP) of *Plasmodium knowlesi* in Malaysia. *Parasitology research*, 122(1), 195–200. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00436-022-07716-z>
14. Ng, Y. L., Lee, W. C., Lau, Y. L., & Fong, M. Y. (2023). The Impact of Geographical Variation in *Plasmodium knowlesi* Apical Membrane Protein 1 (PkAMA-1) on Invasion Dynamics of *P. knowlesi*. *Tropical medicine and infectious disease*, 8(1), 56. <https://doi.org/10.3390/tropicalmed8010056>
15. Noordin, N. R., Lau, Y. L., Cheong, F. W., & Fong, M. Y. (2023). Inter-Population Genetic Diversity and Clustering of *Merozoite Surface Protein-1 (pkmsp-1)* of *Plasmodium knowlesi* Isolates from Malaysia and Thailand. *Tropical medicine and infectious disease*, 8(5), 285. <https://doi.org/10.3390/tropicalmed8050285>
16. Ooi, C. H., Phang, W. K., Liew, J. W. K., Atroosh, W. M., & Lau, Y. L. (2023). Profiling the imported human malaria in Sarawak, Malaysia in 2011–2019. *Tropical medicine & international health : TM & IH*, 28(6), 486–500. <https://doi.org/10.1111/tmi.13875>
17. Phang, W. K., Hamid, M. H. B. A., Jelip, J., Mudin, R. N. B., Chuang, T. W., Lau, Y. L., & Fong, M. Y. (2023). Predicting *Plasmodium knowlesi* transmission risk across Peninsular Malaysia using machine learning-based ecological niche modelling approaches. *Frontiers in microbiology*, 14, 1126418. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmicb.2023.1126418>
18. Pramasivan, S., Low, V. L., Jeyaprakasam, N. K., Liew, J. W. K., Ngui, R., & Vythilingam, I. (2023). Cryptic Diversity and Demographic Expansion of *Plasmodium knowlesi* Malaria Vectors in Malaysia. *Genes*, 14(7), 1369. <https://doi.org/10.3390/genes14071369>
19. Pramasivan, S., Ngui, R., Jeyaprakasam, N. K., Low, V. L., Liew, J. W. K., & Vythilingam, I. (2023). Spatial analyses of *Plasmodium knowlesi* vectors with reference to control interventions in Malaysia. *Parasites & vectors*, 16(1), 355. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13071-023-05984-x>
20. Rajamanikam, A., Isa, M. N. M., Samudi, C., Devaraj, S., & Govind, S. K. (2023). Gut bacteria influence *Blastocystis* sp. phenotypes and may trigger pathogenicity. *PLoS neglected tropical diseases*, 17(3), e0011170. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0011170>
21. Taha, S. F. M., Bhasu, S., Omar, H., Raju, C. S., Rajamanikam, A., Govind, S. K. P., & Mohamad, S. B. (2023). Gut microbiota of healthy Asians and their discriminative features revealed by metagenomics approach. *3 Biotech*, 13(8), 275. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13205-023-03671-3>
22. Tan, J. H., Cheong, F. W., Lau, Y. L., & Fong, M. Y. (2023). *Plasmodium knowlesi* circumsporozoite protein: genetic characterisation and predicted antigenicity of the central repeat region. *Tropical biomedicine*, 40(1), 37–44. <https://doi.org/10.47665/tb.40.1.004>
23. Tan, J. H., Ding, H. X., Fong, M. Y., & Lau, Y. L. (2023). Genetic diversity and in silico analysis of *Plasmodium knowlesi* Serine Repeat Antigen (SERA) 3 antigen 2 in Malaysia. *Infection, genetics and evolution : Journal of molecular epidemiology and evolutionary genetics in infectious diseases*, 114, 105490. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.meegid.2023.105490>
24. Tan, P. Y., Loganathan, R., Teng, K. T., Lee, S. C., Mohd Johari, S. N., Selvaduray, K. R., Ngui, R., & Lim, Y. A. (2023). Red palm olein-enriched biscuit supplementation lowers *Ascaris lumbricoides* reinfection at 6-month after anthelmintic treatment among schoolchildren with vitamin A deficiency (VAD). *Acta tropica*, 240, 106860. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.actatropica.2023.106860>
25. Wong, M. L., Zulzahrin, Z., Vythilingam, I., Lau, Y. L., Sam, I. C., Fong, M. Y., & Lee, W. C. (2023). Perspectives of vector management in the control and elimination of vector-borne zoonoses. *Frontiers in microbiology*, 14, 1135977. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmicb.2023.1135977>
26. Kumarasamy V, Kuppusamy UR, Jayalakshmi P, & Govind SK. (2023). *Blastocystis* sp. reduces the efficacy of 5-fluorouracil as a colorectal cancer chemotherapeutic treatment. *Experimental Parasitology*, 251:108564. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.exppara.2023.108564>

# Publications: highlights

Datin Prof. Dr. Indra A/P Vythilingam and Prof. Dr Lau Yee Ling from the Department of Parasitology, on their recent publication in the prestigious journal *The Lancet Infectious Disease* (IF = 56.3)



## Works published in journals with IF $\geq$ 3.5

Name of Journal	IF by WoS	JCI rank	Number of papers published	Number of papers with department staff/member as the first author	Number of papers with department staff/member as the last author	Number of papers with department staff as corresponding author
<i>Lancet Infectious Disease</i>	56.3	Q1	1	0	1	0
<i>Frontiers in Microbiology</i>	5.2	Q2	3	3	2	3
<i>PLoS neglected tropical diseases</i>	3.8	Q1	3	2	2	2
<i>Genes</i>	3.5	Q2	1	1	1	1

# Patent filed

- **Recombinant plasmid DNA for production of vaccine against *Plasmodium knowlesi* infection**

Lead applicant:

Prof. Dr. Fong Mun Yik

Members:

Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling

Dr. Lee Wenn Chyau

Ng Yee Ling

MyIPO application number:

UI2023004853

# Seminars

## Proposal defense seminars

No.	Name of presenter	Title of presentation	Date
1	Nur Zulaikha Binti Zulkefli	In Vitro and Ex Vivo Anti-Plasmodial Activity of <i>Vernonia Amygdalina</i> Against <i>Plasmodium Knowlesi</i> .	18 Jan 2023
2	Nurmanisha binti Abdull Majid	Co-infection of soil-transmitted helminths infections and malaria among indigenous communities in Peninsular Malaysia.	22 Feb 2023
3	Zulhisham bin Zulzahrin	Impact of temperature, humidity, and starvation stress on the fitness of <i>Wolbachia</i> -infected <i>Aedes aegypti</i> .	20 Sep 2023

## Candidature defense seminars

No.	Name of presenter	Title of presentation	Date
1	Shahhaziq Shahari	The prevalence of simian malaria in Peninsular Malaysia macaques and the establishment of a <i>Plasmodium knowlesi</i> in vitro culture infectious to <i>Anopheles cracens</i> mosquitoes	15 Feb 2023
2	Tan Pei Yee	Effects of Carotenoid Rich-Red Palm Olein-Enriched Biscuit on Nutritional Status, Ocular Status, Soil-transmitted Helminth Infections and Gut Microbiota among Vitamin A Deficient (VAD) Primary Schoolchildren in Rural Areas of Malaysia	22 Feb 2023
3	Eira Nurfarisha Bt Mohd Latif	Genetic diversity in the erythrocyte binding proteins (PcDBP1, PcDBP2 & PcRBP1a) of <i>Plasmodium cynomolgi</i> macaque isolates from Peninsular Malaysia and characterisation of their (PcDBP1 & PcDBP2) erythrocyte binding phenotype	16 Aug 2023

## Thesis seminars

No.	Name of presenter	Title of presentation	Date
1	Naqib Rafieqin Noordin	Genetic and Phenotypic Characterisation of <i>Plasmodium knowlesi</i> Merozoite Surface Protein 1 (PkMSP-1) corresponding to Peninsular Malaysia and Malaysian Borneo	18 Jan 2023
2	Phang Wei Kit	Genetic Diversity of <i>Plasmodium knowlesi</i> and Modelling of Its Transmission in Peninsular Malaysia	15 Feb 2023
3	Sandhya Pramasivan	Genetic variation, spatial distribution and development of molecular marker for identification of simian malaria vector in Peninsular Malaysia	28 Feb 2023
4	Tan Jia Hui	Characterization of <i>Plasmodium knowlesi</i> blood stage-specific protein, <i>P. knowlesi</i> Serine Repeat Antigen 3 antigen 2 (PkSERA3 Ag2)	17 May 2023
5	Siti Waheeda Mohd. Zin	Epidemiology and study of candidate Neural Tube Defect gene variants in Malaysia	17 May 2023
6	Tan Pei Yee	Effects of Red Palm Olein-Enriched Biscuit on Nutritional and Ocular Status, Soil-Transmitted Helminth Reinfection and Gut Microbiota among Vitamin A Deficient Rural Primary Schoolchildren in Malaysia	24 May 2023

# Journal Clubs

NO.	NAME	TITLE	DATE
1.	Associate Professor Dr. Romano Ngui Associate professor Department of Parasitology, Universiti Malaya	Applications of Spatiotemporal Analysis in Tropical Diseases	27.1.2023
2.	Professor Dr Georges Snounou (Breakfast@UMHealth) Visiting Professor Université Pierre et Marie Curie, CIMI-Paris, France	Infectious Disease Models for Innovative Therapies	15.2.2023
3.	Professor Dr Georges Snounou Visiting Professor Université Pierre et Marie Curie, CIMI-Paris, France	Latency In Malaria - An Evolving Concept	23.2.2023
4.	Professor Dr. Suresh Govind Honorary Professor Department of Parasitology, Universiti Malaya	E.A.S.E for Better Well-being	29.3.2023
5	Mr. Edmund Lein Impaco Sdn Bhd.	Stain-Free Page, Saving 80% of Your Time!	19.4.2023
6	Dr. Wahib Mohammed Mohsen Atroosh Senior lecturer Department of Parasitology, Universiti Malaya	An Update on the Malaria Therapeutic Efficacy Studies and PCR-correction Strategy	14.6.2023
7.	Madam Shaaleni Pandian Muruthy Sales & Application Specialist TreeCode Sdn. Bhd.	Elevating Biological Research: Insights on Emerging OMICs Technologies	28.6.2023
8	Professor Dr. Sanjeev Krishna Visiting Professor Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya	Mechanisms of Action of Artemisinin & Implications for Repurposing	17.8.2023
9	Dr. Low Ley Hian Global Alliance Lead, Biogenes	Revolutionizing Medical Research: Unleashing the Potential of Aptamers in Biomedical Applications	23.8.2023
10	Professor Datin Dr. Indra Vythilingam Honorary Professor Department of Parasitology, Universiti Malaya	Why is Dengue on the Increase?	18.10.2023
11	Dr Kimberly Fornace (Breakfast@UMHealth) Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health and Comparative Medicine University of Glasgow, United Kingdom	Leveraging Earth Observation Data to Understand the Emergence of Zoonotic Malaria In Malaysia	1.11.2023

# Key events in year 2023

Date	Activity description
16 - 20 Jan 2023	Training workshop for Universitas Sumatra Utara in Medan, Indonesia; by <b>Dr. Wong Meng Li</b> and <b>Dr. Nantha Kumar Jeyaprakasam</b> (Dept. Parasitology, FOM, UM).
20 Jan 2023	Anugerah Cemerlang Universiti Malaya (ACUM) - Anugerah Staff Harapan (Staf Operasi): <b>Mr. Awang Bhukhari bin Matsat</b> (Dept. Parasitology, FOM, UM).
26 Jan 2023	Journal club for Master of Science Program in Public Health, Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, Thailand: One Health approach in Parasitological Aspects: multifaceted anti-malarial strategies by <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> from different geographical areas; by <b>Dr. Lee Wenn Chyau</b> (Dept. Parasitology, FOM, UM), chaired by <b>Dr. Varakorn Kosaisavee</b> (Mahidol University, Thailand).
27 Jan 2023	Journal club: Application of spatiotemporal analysis in tropical diseases; by <b>Assoc. Prof. Dr. Romano Ngui</b> (Dept. Parasitology, FOM, UM).
15 Feb 2023	Journal club/ Breakfast@UMHealth: Infectious Disease Models for Innovative Therapies; by <b>Prof. Dr Georges Snounou</b> (Université Pierre et Marie Curie, CIMI-Paris, France).
22 – 25 Feb 2023	DTMH Microscopy Training by University of Glasgow and Universiti Malaya – Kuala Lumpur station; coordinated by <b>Dr. Amirah Amir</b> (Dept. Parasitology, FOM, UM), instructor: <b>Dr. Lee Wenn Chyau</b> (Dept. Parasitology, FOM, UM), facilitator: <b>Donald Ross</b> (University of Glasgow, UK).
23 Feb 2023	Journal club: Latency In Malaria - An Evolving Concept, by <b>Prof. Dr Georges Snounou</b> (Université Pierre et Marie Curie, CIMI-Paris, France).
29 Mar 2023	Journal club: E.A.S.E for Better Well-being, by <b>Prof. Dr. Suresh Kumar</b> (Dept. Parasitology, FOM, UM).
19 Apr 2023	Journal club: Stain-Free Page, Saving 80% of Your Time!, by <b>Mr. Edmund Lein</b> (Impaco Sdn. Bhd.).
14 Jun 2023	Journal club: An Update on the Malaria Therapeutic Efficacy Studies and PCR-correction Strategy, by <b>Dr. Wahib M. Atroosh</b> (Dept. Parasitology, FOM, UM).
28 Jun 2023	Journal club: Elevating Biological Research: Insights on Emerging OMICs Technologies, by <b>Mdm. Shaaleni Pandian Muruthy</b> (TreeCode Sdn. Bhd.).
4 Jul 2023	Anugerah Perkhidmatan Cemerlang (APC): <b>Mr. Mohamad Khairul Roslan</b> , <b>Dr. Wahib Atroosh</b> Sijil Perkhidmatan Cemerlang (SPC): <b>Ms. Mazni Mohamed Ali</b> , <b>Dr. Lee Wenn Chyau</b>
17 Jul – 4 Aug 2023	Internal research technique workshop; coordinated by <b>Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling</b> (Dept. Parasitology, FOM, UM).
17 Aug 2023	Journal club: Mechanisms of Action of Artemisinin & Implications for Repurposing, by <b>Prof. Dr. Sanjeev Krishna</b> (St. George's University of London, UK).
19 Aug 2023	International Parasitology Quiz 2023, chaired by <b>Dr. Wahib M. Atroosh</b> (Dept. Parasitology, FOM, UM).
23 Aug 2023	Journal club: Revolutionizing Medical Research: Unleashing the Potential of Aptamers in Biomedical Applications, by <b>Dr. Low Ley Hian</b> (Global Alliance Lead, Biogenes).
4 Sep 2023	Research collaboration discussion with researchers from Universitas Airlangga, Indonesia; coordinated by <b>Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling</b> (Dept. Parasitology, FOM, UM).
5 Sep 2023	Opening ceremony of CP Ramachandran Hall, by Prof. Dr. April Camilla Roslani (Dean, Faculty of Medicine), <b>Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling</b> (Dept. Parasitology, FOM, UM), and representatives of Prof. C.P. Ramachandran's family, the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM), and All Malaysia Malayalee Association (AMMA).
16 Oct 2023	Department's laboratory safety induction seminar and assessment, coordinated by <b>Ms. Dzuzaini Mohd Ghazali</b> (Dept. Parasitology, FOM, UM).
18 Oct 2023	Journal club: Why is Dengue on the Increase? by <b>Prof. Datin. Dr. Indra Vythilingam</b> (Dept. Parasitology, FOM, UM).
27 Oct 2023	Department grant clinic I
1 Nov 2023	Journal club/Breakfast@UMHealth: Leveraging Earth Observation Data to Understand the Emergence of Zoonotic Malaria In Malaysia, by: <b>Dr. Kimberly Fornace</b> (University of Glasgow, UK).
28 Nov 2023	Department grant clinic II

# Limelight

## Opening ceremony of CP Ramachandran Hall 5 Sept 2023



### OUR GREATEST GRATITUDE

*to those who made this hall a reality..*



**MSPTM**  
MALAYSIAN SOCIETY OF  
PARASITOLOGY & TROPICAL MEDICINE



*Diamond Jubilee*



All Malaysia Malayalee Association

Malaysian Red Crescent (Pulau Bidong)  
Malaysian Scientific Association  
Dr. Asokan A/L Raman Nair  
Dato Varghese A/L George Varughese  
Prof. Dr. Rohela Mahmud  
Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling  
Mr. Uday Jayaram  
Dr. Lee Wenn Chyau  
Tan Sri Dr. M. Jegathesan  
Mr. Dinesh kumar MKR Nambiar  
Dr. Amirah Amir  
Prof. Dr. Fong Mun Yik  
Prof. Emeritus Dato' Dr. V G Kumar Das  
Dr. Venugopalan A/L Kulankara Balan  
Mr. Saji A/L M K Raghavan  
Mr. Ravindranath A/L Gangadharan Menon  
Impaco PLT  
Neocience Sdn Bhd  
Mr. Khor Kae Soon  
Dr. Cheong Fei Wen  
Dr. Ching Xiao Teng  
Madam Teoh Get Loi  
Mr. Tan Yong Quan

Prof. Dr. Hesham Al-Mekhlafi  
Prof. Emeritus Dato' Dr. Tan Chong Tin  
Mr. Sridharan Nair  
Mr. K Surendran A/L Kuttykrishnan  
Madam Shaila Nair A/P Vejagaran  
Mr. M. Ramachandran  
Mr. Mohd Bukhari bin Omar  
Miss Lee Yau Sin  
Datuk Rajan O.K.P Menon  
Mr. Muralee A/L Y S Menon  
Mr. K. Ravindran A/L Kuttykrishnan  
Prof. Dr. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian  
Prof. Dr. Pradeep Kumar A Achyuthan Nair  
Mr. Keasavan Kutty A/L V.G. Panicker  
Mr. Sugumaran Kunjunboo  
Dr. Wahib Mohammed Mohsen Atroosh  
Mr. Muhammad Rizal  
A/P Dr. Ching Siew Mooi  
Trio Scientific Enterprise  
Dr. Noraishah Mydin Binti Haji Abdul Aziz  
Dr. Seow Huey Choy  
Mr. Ng Yit Han  
Canvio Sdn Bhd

• List of donors in descending order based on contribution.  
• Date of completion: 22 May 2023



### PROF. EMERITUS DATO' DR. C.P. RAMACHANDRAN

Professor Emeritus Dato' Dr. C. P. Ramachandran (6 June 1936-12 January 2019), affectionately called CP, is a distinguished individual who once walked the corridor of the Department of Parasitology. He was a founder member of the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM) in 1964, and later became the President of the MSPTM in 1973, 2000 and 2001. He was the first recipient of the Sandosham Medal, awarded by the MSPTM in 1974. This Dewan is named after him in recognition of his achievements and contributions to the field of Medical Parasitology, and also to inspire our students to follow the footsteps of this great man.



Prof CP started his career in the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine as a demonstrator in Parasitology from 1952 to 1962. He returned to Malaysia in 1962, to research on filariasis as a Fellow at the Institute for Medical Research (IMR) in Kuala Lumpur until 1963. He was appointed as an Assistant Professor in Medical Parasitology at the Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya in 1963 when the faculty was first established. He was later appointed as the Head of Division of Filariasis at IMR from 1967 to 1970. In 1970, he joined Universiti Sains Malaysia and was promoted to Professor and Dean of the School of Biological Sciences in 1972. It is however when Prof CP took the world stage when he joined the World Health Organization (WHO) and rose to be the Chief of Filariasis Control of WHO/TDR in 1979, that he spread the name of Malaysia globally. He became a major driving force in the eradication of global filariasis. He was responsible for the establishment of Centres of Excellence of Tropical Diseases in many developing countries of South America, Africa, Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific Region. Thus, Prof CP can be considered as the Father of Filariasis Eradication. He retired from WHO in 1996 and in the same year joined University Putra Malaysia as Professor of Medical Parasitology. He received numerous awards, such as the Mary-Kingsley Medal, United Kingdom for Tropical Medicine. He was elected as an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, London in 2003. He was a Fellow of the Academy of Science, Malaysia since 2003. Prof CP had three parasites named after him.

It is our greatest hope that students who receive their teaching and training here in this Dewan will be inspired and resonate the ideals of Prof CP - *Live life to the fullest and to be an active contributor to the betterment of global human health.*

## Congratulations

PROJECT LEADER NAME	FACULTY	AMOUNT RECEIVED (RM)
PROF. DR. LAU YEE LING	FACULTY OF MEDICINE	1,213,850.81

## Tahniah!

UCAPAN TAHNIAH KEPADA PENERIMA ANUGERAH CEMERLANG UNIVERSITI MALAYA 2022  
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL RECIPIENTS OF UNIVERSITI MALAYA EXCELLENCE AWARD 2022

KATEGORI ANUGERAH Award Category	PENERIMA ANUGERAH Award Recipient	PUSAT TANGGUNGJAWAB (PTJ) Centre of Responsibility
Staff Harapan (Staf Operasi) Staff Harapan (Operational Staff)	En. Awang Bhukhari bin Matsat	Fakulti Perubatan Faculty of Medicine

8 THURSDAY ON FRIDAY | JANUARY 6, 2023

SPEAK UP

## Ease into good health

ACCORDING to Global Medical Trends Survey, healthcare cost in many nations around the world has increased i.e. Latin America (from 18.2% to 18.9%) Asia Pacific (6.9% to 10.2%) and Middle East/Africa (10.9% to 11.5%). The overall cost rose from 8.2% in 2021 to 8.8% in 2022 and is projected to reach 10% in 2023. In Malaysia, the Health Ministry received RM36.14 billion for Budget 2023, a record 11.5% increase from Budget 2022.

The steady rise in the introduction of new drugs and the increasing number of pharmacy outlets selling medicines of all shapes and sizes for every disease would presumably make us assume that the world is safe and everyone is leading a healthy life.

The paradox is that despite the rising allocation for healthcare, increasing technology and sophisticated facilities, latest medicines produced and sold by pharmaceutical companies, the general health of the common man today is rapidly deteriorating due to compromised lifestyles and demanding stressful commitments.

Non-communicable diseases (NCD), including diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, cancer and chronic respiratory diseases, are the leading cause of death worldwide and represent an emerging global health threat. NCD kill 41 million people each year worldwide, equivalent to 71% of all deaths globally.

Therefore, it is imperative that we have health awareness programmes to promote a healthy lifestyle, which can hopefully bring a wave of change. We need a new awakening on the concept of health to encourage everyone to make healthy

lifestyle choices. "E.A.S.E into good health" is one such programme introduced by Sri Sathya Sai International Organisation, with the sole aim of empowering individuals with four critical components to guarantee good health i.e. exercise regularly, have a positive attitude, sleep deeply and eat responsibly (code named E.A.S.E). This holistic training module strings together four diverse subjects into a single entity, to be taught seamlessly and practised in order to harvest maximum benefit.

**Exercise regularly**  
A sedentary, complacent lifestyle with mere shuffling between the fridge and sofa is a guaranteed open invitation to ill health. Exercise is necessary and should be carried out at least three to four times a week.  
Brisk walking for 30 to 40 minutes, ending with general stretching exercises will release endorphins. The most important aspect is confidence and benefit gained from such a routine, which will invariably influence the other three components of E.A.S.E.

Life became more sedentary and complacent, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic when movements were restricted. This lifestyle has to a certain extent been followed through post-pandemic. Even a 45-minute sitting behind the computers or attending meetings should be interspersed frequently with breaks of five to seven minutes of stretching exercises.

**Positive attitude**  
The most healthy aspect of living is to train the mind to always feel happy. Happiness should be everyone's birth right. In the awareness programme,



DR. TEH TARIK

"Despite rising allocation for health, technology and sophisticated facilities, latest medicines produced and sold by pharmaceutical companies, the general health of the common man today is rapidly deteriorating due to compromised lifestyles and demanding stressful commitments."

the mind is trained to see everything in a positive light, and for everyone to express gratitude for everything one has in one's life.

It encourages individuals to be ambassadors of happiness and spread the joy to others. Having a positive attitude with a strong purpose in life and simple living will generate a

## 6<sup>th</sup> INTERVARSITY PARASITOLOGY QUIZ & ORATORICAL COMPETITION

17 AUGUST 2023 (SAT)  
0800-1300

**ORATORICAL**

- One contestant per institute
- 3-minutes speech
- No Q & A session
- Two winners

**ORAL QUIZ**

- 3 levels
- Three winners

## MSMB Distinguished Scientist Award

Prof Dr Lau Yee Ling  
Universiti Malaysia

## 110 UM Researchers and 9 Former UM Researchers that are listed in the TOP 2% SCIENTISTS IN THE WORLD IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS in Single Year 2023 by Stanford University through Elsevier Data Repository

- Datuk Professor Ulung Dr. Harith Ahmad  
Dato' Professor Ulung Dr. Rajah Rasiah  
Dato' Ir. Dr. Wan Rami Wan Daud  
Dato' Professor Dr. Adebha Kamarulzaman  
**Datin Professor Dr. Indra Vythilingam**  
Datin Sri Professor Dr. Suhaiza Hanim Mohamad Zailani  
Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr. Goh Khean Lee  
Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr. Lam Sai Kit  
Emeritus Professor Dr. Chong Kim Liam  
Emeritus Professor Dr. Ng Kwan Hoong  
Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Mohd Hamdi  
Professor Dr. A S Md Abdul Haseeb  
Professor Dr. Abdul Karim Mohd Arof  
Professor Dr. Abdullah Gani  
Professor Dr. Abrizah Abdullah  
Professor Dr. Ahmed Hussein Kamel Ahmed Elshafie  
Professor Dr. Choo Wan Yuen  
Professor Dr. Edmund Terence Gomez  
Professor Dr. Foong Ming Moy  
Professor Dr. Hamzah Arof  
Professor Dr. Hew Wool Ping  
Professor Dr. Hiroyuki Takaoka  
Professor Dr. Jeyraj Selvaraj  
Professor Dr. Juan Joong Ching  
Professor Dr. Khaliah Awang  
**Professor Dr. Lau Yee Ling**  
Professor Dr. Li Ping Wong  
Professor Dr. Lip Yung Chung  
Professor Dr. Mahmoud Moghavvemi  
Professor Dr. Maznah Dahlui  
Professor Dr. Mohammad Tariqur Rahman  
Professor Dr. Mohd Raffie Johan  
Professor Dr. Mohd Rais Mustafa  
Professor Dr. Ramesh T Subramaniam  
Professor Dr. Rosnah Binti Zain  
Professor Dr. S. Vikineswary Sabaratnam  
Professor Dr. Sanjay Rampal Lekhraj Rampal  
Professor Dr. Szazly Abu Bakar  
Professor Dr. Sharifah Bee Abd Hamid  
Professor Dr. Sulaiman Wadi Harun  
Professor Dr. Sumzani Yusoff  
Professor Dr. Tan Ngeat Hong  
Professor Dr. Toh Seok Kam  
Professor Dr. Tunku Kamarul Zaman Tunku Zainol Abidin  
Professor Dr. Victor Hoe Chee Wai Abdullah  
Professor Dr. Wah Kheong Chan  
Professor Dr. Wan Jeffrey Basirun  
Professor Dr. Wan Mohd Ashri Wan Daud  
Professor Dr. Wanninayake Mudiyansele Tilakaratne  
Professor Dr. Yip Cheng Har  
**Professor Dr. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian**  
Professor Ir. Dr. Hazlie Melville  
Professor Ir. Dr. Mohamed Azlan Hussain  
Professor Ir. Dr. Mohd Ali Hashim  
Professor Ir. Dr. Mohd Zamin Jumaat  
Professor Ir. Dr. Nasrudin Bin Abd Rahim  
Professor Ir. Dr. Ramesh Singh Kuldip Singh  
Professor Ir. Dr. Ubagam Johnson Alengaram  
Professor Ir. Dr. Wen Tong Chong  
Professor Ir. Dr. Yau Yat Huang  
Professor Ir. Dr. Abdul Aziz Abdul Raman  
Professor Kiran Kaur Gurmit Singh
- Professor Sanjiv Mahadeva  
Professor Ts. Dr. Nor Badrul Anuar  
Associate Professor Dr. Md. Hasanuzzaman  
Associate Professor Dr. Mohd Fakhru Zamani Abdul Kadir  
Associate Professor Dr. Nader Ghaffari Khaligh  
Associate Professor Dr. Hany Mohamed Aly Ahmed  
Associate Professor Dr. Hendrik Simon Cornelis Metselaer  
Associate Professor Dr. Lai Siew Mei Pauline  
Associate Professor Dr. Lee Hwei Yoon  
Associate Professor Dr. Lim Lee Ling  
Associate Professor Dr. Liyana Shuib  
Associate Professor Dr. Nurhidayah Izzati Muhd Julkapli  
Associate Professor Dr. Nurin Wahidah Mohd Zulkifli  
Associate Professor Dr. Payam Shafiq  
Associate Professor Dr. Sameer Kumar  
Associate Professor Dr. Tan Kae Yi  
Associate Professor Dr. Tey Kok Soon  
Associate Professor Dr. Zubaidah Ismail  
Associate Professor Ir. Dr. Teoh Wey Yang  
Associate Professor Ir. Dr. Ching Yern Chee  
Associate Professor Ir. Dr. Hazlie Azli Illias  
Associate Professor Ir. Dr. Mahdzah Dahari  
Associate Professor Ir. Ts. Dr. Lai Chin Wei  
Associate Professor Ir. Ts. Dr. Kim Hung Mo  
Associate Professor Ts. Dr. Vimala Balakrishnan  
Dr. Dr. Ab Halim Abu Bakar  
Dr. Adeb Hayyan  
Dr. Hamid A Jalab  
Dr. Hang Seng Che  
Dr. Jayasakthi Saniasaya  
Dr. Kazi Md. Salim Newaz  
Dr. Kohilavani Naganathan  
Dr. Lee Kian Mun  
Dr. Mhd Nour Reyad Hindia  
Dr. Mohamed Ershadul Karim  
Dr. Mohammad Aminul Islam  
Dr. Mostefa Kermadi  
Dr. Mrutunjaya Bhuyan  
Dr. Ng Chirk Jenn  
Dr. Norazriena Yusoff  
Dr. Poo Balin Ganesan  
Dr. Rafdzak Ahmad Zaki  
Dr. Shahid Bashir  
Dr. Suresh Sagadevan  
Dr. Wageeh A. Yehye  
Dr. Yasmin A. Malik  
Dr. Zaira Zaman Chowdhury  
Dr. Zamzami Zainuddin
- Emeritus Professor Dr. Charles Strachan Hutchison  
Professor Dr. Altis Lee Ellis III  
Professor Dr. Huang Nay Ming  
Professor Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed Choudhury  
Professor Dr. Yarub Kahtan Abdul-Rahman Al-Douri  
Associate Professor Dr. Ghafour Amouzad Mahdiraji  
Dr. Erfanmanesh Mohammadin Hamid  
Dr. Lee Xin Jiat  
Dr. Samira Bagheri

30 JANUARY 2023

## Congratulations!

**ENCIK AWANG BHUKHARI BIN MATSAT**

YOU ARE THE WINNER OF ANUGERAH CEMERLANG UNIVERSITI MALAYA (ACUM)

We are all very proud of you

← → ↻ 🏠 🔒 medicine.um.edu.my/rubrica-issue-14

## Entomology Workshop: Morphological and Molecular Identification

By Dr. Meng Li Wong and Dr. Wenn-Chyau Lee

The Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Sumatera Utara (USU) organized an entomology workshop in collaboration with Universiti Malaya (Malaysia), James Cook University (Australia), and the National Research and Innovation Agency (Indonesia) in January 2023. The workshop was carried out for a week from 16th- 20th January 2023 at the Faculty of Medicine, USU in Medan, Indonesia. The workshop was officiated by Dr. Inke Nadia Diniyanti Lubis, the Deputy Dean of USU. This workshop aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of participants in morphological and molecular identification of mosquitoes, both in the field, and in the laboratory. The workshop was facilitated by four facilitators from Indonesia and Malaysia, namely Dr. Trivibowo Ambargarjo and Mr. Mujiono from the National Research and Innovation Agency, as well as Dr. Wong Meng Li and Dr. Nanthakumar Jayaprakasam from Universiti Malaya. The entomology workshop was attended by lecturers, postgraduate students, research assistants, and government officers.

The workshop was divided into two components. The first component encompassed lectures in morphological and molecular identification, mosquito dissection, and blood meal analysis, whereas the second component is comprised of practical sessions, where the participants acquired hands-on experience on mosquito morphology identification, mosquito dissection, deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) extraction from mosquitoes, and molecular identification using polymerase chain reaction (PCR). In addition, blood-meal analysis and sequence alignment analysis were included. Besides knowledge and experience sharing, this workshop also served as a platform for future cross-national collaborations between Malaysia, Indonesia, and Australia.



theSUN ON MONDAY | MARCH 20, 2023

### SPEAK UP

## Going the extra mile for cancer cause

I was indeed an inspiring experience witnessing the launch of a simple but meaningful mobile application, an outcome of an innovative initiative by the technology-driven Tata Consultancy Services (Tata) Malaysia, last Friday at the Malaysia Tourism Centre (MTC) in Iskandar Puteri, Johor.



*"The ones who have to go through this deadly disease will need to endure this painful and horrifying experience. It is humanistic of all others to contribute in some way, especially time and energy, to support the cause of care. This empathic connection transcending race and religion is yet another manner of unifying all of us for a cause."*

Cancer in children is rising and the increasing cost of treatment is beyond the reach of those from the lower-income group, hampering the alleviation of suffering, which can lead to other complications, including death.

During a casual visit to the cancer unit of the paediatric ward, Tata CEO Jeevan Rajoo saw the faces of innocent children suffering this deadly disease, who were accompanied by their concerned parents, at their bedside. Only one question ran through his mind as he spoke to the head of the cancer unit: "What can we do more for them?"

Three years since that visit and it has not been without intense and a continuous pursuit to find innovative ways to open the hearts of diverse stakeholders to be involved in providing a safer and more viable opportunity for the children from this group to receive affordable cancer treatment.

The outcome of such a tireless corporate social responsibility (CSR) endeavour resulted in the development of a mobile application called CANSupport, which can now assist doctors and caregivers to better track pain and symptoms of children undergoing cancer treatment.

Additionally, the app will enable caregivers to request support for transportation for children with cancer who are travelling across the country for treatment. The app will also serve as a one-stop centre for all cancer-specific services in Malaysia by providing easy access to psychosocial services, resources and teleconsultations for cancer patients. This partnership represents an important milestone

in improving the quality of care for cancer patients in Malaysia, especially children undergoing treatment.

The seminar, jointly organised by the National Cancer Society of Malaysia with the support of Tata, the Malaysia Aviation Group as well as the Transport and Health Ministries, which brought medical experts, NGOs and mothers of children who are suffering from this deadly disease, was just the prelude to the event.

What was most inspiring was the voice of a parent, a parent, who spoke from the heart and reminded everyone that cancer in a child can be a problem which, when left untreated, can potentially aggravate the affected cancerous parts of the child, causing the child to be disabled. Hence, the problem can spread from one to the entire family suffering from the consequences and hardships, sometimes psychologically affecting the siblings, especially when they see attention of their parents being lopsided towards the sick member of the family.

The mother narrated the home dynamics of balancing the act and the accompanying stress. It was indeed insightful to gain glimpses of such affected households, which provided an empathic connection to the event.

The climax was the launch led by both the Minister of Transport Anthony Loke and Deputy Health Minister Lukman Hakim Awang Sauni. The fact that the transport minister

the new government where to move away from the confines of their respective cooperation to other people.

The minister also expressed Malaysia Airlines for supporting affected children are to the nearest hospital. However, the minister urged M'stains to provide training homes even if it is located in nearest airport. His minister instructions to seek the help of Melayu and GRAB to also assist of these children and their families.

It was obvious when a was unleashed when plagues were deputy health minister organisations, in acknowledge support towards this initiative. The intention to help and human nature but instead dormant and possibly sporadically, when occasion event is a clear testimony this to come into play, intention central to the cause.

Every problem has a solution a traditional perspective, his agencies, NGOs, private volunteers will continue to according to their

and capabilities. However, the time has come to see things from the perspective of the problem and through the eyes of those enduring these challenges.

"What can we do more" is a driving question that is mobilising the involvement of diverse stakeholders to be on the same page to contribute to the different parts of the problem in order to achieve a sustainable solution.

Currently, help is also being sought from bed and breakfast outlets to offer free accommodation and for corporates to sponsor

FOLLOW theSUN ON TELEGRAM @thesuntelegram



## DiALOG TIGA PENJURU

PANTAU KERAJAAN BAHARU



## MENJELANG 100 HARI: CERITA MADANI & BELANJAWAN

AHMAD FAHMI MOHD SAMSUDIN  
Naib Presiden Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (ABIM)

LOH PAI LING  
Presiden Persatuan Dhamaduta Malaysia (Buddhist Missionary Society Malaysia)

PROF. DR. SURESH GOVIND  
Professor Kehormat, Universiti Malaya / Pengarah, Sathya Sai Academy For Human Values

KHAMIS • 23 FEBRUARI 2023 • 8:30 MLM  
Tonton di Saluran 501 | Live TV - astroawani.com & Aplikasi Astro AWANI



## DTMH Microscopy Training 2023

a-star.edu.sg/articles/highlights/the-war-of-the-malarial-roses/

## ASTAR RESEARCH

Features Highlights Archives Print About

## The war of the (malarial) roses

30 Mar 2023

Drug-resistant malarial parasites form flower-like structures to shield themselves from attack by antimalarial drugs and the immune system.

Malaria has plagued mankind for centuries, and traces of the parasite have even turned up in the archaeological remains of mummified Egyptian royalty. Despite our efforts to fight back with medicines such as chloroquine and artemisinin (ART), it seems the mosquito-borne parasite has a knack for staying one step ahead of us.

Today, the parasite that causes malaria (*Plasmodium falciparum*) has evolved to become resistant to ART after acquiring a series of protective mutations. These genetic adaptations were thought to protect the parasite at the early stages of its life cycle, leaving the late-stage parasite still susceptible to antimalarial drugs.

A team led by Laurent Rénia, a Senior Fellow and Principal Investigator at A\*STAR Biomedical Research Institute (IBL), challenged this prevailing belief by leading a study pitting the biological dynamics of late-stage, drug-resistant parasites. The late stage might have some counter strategies that were overlooked with the usual ring-tailed treatment susceptibility study designs," he explained.

กิจกรรมวิทยาศาสตร์มหัศจรรย์  
สำหรับเด็กโตและเด็กวัยรุ่นมหาวิทยาลัย (ภาคเหนือ/อีสาน)

**YOU ARE INVITED**

ขอเชิญอาจารย์ นักศึกษา และผู้สนใจ เข้าร่วมกิจกรรม

เรื่อง "The multifaceted anti-malarial resistance strategies by *Plasmodium falciparum* from different geographical areas"

วันที่ 26 มกราคม 2566 เวลา 19.00-20.30 น.

ที่ ศูนย์ CISCO WEBEX  
MEETING NUMBER: 2644 149 6168  
PASSWORD: PARASITOLOGY

DR. LEE WENN CHYAU  
Department of Parasitology,  
Faculty of Medicine,  
University of Malaya, Malaysia.



## Rescripting Malaysia for better days

Embrace Madani moments in everyday

"Teachers in schools should keep reminding students to extract Madani experiences from every day life. Lectur inculturate their students with social values like human things in a better perspective."



BY DR SURESH GOVIND

MORNING NEWS

of leg

few v

has s

organ

The k

song

conn

diffic

good

portr

This e

perfo

otter

ANY catchy slogans have been rolled out under various prime ministers to steer well-meant policies. Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob conceived the "Kebangsaan Malaysia" or "Malaysian Family" concept, which replaced Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's "Caring Malaysia" that was conceptualised in response to the Covid-19 prevention exercises that the government undertook under his leadership.

Tun Mahathir Mohamad's return as the

strong and powerful culture that will give an important thrust in bringing back basic humaneness, while urging us ahead to address impending challenges.

The vision for prosperity is to make the nation affluent through a balanced and sustainable economic growth, empowerment and inclusivity of the citizenry, giving due regard for the spiritual and overall well-being of the people, communities and the nation.

Script ends with Trust. To ensure security and stability, we need trust. The new government made of members from different component parties must trust one another in order to gain each other's respect and trust from the public.

The document spells out the intricate nature and attributes of the new government and the type of leadership every ministry must uphold to regain the trust of the people, who gave them the mandate.

Apart from providing definitions, the document also lays out policy imperatives by taking into account the financial, economical, legal, institutional, educational, social, cultural as well as urban and rural factors.

Most policy documents remain "will-o'-the-wisp" as they are usually implemented by unforeseen

Sustainability, innovation and prosperity are drivers for any nation to make a mark in the world.

The document highlights the ideals for a new wave, which is captured under the acronym Script. Every one of the values have been adequately defined and explained in the text.

Sustainability, innovation and prosperity are drivers for any nation to make a mark in the world.

The document highlights the ideals for a new wave, which is captured under the acronym Script. Every one of the values have been adequately defined and explained in the text.

Sustainability, innovation and prosperity are drivers for any nation to make a mark in the world.

The document highlights the ideals for a new wave, which is captured under the acronym Script. Every one of the values have been adequately defined and explained in the text.

Sustainability, innovation and prosperity are drivers for any nation to make a mark in the world.

UNIVERSITI MALAYA

FRGS 2024

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR EVALUATION 2.0 – HOW TO EVALUATE FRGS APPLICATION

22 NOVEMBER 2023 (WEDNESDAY)  
11.00 am – 12.30 pm  
MICROSOFT TEAMS

SPEAKER  
PROF. DR. YVONNE LIM ALIAN  
Associate Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement)  
Panel Reviewer (National)  
Dana Penyelidikan KPT (DP KPT)  
Principal Investigator Dana Penyelidikan KPT (DP KPT)

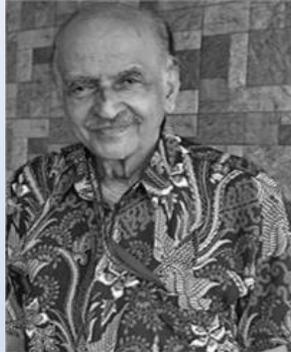
JOIN US!  
www.um.edu.my

Organized by:  
Division of Research Grant Management (RPM), IPPP, UM

林爱莲 马来西亚大学副校长  
MADUS MENANGGANGI MEMORANDUM PERSEKUTUPAN (MOU) ANTARA KONG ZI INSTITUTE DAN CHINA CULTURAL CENTRE KL  
来自马大的专家与中国专家进行交流

# Remembrance

**Dr. Sivanandam Sinnadurai**  
**(Dr. Siva)**  
**1935 - 2023**



Dr. Siva was a parasitologist that dedicated his life to research activities in the Institute for Medical Research (IMR) and the Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya. He worked on several medically important parasites. His hard work contributed significantly towards the understanding of lymphatic filariasis, particularly the zoonotic lymphatic filariasis caused by *Brugia pahangi*. Through the years, various members of the department benefited greatly from his selfless guidance and sharing of knowledge. *A life that touches others goes on forever.*



Dr. Siva (right) with intern from the Philippines.



*Brugia pahangi*, one of the research interests of Dr. Siva. He contributed significantly to the diagnosis of this zoonotic parasite.

(source: Siow *et al.*, 2019. *Trop Biomed* **36**:252)

# Activities planned for year 2024

Activity	Objectives	Targeted participants	Tentative date	Coordinator/ Person-in-charge
DTMH Microscopy Training by University of Glasgow and Universiti Malaya – Kuala Lumpur station	<p>To train clinical scientists planning to join the research of tropical diseases.</p> <p>To retrain MSF clinicians on microscopy and tropical diseases, upon request by MSF.</p>	<p>Foreign clinical students from University of Glasgow (international)</p> <p>MSF clinicians (international)</p>	21 – 24 Feb 2024	Dr. Lee Wenn Chyau
Parasite World	<p>To introduce parasitology research to high school students.</p> <p>To inspire new generation to get involved in medical research.</p>	Private high schools in the Klang Valley (local)	9 Mar 2024	Dr. Arutchelvan A/L Rajamanikam
Animal Awareness Day	<p>To increase awareness of animal health and welfare, risk of zoonotic pathogen transmission from pet to humans.</p> <p>To provide free veterinary screening for pet animals of B40 and M40 community.</p>	Public members of B40 and M40 families (local)	23 Mar 2024	Dr. Tan Tiong Kai
Malaria Research Workshop	To train and share techniques of malaria research.	Malaria researchers (local and international)	15 – 19 Jul 2024	Prof. Dr. Hesham M. Al-Mekhlafi
International Parasitology quiz	To increase awareness on parasitic diseases, and inspire young science/ life science students to participate in parasitology research.	Undergraduate students (medical, life sciences, pure sciences) from different universities (local and international)	27 Jul 2024	Dr. Junaid Olawale Quazim



Istiadat  
*Kanwakesyen*  
Convocation Ceremony  
**63**  
25 November - 2 Disember 2023  
Dewan Tunku Canselor

## Graduates attended the 63<sup>rd</sup> convocation ceremony of Universiti Malaya, 2023

### PhD

- Dr. Nantha Kumar A/L Jeyaprakasam
- Dr. Pavitra A/P Soosai
- Dr. Sandhya Pramasivan
- Dr. Ummi Wahidah Binti Azlan
- Dr. Vinnie Siow Wei Yin

### MSc (Master of Medical Parasitology and Entomology Program)

- Abdul Jabir Jaafar
- Muhammad Nabil Azim
- Nurul Izza Binti Zakaria
- Rishitharan A/L Subramaniam

*Congratulations!*

# Newsletter Editorial Board

## Editor

Dr. Lee Wenn Chyau

## Assistant editor

Pn. Sharifah Nor Akmar Syed Mohd

## Acknowledgements

Cik. Mazni Mohamed Ali

En. Awang Bhukhari Bin Matsat



## Reach us at:

Department of Parasitology  
Blocks N & O, Level 5  
Faculty of Medicine  
Universiti Malaya  
60503 Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia

**Tel:** +603-79674745

**Fax:** +603-79674754

**Website:** <https://medicine.um.edu.my/parasitology-department>

**Social media:** <https://www.fb.com/parasiteum>



# UNIVERSITI MALAYA MASTER OF MEDICAL PARASITOLOGY AND ENTOMOLOGY

ONE-YEAR MASTER DEGREE BY COURSEWORK



## WHY US?

THE UNIQUENESS OF THE PROGRAMME ARE:

- Completion in ONE year
- Affordable (Local RM35k; International USD 15k)
- Renowned and highly experienced faculty
- Guided hands-on practical sessions
- Engaging and interactive learning sessions
- Exhaustive and informative details on major parasites of medical importance and their vectors
- A multi-disciplinary approach towards understanding the role and relationship of parasites, vectors and humans
- Opportunities to gain practical insights on best practices in control and prevention from different countries
- Includes cutting-edge methods and approaches in research
- Expert supervision on research project
- A gateway towards PhD level programme



More information:  
Department of Parasitology  
Faculty of Medicine  
Universiti Malaya  
Tel: +60379674745  
Email: ketua\_parasit@um.edu.my

“ The Department is one of the oldest and possibly the largest Parasitology Department in the world.

UM is currently ranked 11 in Asia and 65 in the QS World University rankings. ”



## Some of the subjects that will be covered:

- o Global trends of parasitic infections
- o Climate change, population migration and movement
- o Hygiene hypothesis
- o Policy formulation
- o Cutting edge techniques
- o Hands-on *in-vitro* culture techniques
- o Parasite-microbiota interactions
- o Genomic and post-genomic advancement
- o Parasite omics
- o Hybridoma antibody
- o Imaging toolbox
- o Geographical information system
- o Data interpretation techniques
- o Epidemiology of major parasitic infections
- o Parasites and autoimmune, cancer and neurological diseases
- o Emerging and opportunistic parasites
- o Innovative control and preventive measures
- o Applied entomology
- o Advanced molecular tools
- o Field techniques
- o Bionomics of vectors
- o Insecticide and drug resistance

## ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER INTAKE

We welcome all Bachelor's degree holders (related or non-related to Health, Science, or Biology) to apply for this programme, with terms and conditions apply.



More information:  
<https://medicine.um.edu.my/master-of-medical-parasitology-and-entomology>  
Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya  
Tel: +60379674745 Email: ketua\_parasit@um.edu.my

Website:  
[medicine.um.edu.my/parasitology-department](https://medicine.um.edu.my/parasitology-department)  
[www.facebook.com/parasiteum/](https://www.facebook.com/parasiteum/)  
[www.um.edu.my/how-to-apply-master](https://www.um.edu.my/how-to-apply-master)

