

Department of Parasitology

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

2013-2014

GREETINGS!

By Prof. Dr. Rohela Mahmud

This is the fourth issue of our Annual Newsletter. This issue covers all activities in the Department in 2013-2014. In 2013, the Department published 48 articles, all in ISI journals. The total number of postgraduate students was 56 and 16 new students joined us in 2013. Three PhD and 1 master students successfully graduated in the 2013 UM convocation.



In 2014, the Department published 57 articles in ISI journals. Three PhD and 8 master students graduated in that year. There are 70 post graduate students in the Department doing both master and PhD.

The Department successfully organized a 3 day 'Advanced Identification Course on Adult Mosquitoes of Medical Importance workshop' from 26 – 28 August 2013. The workshop attracted 18 participants from Malaysia and 2 participants from abroad. This workshop was facilitated by Datin Dr. Indra Vythilingam and Mr. John Jefferey. The Department organised a workshop on the "Diagnosis of Toxoplasmosis: The PCR Method", on the 10th to 11th February 2014 for the Medical Laboratory Technologists. Two of our MLTs, Puan Sharifah and Puan Farikha attended the 3rd Workshop on EQAP for NTDs Laboratories in Western Pacific Region Countries & Capacity Building Training on Helminths Diagnosis, Shanghai, China, 7 – 11 July 2014.

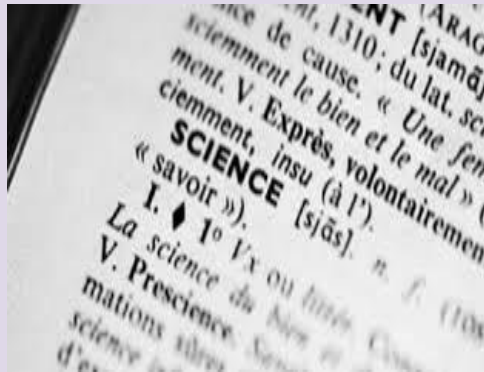
Our students and researchers have started using our satellite animal laboratory which is AAALAC accredited. Our ACL2 provides opportunities for our researchers to carry out work on mosquitoes and the diseases related to them.

A/P Dr. Lau Yee Ling was awarded the UM 2013 Young Scientist Award. Dr. Romano Ngui was awarded the UM 2013 Excellence Award in the category of PhD candidate with high impact publication. Professor Dr Yvonne Lim and Associate Professor Dr Zurainee Mohamed Nor were recipients of University of Malaya excellent award for 2014.

The Department was deeply saddened when one of our senior lecturers, Dr Arine Fadzlan Ahmad, succumbed to renal cancer in December 2014. She will be very much missed.

The Department made many achievements in 2014 through sheer hard work and good teamwork by both students and staff. Let us hope to do better in terms of research and publications in 2015. We would like to acknowledge A/P Dr Lau Yee Ling and her student, Tengku Idzzan for their time and efforts in compiling this newsletter.

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DEPARTMENT OF PARASITOLOGY | ANNUAL NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 4

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F U N F A C T S

There are known to be over 430 species of parasites that can and do live on or in the human body

One of the deadliest parasites is mosquito borne parasite which causes Malaria. Malaria has killed more people since humans first evolved, than any other disease

Some parasites are plants. The world's largest flowering plant, the Rafflesia, is parasitic, living inside tropical trees

Tapeworms can grow inside you and reach lengths of up to 30 feet long!

Many animals spend hours and hours grooming each other to remove parasites. This adaptation may even be the origins of cooperative behaviour and civilization itself!

The 'Cleaner Wrasse' is a small tropical fish that eats the parasites off the skin of bigger fish. The bigger fish have even been observed lining up for 'treatment'!

Chimpanzees are known to eat spiky leaves to kill the worms living in their intestines

DEPARTMENT OF PARASITOLOGY | ANNUAL NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 4

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Special trip to Germany (April, 2013) Seow Huey and Soo Ching

Last April Soo Ching and I attended the 23rd European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases in Berlin, Germany. It was an enormous conference with researchers from all over the world gathering to share knowledge and ideas. The most exciting parts were meeting with people doing research in the same field and playing games in one of the company's booths. Not forgetting we were in the land known for its wealth of history and strong economy, fridity was something we never felt whenever we stepped out of a train or a shop with a map in our hand as someone would readily come forth and offer kindness to guide us to our destination. It's the people's hospitality that has impressed me the most aside from the fascinating buildings and picturesque sceneries in the historical city centre.



New York City 'The Big Apple' (Nov 2012 - March 2013 & Nov 2013 - Feb 2014) Soo Ching

I would like to express my utmost gratitude to Prof. Dr. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian and Prof. Dr. Chua Kek Heng for giving me the opportunity to be attached at the Department of Microbiology, New York University (NYU) Langone Medical Center, United States from November 2012 till March 2013 and again in November 2013 till February 2014. I am also greatly indebted to Assistant Professor Dr. P'ng Loke and his wonderful team from NYU Langone Medical Center for providing valuable advice and assistance throughout both trips. The exposure to advanced techniques used for gut microbiota analysis was extremely valuable and working alongside highly motivated and enthusiastic researchers was very inspiring in every aspect. I also gained priceless life experiences during my time in New York. Being abroad gave me a new perspective towards life and taught me to adapt to new cultures around me. Lastly, I would like to end with this sentence which expresses my overall feelings about this trip.



National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), London (July- September 2013) Dr Amirah Amir

The three months spent in Prof. Tony Holder's lab in NIMR was invaluable. Under the guidance of Dr. Robert Moon, I was trained to do continuous culture of *Plasmodium knowlesi*, A1.H1 strain. Besides trying to induce gametocyte in the A1.H1 strain, we also attempted to adapt the *P. knowlesi* clinical isolates into continuous culture. I was also given the opportunity to do some transfection work in collaboration with Dr. Moon. This trip was an eye-opener and a great exposure to how scientists work around the world. I would like to thank my supervisors, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling, Prof. Dr. Fong Mun Yik and Datin Dr Indra Vythilingam for this wonderful opportunity. Not forgetting everyone from Tony's lab who has been the best host I can ever ask for.



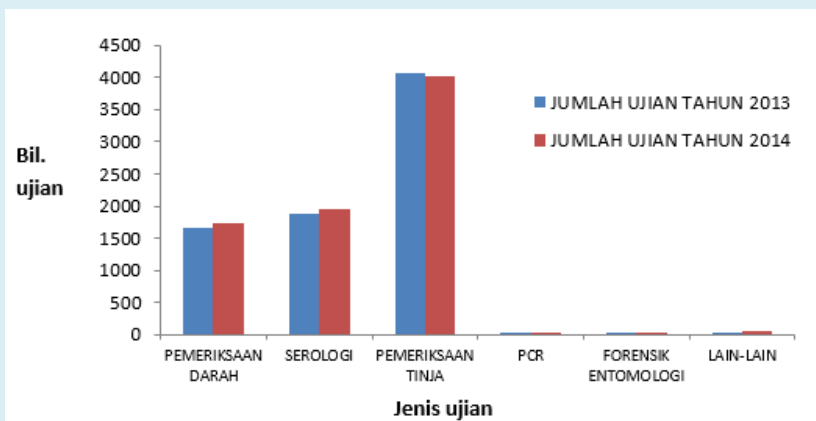
Beating Malaria - London (1st – 3rd July 2014) Cheong Fei Wen

I attended the Beating Malaria Conference which was organised in O2 Peninsula Square, London, England during July 2014. It was a great experience as a lot of malaria experts from all over the world attended the conference to share about their knowledge and research fields. Inspiring ideas which helped me to improve my research project were obtained during the conference. Besides this, my supervisor Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling and I were able to meet up with our collaborators, Prof. Dr. Tony Holder and Dr. Robert Moon in National Institute for Medical Research. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my supervisors, Prof. Dr. Fong Mun Yik and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling for this fruitful and eye-opening trip.





A. Sampel yang diproses:



B. Pengajaran untuk pelajar yang menjalani latihan:

- Pelajar Tahun 3 sesi 2014/2015 program Diploma Teknologi Makmal Perubatan, Kolej Sains Kesihatan, PPUM (11/11/2013 hingga 2/5/2014).
- Penempatan makmal klinikal pelajar Program Diploma Teknologi Makmal Perubatan PUSRAWI (8/9/2014 hingga 2/11/2014).
- Penempatan Pelajar-pelajar Sarjana Muda Sains Bioperubatan bagi latihan industri semester 3. Sesi 2013/2014 (4 - 22 Ogos 2014).
- Penempatan pelajar, Hemalatha a/p Palaisingam untuk latihan industri dari Ramsay Sime Darby Healthcare College, Shah Alam (7 April hingga 2 Mei 2014).

C. Persidangan/konferen/bengkel yang disertai:

2013

- 2nd. Workshop on EQAP – for neglected tropical diseases laboratories in Western Pacific Region Countries. Organised by National Institute of Parasitic Diseases, Chinese Center for Diseases Control and Prevention (NIPD), Shanghai, China.
- Peserta: En Wan Hafiz Wan Ismail dan P/M Dr Zurainee Mohamed Nor

2014

- 3rd. EQA capacity building/training on Helminth diagnosis, Shanghai, China.
- Peserta: Pn Sharifah Nor Akmar Syed Mohd dan Pn Farikha Sarip

D. Penglibatan dalam penyelidikan:

Terlibat di dalam kajian yang bertajuk “Liver cirrhosis and splenomegaly associated with *Schistosoma mansoni* in a Sudanese woman in Malaysia: A case report” yang diterbitkan di *Asian Pacific Journal of Tropical Medicine* (2015).



EQA capacity building/training on Helminth diagnosis, Shanghai, China



We accept samples out of UM:

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2. Follow instructions
3. Send samples
4. Receive results report

More information: www.parasead.com



Workshop on mosquito identification
26-28/08/2013



Goodbye Dr. Mohammed Mahdy, June 2013



Health Education Learning for Orang Asli



Seminar Perbincangan Kursus Program Sarjana



Hari Raya Aidilfitri



Annual Animal Awareness Day



2013

Awatif Mohamed Abdul Salam Salih
Naela Abdulaziz A. Alyousefi
Romano Ngui
Nabil Ahmed M. Nasr
Mohammed R. Shaker

2014

Adela Ida Anak Jiram
Clandia Niska Anthony
Haridah Binti Alias
Kamil Ali Obeid Brama
Lee Wenn Chyan
Muhammad Aidil Bin Roslan
Nor Linda Binti Abdullah
Sonaimuthu Parthasarathy
Thulasi a/p Kumar
Vanitha a/p U. Palaeaya
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Congratulations



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