



UNIVERSITY
OF MALAYA

2018 Newsletter

Department of Parasitology



FAKULTI PERUBATAN

FACULTY OF MEDICINE



Academic Staff

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. Currently he serves as the Head of the Department of Parasitology, UM.

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.



Prof. Dr. Suresh Kumar Govind

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Blastocystis, Drug Trials and
Parasites Biology, Diagnostic
Parasitology

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 academican 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.

Prof. Dr. Fong Mun Yik

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Genetic diversity and molecular
epidemiology of malaria parasites,
Diagnostic Parasitology



Academic Staff

Dr. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian is a senior professor at the Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya (UM), Kuala Lumpur and a fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia. Currently, she is the Director of International Relations Office (IRO), University of Malaya and serves on the University Senate. She was the former Deputy Dean (Research) of Faculty of Medicine, UM and the past president of the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM).

Professor Lim's research focuses on host-parasite interactions and the epidemiology and control of neglected tropical diseases primarily among the underserved communities. Her work has been funded by national and international grants (e.g. NIH). Recently, using multidisciplinary approaches, her research has helped improved understanding on how the interactions between intestinal helminths and the gut microbiota influence human immune responses. Her team's landmark publication with collaborators from New York University in *Science* unravelled the mechanisms of how low levels of helminth infection promote growth of probiotic bacteria which may lead to the discovery of potential biomarkers and novel interventional strategies towards utilising helminths as a therapeutic approach.

She has published more than 160 scientific papers, 9 book chapters and 3 books. She also has a vast network of local and international partnerships. She was a visiting fellow at the Department of Veterinary Science, University of Melbourne, Australia. She has been appointed a visiting professor at the Department of Molecular Parasitology and Tropical Diseases, Taipei Medical University, Taiwan and was a temporary advisor to the World Health Organization (WHO) meeting for the schistosomiasis & soil-transmitted helminthiasis data platform.

Professor Lim has received numerous awards and recognitions, among which were the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (RSTMH) Centenary Scholarship, the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine Medal for being an outstanding young scientist, the University of Malaya Excellence Award for outstanding achievement in the category of Excellent Lecturer (for Sciences) and the Top Research Scientists Malaysia (TRSM) Award. She was recently featured as one of the 10 Science Stars of East Asia in *Nature*.



Prof. Dr. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian

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Waterborne parasites
(*Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia*),
Gut microbiota, Indigenous
Health, Molecular
Epidemiology

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 was working at the Institute of Medical Research (IMR), Malaysia and 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 is the only one at 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 randomised 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 P. Malaysia.

She has published more than 120 scientific papers in peer-reviewed international and local journals, ten book chapters and one book. From 2012 onwards, 5 PhD students and 2 MSc students have graduated under her supervision. Currently she is supervising 4 PhD students and 2 MSc students. 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 a 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 *An. 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. Currently she is the subject Editor for an international journal Parasites and Vectors - a tier 1 journal.

Prof. Datin Dr. Indra Vythilingam



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Medical entomology,
vectors for malaria,
dengue, JE, filariasis

Associate Professor Dr. Zurainee Mohamed Nor has been with the Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine since 1991. She joined the department as a tutor and then as a lecturer after she completed her PhD at the University of Strathclyde, Scotland, United Kingdom in 1995. Apart from teaching, researching and supervising students, she has been participating in many activities at the department, faculty and university levels. She was among the key persons responsible for the development of Para:SEAD Lab, the diagnostic laboratory for parasitic infection under University Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC). In relation to that, she was invited by Prof. Hue Smith to visit the Scottish Parasite Diagnostic Lab (SPDL) in order to study the running of an accredited diagnostic laboratory. She was also one of the Japanese Society for the Promotional of Science (JSPS) scholarship recipient that provided her the opportunity to visit Chiba University, Japan and worked under the supervision of Prof. Yano.

At the department level, she was appointed as Program Coordinator, Quality Manager (DQM), and Internal Auditor for many years. At the faculty level she was appointed as Academic Advisor for second year medical students and as Advisor to the Medical Society (MedSoc). She involved heavily in the New Intergrated Curriculum Program (NIC) as Phase 2 Coordinator, a committee member of Faculty Quality Management System Unit, as Faculty Internal Auditor and involved as co-researcher in a study conducted by the faculty entitled "The Migrant Workers and Diseases". At the university level she served the university as Principal to several UM residential colleges (4th, 5th 6th and 8th RC). As the Principal of residential college, she was responsible for ensuring the welfare of students and shaping soft skills among students staying at those colleges. She was also appointed as the Head of SERU (UM Student Empowerment & Research Unit) and as University Internal Auditor. She is also one of the consultants appointed by the Vice Chancellor for the analysis of waterborne parasites involving samples from government and private agencies.

As a researcher, her study of interest includes *Filaria*, *Toxoplasma*, malaria, waterborne parasites and plant extract. She has supervised numbers of local and international undergraduate, Master and PhD students. As a lecturer she received invitations from other public and private universities like University Putra Malaysia (UPM), and MAHSA University to give lecture/practical classes and as External Examiner for DAP&E, Master and PhD candidates from Institute of Medical Research (IMR), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM). She is also invited as External Examiner for Second Professional Examination 2018/2019 by USIM.

As far as her involvement in scientific society she was a member of the Malaysian Society for Parasite and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM) and once held the Treasurer post. She is a member to the Malaysian Scientific Association (MSA) and was one of the council members for several terms and once held the Secretary post. She was heavily involved as the Chairperson for several yearly programs organized by MSA and state governments, designed for secondary school students in relation to Science & Technology.

As a Certified Auditor, she was frequently invited by private accreditation bodies to audit selected government hospitals and academic institutions.



**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zurainee
Mohamed Nor**

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Plant Extract, Entomology,
Drinking Water Quality
(Giardiasis, Cryptosporidiosis),
Humoral Immunology

Academic Staff

Dr. Init Ithoi obtained her PhD from University of Malaya in 1999. She joined UM as academician since 2000. She is member of Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine since 1989, and has been awarded life membership in 1998. Over the years, she has published more than 50 papers in journals, with H-index of 12. She is reviewer of manuscripts for many international journals.

Her research interests include Parasitology (intestinal protozoa, intestinal helminthes, *Toxocara*, *Toxoplasma*, etc); Molecular Epidemiology (phylogenetic, sequencing); Pathogenic Free-Living Amoebae (*Acanthamoeba*, *Naegleria*, *Balamuthia*, etc); Water-Borne Pathogen (*Blastocystis*, *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia*); Immunology of Parasites (ELISA, IFA, Western blotting, etc); and Hybridoma Technology (Monoclonal, polyclonal, antibody, antigen, parasites).



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Init Ithoi

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Molecular Epidemiology,
Pathogenic Free-living
Amoebae, Waterborne
Pathogens, Hybridoma
Technology

Dr Lau Yee Ling is at present an Associate Professor in the Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine at University of Malaya (UM). She started her academic career as a junior 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 she was able to continue her research in the field of molecular parasitology. She then returned to her alma mater as a Senior Lecturer in 2009. She was awarded tenure in 2010 and promotion to associate professor in 2013.

Dr 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 exert enormous social and economic burdens. Her research interest mainly focuses on using molecular methods for the detection and characterization of isolates and for the diagnosis of parasitic infections. She has collaborated with other local and international researchers, leading to publication of 142 ISI journals, with total citations index of 1123 and H-index of 17. This research excellence has enabled her to acquire and be a part of many research grants, i.e., High Impact Research Grant, University of Malaya Research Grant, FRGS, E-science, LRGS and others, with her cumulative research funding amounting to at least RM5 million. These were followed by several intellectual property rights under her belt. Since 2009, 13 Masters and 18 PhD students completed their studies with success under her guidance. Currently, they are 7 postgraduate students under her supervision. Her students are competent in conducting good research in diverse fields of molecular biology and parasitology, following the footsteps of their supervisor.

Due to her experience in grant management, she had held several administrative posts such as the Head of Grant Management Unit and Head of Research Management Unit at the faculty, besides being a committee member in evaluating applications for FRGS, UMRG and the Science Fund in University of Malaya. Through her contribution to the field of science, she is a reviewer for a number of international journals including Lancet, Emerging infectious Diseases, PLOS One, Parasites & Vectors and others. Currently, she is also the associate editor of Editorial Board of BMC Infectious Diseases and deputy chief editor for the Journal of Health and Translational Medicine (JUMMEC). She is acknowledged as an experienced researcher in the field of molecular parasitology and has received few awards, meanwhile, she has been providing consultative services locally and internationally. Yee Ling is an active member of the MSPTM and life member of MSMBB since 2010 besides being a member of the American Society for Cell Biology.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling

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**Molecular Cloning and
Expression, Diagnostic
Parasitology, Malaria**

Dr Tan Tian Chye obtained his PhD in Medical Parasitology from University of Malaya in 2005 and was appointed as a lecturer at the Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine in the same year. He was later promoted to Associate Professor in 2016. His primary research focus has been aimed at elucidating the pathogenic role of *Blastocystis*, an intestinal parasite. Over the years, he has diversified his research into the PCR detection and *in vitro* cultivation of malaria, toxoplasmosis as well as waterborne pathogens. In 2011, he underwent training at University of Illinois (USA) under Professor Dr. Ramaswamy Kalyanasundaram on a NIH-funded project entitled DNA-vaccine development for lymphatic filariasis.

He is a prolific publisher of academic articles in peer-reviewed scientific, medical and veterinary 'high impact' journals. To date, he has produced more than 50 international ISI journal articles in the field of parasitology and microbiology. His article entitled "Predominance of amoeboid forms of *Blastocystis* in isolates from symptomatic patients" was awarded the Best International Paper in 2006 by the *Blastocystis* Research Foundation based in the United State of America. It was a landmark paper revealing the role of the amoeboid form of *Blastocystis* in causing disease in human and it was frequently cited by peers. He has co-authored a chapter entitled "Romancing *Blastocystis* : A 20-year affair" in *Parasites and their vectors: A special focus on Southeast Asia*, published by a prestigious international journal.

He had six research grants which he leaded as principal investigator and 5 more as co-investigator. The total amount of the grants acquired was RM660,000. He has established international linkages particularly with researchers in Thailand and the Phillipines on the waterborne pathogens.

Over the years, he has contributed significantly in teaching activities and the development and delivery of curriculum in the various administrative roles that he has held. He has been actively involved in teaching students in the courses of Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBBS), Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences, Pharmacy, Nursing and Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technologist. He was the Faculty Coordinator for MBBS programme for 3 years from 2013 to 2016. He chaired the faculty vetting committee and was the key person to ensure the smooth running of the course as well as the examination for the Phase II MBBS students. He was student-oriented and had regularly met up the MBBS students. He has been appointed as the Imaging Services Manager (Electron Microscopy) in the Central Unit for Advanced Research Imaging (CENTUARI), Faculty of Medicine since 2016 till date.

He is also active in participating in professional body. He is a life member of the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM). He has served as a council member of the MSPTM for five terms and was the Honorary Treasurer for two terms. In honour for his contribution to the Society, he was awarded the MSPTM Medal in 2012.


Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tan Tian Chye

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Molecular Parasitology,
genotyping, phylogenetic

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.

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.



**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wan Yusoff
bin Wan Sulaiman**

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Medical Parasitology,
Medical Entomology,
Forensic Entomology

Academic Staff

It has been **10 years** since I published my first paper (Abdul-Aziz NM, Turmaine M, Greene ND, & Copp AJ. 2009. EphrinA-EphA receptor interactions in mouse spinal neurulation: implications for neural fold fusion. *Int J Dev Biol*, 53(4), 559-68) and **11 years** since I first joined the ever-joyful Department of Parasitology which has been my home away from home. Due to my interesting personality and curriculum vitae among others, I have come to the humble realisation that happiness exists in great bounty when pleasure is derived from nurturing young minds in the ever-challenging premise known as life. I am humbled by students continuously requesting positions in my laboratory despite the current tenuous scenario in procuring research grants. I am humbled too by the patient group which I support known as MALAYSIA NTD. Neural tube defects (NTDs) is a devastating condition and is in fact the leading central nervous system malformation in humans with an occurrence of 1-10 in 1000 births worldwide (Mohd-Zin S W, Marwan AI, Abou Chaar MK, Ahmad-Annuar A, & Abdul-Aziz NM. 2017. Spina Bifida: Pathogenesis, Mechanisms, and Genes in Mice and Humans. *Scientifica (Cairo)*, 2017, 5364827). I should know as I have it. I have suffered the consequences of spina bifida occulta with neurological deficits since birth with an L3 lesion.

I am perhaps the oldest surviving person in Malaysia with spina bifida and a permanent ileal conduit which I have had since the age of 3. I understand the difficulties and anxieties of this condition so very acutely which is how I have built a network between individuals with spina bifida, their families, their care-givers and have tried to a certain extent to get government bodies in Malaysia to be vested in the interests of individuals with spina bifida which I hope to continue pursuing comfortable ensconced in the great working environment which is Department of Parasitology, FOM.

The peaceful environment of the Department of Parasitology has enabled me to build a mouse model with spina bifida occulta which may be the answer to the understanding of the mechanism between the aperta-type and the occulta-type as this is the first model of occulta with neurological deficits targeting 2 very specific genes whereby the surface ectoderm or the presumptive skin seems to be integral in the understanding of neural tube defects. A novel occulta-type spina bifida mediated by murine double heterozygotes EphA2 and EphA4 receptor tyrosine kinases. I am also now embarking on a series of proposed experiments to study the effects of parasites such as *Blastocystis hominis*, *Toxoplasma gondii* and *Giardia lamblia* on the developing mouse embryo. This is timely considering the recent outbreak of microorganisms potentially causing birth defects It has been an interesting journey thus far!

HIDUP JABATAN PARASITOLOGI !



Dr. Noraishah Mydin Abdul-Aziz lab

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Molecular and Structural Biology, arthropods of medical importance, Neural Tube Defect (Developmental Neurobiology)

Dr. Amirah Amir obtained her MBBS from University of Malaya in 2008. After completing her compulsory service under Ministry of Health, she pursued her PhD in Parasitology and currently holds the post of senior lecturer in Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya. She has published numerous research papers in peer-reviewed journals with particular interest in malaria, and recently published a textbook with Springer titled 'Medical Parasitology – A Textbook'.

She is currently the coordinator of the Parasitology Diagnostic Unit in University Malaya Medical Centre. Dr. Amirah is also an avid teacher. She is the department coordinator for Master of Pathology (MPath), Biomedical Science Programme, University Malaya Medical Programme (UMMP) and is part of the faculty's Problem Based Learning (PBL) coordinator.

**Dr. Amirah Amir**

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Malaria, non-human primate
malaria, *Anopheles* colonization,
Medical parasitology

Dr. Romano Ngui obtained his degree in Bachelor of Biomedical Science (2008), Master of Medical Science (2010) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (2013) from the University of Malaya. His PhD thesis has been awarded distinction by the University of Malaya. Currently, he is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya.

To date, he has published over 60 journals (ISI Cited Publication) and 2 book chapters. According to the latest Thomson Reuters record, he has 13 h-index. Likewise, he has 17 h-index with 1012 citations based on the Google Scholars Citation record. Currently, he supervised 4 PhD and 2 Master candidates with 2 already completed. He is also actively supervising undergraduate final year research project including international internship students. His research interest is the epidemiological distribution of infectious diseases particularly Parasitology and Tropical Medicine that to developed and applied molecular and statistical models/tools to support operational research activities relating to infectious diseases control.

He has won several awards including University of Malaya Excellent Award under the category 'PhD Candidates with Highest Impact Publication' and 'PhD Candidates Completed Less Than 3 Years' (2013), 'Gold Medal Award' and 'Most Powerful Innovation Award' in the BioMalaysia Research Exhibition, Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (MOSTI) and Malaysian Biotechnology Cooperation (2013) and the University of Malaya Excellent Service Award (Anugerah Perkhidmatan Cemerlang, APC) (2017).

He has attended intensive research training at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), United Kingdom in the field of Spatial Epidemiology in Public Health (2011).

He has also been successfully selected to attend several international workshops including Introduction to Modeling of Infectious Diseases Workshop organized by Hong Kong University-Pasteur Research Pole (2016), Ungku Omar-Newton Fund Epidemiological Modeling Workshop organized by the University of Malaya and Imperial College London (2017) and Southeast Asian Scholars for Higher Education Leadership (SEASHEL) (2018) organized by the Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia.

Apart from his academic position, he is also actively involved in various co-curriculum student activities includes sport, community and volunteerism work through his roles as a Fellow of the First Residential College, University of Malaya. Some of these activities have gained media coverage in major newspapers and mass media stream including RTM 1, Berita Harian, Harian Metro, Sinar Harian, and Utusan Borneo. He is also an active member of the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM) since 2008. He has served as Assistant Honorary Secretary and Council Member to the society).

**Dr. Romano Ngui**

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Geographical Information
System (Spatio-Temporal
Analysis), Molecular
Epidemiology and Public
Health, Medical
Parasitology

Academic Staff

Dr. Cheong Fei Wen obtained her Bachelor Degree in Biomedical Science (with distinction) from University of Malaya (UM), Malaysia in 2009. She passed her PhD with distinction early 2015 and received her PhD scroll in the 2015 convocation of the UM. 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 successfully 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 several articles in ISI-indexed journals. She is currently the editor for the Journal of Health and Translational Medicine (JUMMEC), associate editor for Asia Pacific Journal of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (APJMBB), and council member for Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM).



Dr. Cheong Fei Wen

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Molecular Cloning, Protein
expression, Epitope mapping,
Malaria

Support Staffs



1. **Mazni Mohamed Ali – Administrative Assistant**
2. **Mohd Afiffudin Mohd Ali – Administrative Assistant**
3. **Farikha Sarip – Medical Laboratory Technologist (PPUM staff)**
4. **Mohd Redzuan Ahmad Naziri – Medical Laboratory Technologist**
5. **Rohani Ali – Pembantu Am Pejabat**
6. **Wan Hafiz Wan Ismail – Medical Laboratory Technologist (PPUM staff)**
7. **Sharifah Nor Akmar Syed Mohd – Medical Laboratory Technologist**
8. **Abd. Kaharmuzakir Ismail – Science Officer**
9. **Mohd Sazalle Jamil – Pembantu Am Pejabat**
10. **Hasidah Omar – Medical Laboratory Technologist (PPUM staff)**
11. **Khatijah Hj Othman – Medical Laboratory Technologist**

Industrial Training Programme



1/1 – 30/6

30/4 – 11/5

2/7 – 27/7

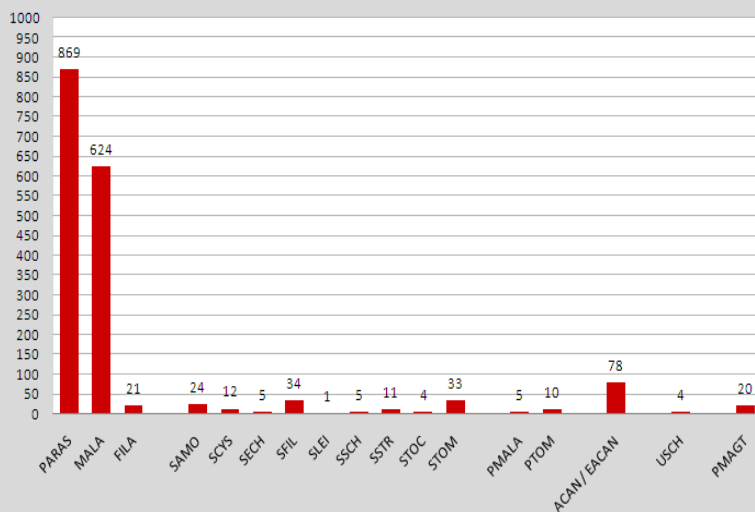
3/7 – 25/8

1/10 – 31/12



Total case: 1726 cases (4521 tests)

TOTAL SAMPLE PROSESSED IN DIAGNOSTIC PARASITOLOGY UMMC



To send sample

1

•Sila hubungi 03-7967 4752/5735

2

•Ikuti arahan yang diberikan oleh pegawai bertugas

3

•Hantarkan sampel ke Unit Diagnostik Parasitologi
Unit of Diagnostic Parasitology UMMC
A3-30, Level 5 Block O

4

•Terima keputusan ujian mengikut "Turn Around Time" yang diberikan

The Department of Parasitology, University of Malaya is one of the largest Parasitology Department in Malaysia. Parasitologists in this department have conducted many epidemiological and molecular parasitology studies providing vital information about the status, magnitude and impact of different parasitic infections among the different rural and semi-remote communities in Malaysia and other countries. The department houses advanced parasitology laboratories with the necessary facilities, including: a) Biosafety Level 2 Malaria culture laboratory; b) Arthropod Containment Level 2 facility; and c) Advanced Molecular Parasitology laboratories



Insectarium - arthropod containment level 1



Insectarium - arthropod containment level 2 (Infection room)



Malaria culture room (BSL 2)



Tissue culture room



Molecular laboratories



Emerging Pathogen Lab

POST GRADUATE STUDENTS



	ID NUMBER	STUDENT NAME
1.	MGN150001	Adibah Binti Sahmat
2.	MGN170011	Ahmad Fakhriy Hassan
3.	MGN150043	Lim Khai Lone
4.	MGN140062	Mohamad Azlan Bin Abd. Majid
5.	MGN130029	Mohamad Hafiz Bin Abd Basher
6.	MGN140057	Mona Abdullah Mohammed Al_Areeqi
7.	MGN160016	Nur Amirah Hassan
8	MGN170026	Ong Nyee Huey
9	MGN160037	Rafidah Ali
10	MGN140047	Renuka A/P Gunasekaran
11	MGN160014	Shairah Dzul
12	MHA160007	Azdayanti Muslim
13	MHA150049	Arutchelvan Rajamanikam
14	MHA150050	Gaythri A/P Thergarajan
15	MHA140030	Goh Xiang Ting
16	MHA140016	Jonathan Liew Wee Kent
17	MHA130077	Junaid Olawale Quazim
18	MHA120031	Lai Meng Yee
19	MHA130061	Lau Sai Ming



	ID NUMBER	STUDENT NAME
20	MHA140062	Leong Cherng Shii
21	MHA160019	Manal Ali Saleh
22	MHA150008	Muhammad Aidil Bin Roslan
23	MHA130080	Nabil Ahmed Mohammed Nasr
24	MHA140038	Norashikin @ Suzani Bt Mohd Shaharuddin
25	MHA120003	Norashiqin Binti Misni
26	MVA170003	Pavitra A/P Soosai
27	MHA130019	S.J.Lahvanya Raoov A/L Subramaniam
28	MHA130042	Seyedeh Zahra Rouhani Rankouhi
29	MVA170036	Sheela Devi A/P Sugadan
30	MHA150029	Sonal Girish
31	MHA140017	Tengku Idzzan Nadzirah Binti Tengku Idris
32	MHA160021	Tooba Mahboob
33	MHA150047	Vinnie Siow Wei Yin
34	MHA150016	Wan Najdah Binti Wan Mohamad Ali
35	MHA130026	Wong Meng Li
36	MHA120062	Yap Nan Jiun



SEMINAR

PROPOSAL DEFENCE SEMINAR

NO.	NAME	TITLE	DATE
1.	AHMAD FAKHRIY HASSAN (MGN170011)	ALTERNATIVE METHOD FOR SIMIAN MALARIA CONTROL IN SABAH: OUTDOOR RESIDUAL SPRAY	25.1.2018
2.	PAVITRA A/P SOOSAI NATHAN (MVA170003)	MALAYSIAN BLACKFLIES: TEMPORAL VARIATION IN COMMUNITY STRUCTURE, THEIR HOST PREFERENCES AND MEDICALLY IMPORTANT FILARIAL PARASITES	25.4.2018
3.	ONG NYEE HUEY (MGN170026)	PATHOBIOLOGY OF MALAYSIAN <i>AE. AEGYPTI</i> AND <i>AE. ALBOPICTUS</i> TO ZIKA VIRUS AND CO-INFECTION WITH DENGUE AND CHIKUNGUNYA VIRUSES	11.7.2018



THESIS SEMINAR

NO.	NAME	TITLE	DATE
1.	JUNAID OLAWALE QUAZIM (MHA130077)	<i>BRUGIA PAHANGI</i> CO-INFECTION WITH <i>PLASMODIUM BERGHEI</i> ANKA IN GERBILS PROTECT AGAINST SEVERE MALARIA	23.3.2018
2.	LAU SAI MING (MHA130061)	GOS TRAP: NEW PARADIGM FOR DENGUE VECTOR SURVEILLANCE IN SELANGOR, MALAYSIA	23.3.2018
3.	ARUTCHELVAN RAJAMANIKAM (MHA150049)	STUDIES ON THE RELATIONSHIP OF BACTERIA WITH <i>BLASTOCYTIS</i> SP.	8.8.2018
4.	GAYTHRI A/P THERGARAJAN (MHA150050)	STUDIES TO ELUCIDATE THE RELEVANT GENES RESPONSIBLE FOR STRESS AND GROWTH IN <i>BLASTOCYTIS</i> SP.	8.8.2018

CANDIDATURE DEFENCE

NO	NAME	TITLE	DATE
1.	GAYTHRI A/P THERGARAJAN (MHA150050)	STUDIES TO ELUCIDATE PHENOTYPIC AND GENOTYPIC CHARACTERIZATION OF <i>BLASTOCYSTIS</i> SP. SUBJECTED TO HIGHER TEMPERATURE	17.1.2018
2.	ARUTCHELVAN A/L RAJAMANIKAM (MHA150049)	<i>IN VITRO</i> AND <i>IN VIVO</i> STUDIES TO ELUCIDATE THE PATHOPHYSIOLOGY OF <i>BLASTOCYSTIS</i> SP. ST3 ISOLATES FROM URBAN AND ORANG ASLI	2.3.2018
3.	YAP NAN JIUN (MHA120062)	MOLECULAR CHARACTERISATION OF HUMAN AND SIMIAN PLASMODIUM SPECIES AMONG INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN MALAYSIA	22.3.2018
4.	LEONG CHERNG SHII (MHA140062)	DETECTION OF RESISTANCE STATUS OF <i>Aedes Aegypti</i> (LINNAEUS) FROM SELANGOR, MALAYSIA USING BIOASSAYS, BIOCHEMICAL AND MOLECULAR TOOLS	23.5.2018
5.	SHEELA DEVI A/P SUGADAN (MVA170036)	<i>IN-VITRO</i> AND <i>IN-VIVO</i> STUDIES TO ELUCIDATE IMMUNE MECHANISMS INVOLVED IN <i>BLASTOCYSTIS</i> SP. SUBTYPE 3	23.8.2018
6.	PAVITRA A/P SOOSAI NATHAN (MVA 170003)	MALAYSIAN BLACKFLIES: TEMPORAL VARIATION IN COMMUNITY STRUCTURE, THEIR HOST PREFERENCES AND ASSOCIATED FILARIAL PARASITES	12.12.2018



ACTIVITIES

**PROF ROHELA
RETIREMENT
11.4.18**



**TAIPEI MEDICAL UNIVERSITY-UM
JOINT SYMPOSIUM 18.10.18**

**SYARAHAN
PERDANA**



PROF. YVONNE LIM AI LIAN (5.4.18)



PROF. FONG MUN YIK (28.3.18)

**CHINESE NEW YEAR
LUNCH 27.2.18**



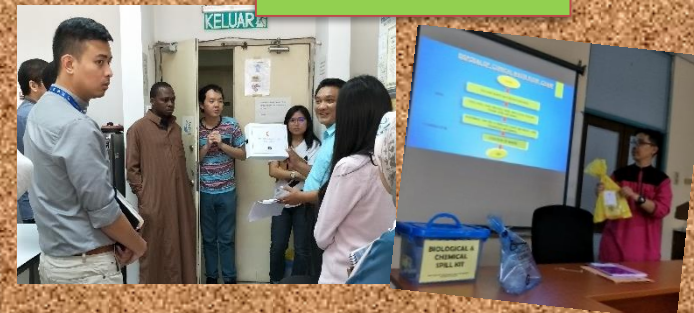
**EID CELEBRATION
LUNCH 11.7.18**

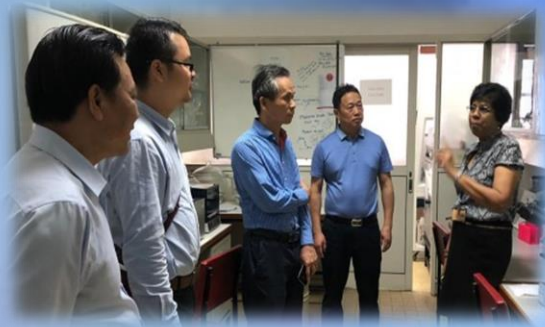


**BIOSAFETY
TRAINING 29.6.18**



**DR. AISHAH'S
BIRTHDAY 3.5.18**





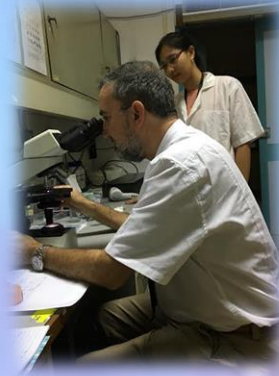
**Guests from Guilin Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC), China
10.12.18**



**Guests from Taipei Medical University,
Taiwan
18.10.18**

“Great things were never done by a person. They were done by a team of people”

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS



**Prof. Dr. Georges Snounou,
France
2-9.3.18, 12-16.11. 18**



**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bruce Russel
University of Otago, New Zealand
14-18.5.18**



**Guests from Faculty of Medicine, Chiang Mai University, Thailand
22.11.18**

AWARDS

Gold Medal at 4th Korea Creative Invention Contest CIC 2018

Assoc Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling

Grand and Second Prize Award at Cabaran Inovasi Inklusif 2018

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling

Outstanding Reviewer Award at International Journal for Parasitology

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lau Yee Ling

Anugerah Perkhidmatan Cemerlang 2018, UM

Prof. Dr. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wan Yusoff bin Wan Sulaiman

Dr. Amirah Amir

En. Mohd Afiffudin Mohd Ali

Sijil Perkhidmatan Cemerlang 2018, UM

Prof. Datin Dr. Indra Vythilingam

En. Mohd Sazalle Jamil



GRADUATED POSTGRADUATES

Doctor of Philosophy

1. Norasyiqin bt. Misni (MHA120003)
2. Lai Meng Yee (MHA120031)
3. Wong Meng Li (MHA130026)
4. Lau Sai Ming (MHA130061)
5. Junaid Olawale Quazim (MHA130077)
6. Tg Idzzan Nadzirah Tg Idris (MHA140017)
7. Jonathan Liew Wee Kent (MHA140016)
8. Tooba Mahboob (MHA140021)

Master of Medical Science

1. Renuka A/P Gunasekaran (MGN140047)
2. Mona Abdullah Mohammed Al Areeqi (MGN140057)
3. Adibah bt. Sahmat (MGN150001)
4. Lim Khai Lone (MGN150043)



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2018 Newsletter

Department of Parasitology