

# Seminar on Parasitic Infection in East Coast Malaysia:

## Current Status on Prevalence, Diagnosis, Management and Related Issues

1st October 2018 | INFORMM USM Health Campus, Kelantan

### Course Description

Parasitology is a study of parasites that affect humans and animals, and the relationship between parasite and host. Agricultural and animal livestock industries are still the main economic activities in the east coast states of Malaysia. Many animal parasites can be transmitted to humans (zoonosis), thus are of public health importance. In line with the efforts of the Malaysian Government to improve public health status in the flood-prone rural areas of the East Coast, the Institute for Research in Molecular Medicine (INFORMM) aims to take the initiative to organize the first seminar in the East Coast of Malaysia to discuss current issues, status and gaps in research on parasitic infections among interested researchers and health personnel.

### Speakers

1. **Prof. Dr. Rahmah Noordin**  
INFORMM, USM
2. **Dr. Sam Mohan Aruputham**  
Malaysian Society of Parasitology & Tropical Medicine
3. **Prof. Dr. Zeehaida Mohamed**  
School of Medical Sciences, USM
4. **Prof. Dr. Wan Kiew Lian**  
Faculty of Science and Technology, UKM
5. **Prof. Dr. Imad Ibrahim Ali Al - Sultan**  
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, UMK
6. **Prof. Dr. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian**  
Faculty of Medicine, UM
7. **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lim Boon Huat**  
School of Health Sciences, USM
8. **Dr. Nurul Faizah Zainal**  
Regional Veterinary Laboratory (RVL) Kuantan
9. **Dr. R. Shamilah R. Hisam**  
Parasitology Unit, IMR
10. **Dr. Ahmad Syaarani Md Yasin**  
Vector Borne Diseases Unit,  
Public Health Division, Kelantan
11. **Dr. Zulkarnain Md Idris**  
Faculty of Medicine, UKM

### Registration

**Dateline: 14<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2018**

### Fees

**RM50**

### Seat Limit

**100 participants**

### Contacts

#### Registration and Enquiries

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#### Registration

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Please visit INFORMM's website [www.informm.usm.my](http://www.informm.usm.my) for more details.

**Click to Register**

This seminar is organised by the Institute for Research in Molecular Medicine (INFORMM), Universiti Sains Malaysia in collaboration with Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM) with the support from Ministry of Education Malaysia under the HICoE programme



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### Seminar Programme

Time	1st October 2018	Speaker
0730	Registration	
0815	Welcome speech by Chairperson	Dr. Leow Chiuan Yee
0820	Opening by INFORMM Director	Prof. Dr. Rahmah Noordin
0830	Updates on the Clinical Patterns of Toxoplasmosis and Other Parasitic Diseases in a Tertiary Teaching Hospital	Prof. Dr. Zeehaida Mohamed
0900	Parasite Prevalence Among Orang Asli in East Coast Malaysia	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lim Boon Huat
0930	Overview of MSPTM & Industry-academia Collaborations	Dr. Sam Mohan Aruputham
1030	<b>Refreshment &amp; Photography Session</b>	
1100	Rapid Diagnostics for Parasitic Infections	Prof. Dr. Rahmah Noordin
1130	Meeting the Unexpected Guests: Experience in Laboratory Diagnosis of Unusual Parasitosis	Dr. R. Shamilah R. Hisam
1200	Prevalence of Gastrointestinal Parasitic Infections in Livestock Diagnosed at MVK Kuantan	Dr. Nurul Faizah Zainal
1230	Parasite Genome	Prof. Dr. Wan Kiew Lian
1300	<b>Lunch</b>	
1400	Helminths and Human Metabiome	Prof. Dr. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian
1430	Fasciola Disease, Methods for Bio-control	Prof. Dr. Imad Ibrahim Ali Al - Sultan
1500	<i>Plasmodium knowlesi</i> : Issue and Current Information in Kelantan	Dr. Ahmad Syaarani Md Yasin
1530	Serological Surveillance for Malaria Transmission Intensity	Dr. Zulkarnain Md Idris
1600	<b>Refreshment</b>	
1630	Closing remark by INFORMM Deputy Director	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aziah Ismail

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### Seminar Speakers' Biography



**Prof. Dr. Rahmah Noordin**  
*Director of INFORMM, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)*

Professor Rahmah Noordin is currently the Director of the Institute for Research in Molecular Medicine at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in Penang, Malaysia. Her main research interest is in developing new and improved diagnostic tests for parasitic diseases which forms the bulk of the neglected tropical diseases prioritized by the World Health Organization (WHO). This entails basic research to discover novel infections markers, and test development, mostly in the format of the lateral flow dipstick test. Brugia Rapid, for detection of brugian lymphatic filariasis, is one of her inventions and this kit has been recognized by WHO for use in countries endemic for *Brugia malayi* and/or *B. timori*, as part of the Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GPELF). She has published 159 research papers and four book chapters. She has graduated 17 Ph.D. and 27 M. Sc. students. She has five granted and three filed patents, and has won several international and national awards.



**Dr. Sam Mohan Aruputham**  
*Vice President of Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM)*

Dr Sam Mohan formerly the Southeast Asia Regional Director for Agilent Technologies, Life Sciences Group. He was responsible for building the company's product strategy, implementation, lifecycle management and partner integration, combined with overseeing all global brand and communications activities. He holds a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from University Pertanian Malaysia (UPM). Dr Sam began his career in the early 90's as a veterinary officer in the Veterinary Research Institute (VRI) Ipoh. He obtained his Master of Science degree while at VRI and worked with associated foreign agencies i.e. the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), where he was liaison officer to adapt local and international policies for better co-operation. After which, he joined the Biotech Industry and worked with GE Healthcare, Bio-Rad Laboratories and Agilent Technologies till 2014. Today, Dr Sam runs a Biotech trading company (Treecode) which has branches in South East Asia and two veterinary hospitals (Windsor Animal Hospital, Penang & Cyberlynx Animal Hospital, Petaling Jaya).



**Prof. Dr. Zeehaida Mohamed**  
*Head of Medical Microbiology & Parasitology, School of Medical Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)*

Professor Zeehaida Mohamed is currently the Head of Department Medical Microbiology and Parasitology, School of Medical Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in Kubang Kerian, Kelantan. She is medical doctor by profession and works as clinical microbiologist at Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia. Her main research interest is on parasitic diseases occurring among patients admitted to the hospital such as amoebiasis, toxoplasmosis and strongyloidiasis. She writes interesting case reports related to the above conditions to enhance the importance of parasitic diseases among hospitalized patients. She also involves in research related to seroprevalence of some parasites and also develops antigenic proteins for toxoplasmosis. She has published nearly 100 research papers, three book chapters and has graduated Ph.D., M. Sc. and M. Path students.



**Prof. Dr. Wan Kiew Lian**  
*Professor of Faculty of Science and Technology, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)*

Professor Dr. Wan Kiew Lian is currently a Professor at the Faculty of Science and Technology, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. He obtained his PhD from the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom in the field of Molecular Parasitology. For much of his research career, he has worked on the genomics and molecular biology of the *Eimeria* parasites. His current research is focused on studying parasite-host interaction and understanding the molecular basis of disease control.

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**Prof. Dr. Imad Ibrahim Ali Al - Sultan**

*Professor of Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK)*

Prof. Dr. Imad Ibrahim Ali Al - Sultan is a professor of pathology and histopathology at University Malaysia Kelantan since 2009. He has published more than 140 scientific articles, reviews, and case studies in local and international Journals and more than 30 articles covered scientific knowledge, socio-economic and socio-political views on the policy of education in Iraq. He also published 3 curriculum books in pathology for students of Veterinary Medicine and currently co-author of a book on basic pathology for medical and ally's students. His main research interest is on developing vaccines for infectious diseases and diagnostic pathology of parasitic diseases mainly the common tropical diseases of economic loss. He works in many consultancy committees national and international. He is Editor in Chief and member of editorial boards for many local and international scientific and socio-cultural Journals and magazines. He is also member in many Pathology and medical Association. He has supervised 10 PhD candidates, 18 MSc students and 5 higher diplomas in food and meat hygiene.



**Prof. Dr. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian**

*Deputy Dean (Research) of Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya (UM)*

Professor Dr. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian is currently the Deputy Dean (Research) of Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya. Her passion is in teaching and nurturing students. Over the years, she has supervised to completion a total of 10 PhD and 12 MSc students. Besides teaching, she is also a keen researcher. Her research focuses on neglected tropical diseases such as helminthiasis, malaria, zoonotic and emerging diseases among under-represented populations (e.g., Orang Asli communities, migrant workers). Her latest landmark publication with collaborators from New York University (NYU) Langone Medical Centre and other institutions in the prestigious journal of SCIENCE April 2016 described the discovery of the mechanisms of how low levels of helminth infection promote growth of probiotic bacteria that might in future assist treatment of inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) such as Crohn's Disease and ulcerative colitis. The extension of this project is presently funded by the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant for a period of 5 years (2018-2022). She has authored 169 original papers, written 7 book chapters, edited and written 3 books, in particular "Parasites and their vectors: A special focus on Southeast Asia" (Springer, 2013) and "Medical Parasitology: A textbook" (Springer, 2018).



**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lim Boon Huat**

*Associate Professor of School of Health Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)*

Associate Professor Dr. Lim Boon Huat is currently a lecturer in School of Health Sciences Biomedicine Programme under USM Flexible Scheme for Retired Scholar. He teaches Medical Parasitology, Basic Microbiology and Molecular Biology techniques to undergraduates; and Research Ethics to MSc (Biomedicine) Mixed Mode students. His main research interest is on understanding the challenges and prevention of parasitic diseases in endemic areas of Malaysia. He also focuses on improving diagnosis for Entamoeba histolytica infection which involves discovery of novel infections markers. He has published about 40 research papers and two book chapters. He has graduated 6 Ph.D., 4 M.Sc (Research) and 5 M.Sc (Mixed Mode) students. He has two granted patents as co-holder, and has won two international and two national-levels innovation awards.



**Dr. Nurul Faizah Zainal**

*Head of Section of Regional Veterinary Laboratory (RVL) Kuantan*

Dr. Nurul Faizah Zainal graduated with Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM, UPM) in 2011. She joined the Department of Veterinary Service of Pahang State from 2012 to 2014 before transferred to Regional Veterinary Laboratory (RVL) Kuantan, Pahang as Head of Section for Parasitology and Hematology. Her main role is to monitor all diagnostic and monitoring cases of parasitic gastroenteritis (PGE) in small ruminant, Piroplasmosis (*Babesia* spp and *Theileria* spp. Infestation) and Surra (*Trypanosoma evansi*) infestation in horses and fascioliasis cases in cattle and buffalo.

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**Dr. R. Shamilah R. Hisam**

*Biomedical Researcher of Parasitology Unit, Institute for Medical Research, Malaysia (IMR)*

Dr. R. Shamilah R. Hisam is a biomedical researcher in the field of medical parasitology. Her current interest covers issues in vector-borne diseases such as human and monkey malarias, zoonotic filariasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis and foodborne trematode and cestode diseases in Malaysia. She graduated with as MD from University of Science Malaysia (USM) in 1991 and later attained an MSc in Public Health in Developing Countries from LSHTM (UK) and a Post Graduate Diploma Holder in Applied Parasitology and Entomology (DAPE). She is blessed to have worked in the IMR since 1995 that allows her to be involved in many policy-driven research projects, as a technical advisor for national programs in public health care of malaria, filariasis and neglected tropical diseases, in quality assurance programs and as a trainer in laboratory diagnosis of parasitic diseases for MOH and international agencies. As the research arm of MOH Malaysia, the institute carries out various laboratory and field-based studies to assist the program managers in evidence-based policy decisions and future health plans. The institute is also National Reference Laboratory for Parasitic Diseases and hence which has trained many healthcare personnel from within the country and other countries.



**Dr. Ahmad Syaarani Md Yasin**

*Chief Assistant Director of Vector Borne Diseases Unit, Public Health Division, Kelantan*

Dr Ahmad Syaarani bin Yasin is currently Chief Assistant Director of Vector Control Unit Kelantan State Health Department since January 2018. He obtained his MD and MMed in Public Health from USM. Previously he worked as Jeli Medical and Health Officer for three years in which Malaria is still a problem in Jeli district.



**Dr. Zulkarnain Md Idris**

*Senior Lecturer of Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)*

Dr. Zulkarnain Md Idris is currently a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Parasitology and Medical Entomology, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He received his PhD in Medicine from Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden and has been involved in research in epidemiology and transmission of parasitic infections in general and malaria in particular. He has previously work with *Plasmodium falciparum* and *Plasmodium vivax* malaria sero-surveillance and modelling in two distinct epidemiological settings in moderate to high malaria endemic area in Kenya, Africa and pre-elimination area of Vanuatu in Oceania. He demonstrated that the potential application of serological analysis as an adjunct tool used in combination with parasite prevalence for malaria surveillance, control and elimination of malaria. His PhD work resulted in his receiving several acknowledgements including the sole recipient for the World Infection Fund Award from the Swedish Initiative for his contribution to improve means and methods in the combat against the infectious diseases in the developing countries.

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