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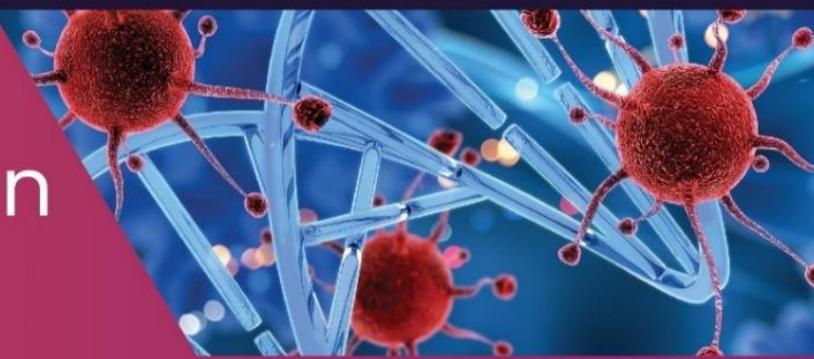
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**FACULTY OF MEDICINE
ROYAL COLLEGE OF MEDICINE PERAK**



Symposium on **Tropical Medicine and Infectious Diseases 2024**

**Fortifying Defenses against
Infectious Threats**

**11 September 2024
Hotel Casuarina@Meru, Ipoh Perak
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT UNIVERSITI KUALA LUMPUR



Assalamualaikum W.B.H and Warm Greetings.

On behalf of Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL), I would like to welcome you to the Symposium on Tropical Medicine and Infectious Diseases (STMID) 2024. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the organizer, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Kuala Lumpur Royal College of Medicine Perak (UniKL RCMP) for organizing this symposium at the right time to strategize and act against the looming infectious threats. The theme, “Fortifying Defenses against Infectious Threats,” is both timely and appropriate during these challenging times.

In recent years, we have witnessed a concerning increase in infectious disease outbreaks globally. A combination of host factors, pathogen dynamics, environmental changes and human behaviors suggests that the next pandemic may already be looming. Experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) have underscored the importance of preparing for a potential 'Disease X,' a term describing an unknown pathogen with pandemic potential. Infectious diseases originating in one country or region can have far-reaching effects on the health and well-being of people worldwide.

Despite advancements in infectious disease control, pathogens are constantly evolving, often outpacing our existing treatments. This ongoing challenge has highlighted the interconnected nature of human, animal and environmental health. To effectively address these threats, we must adopt integrated approaches that improve health across all domains. This necessitates collaboration across various disciplines and the implementation of transdisciplinary strategies to tackle the complex health, social and environmental impacts of tropical and infectious diseases.

While new infectious diseases continue to emerge, it is crucial that we do not overlook persistent threats like malaria, hepatitis, Japanese encephalitis, dengue and zika which remain significant causes of mortality and morbidity. These diseases pose ongoing public health challenges, especially as increased global mobility accelerates the spread of pathogens and vectors to new areas. Given the immense challenges we face in combating emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, the initiative by the Faculty of Medicine, UniKL RCMP to organize this symposium is both critical and timely. We must remain vigilant, plan strategically, and stay ahead of evolving microbial threats to effectively respond to any future outbreaks.

The exchange of knowledge and sharing of expertise by our esteemed speakers will provide valuable insights to all participants. This symposium presents an opportunity for us to learn from the experiences of leading experts in their respective fields.

To all participants, I hope this symposium will be fruitful for the betterment of humankind.

PROF. IR. DR. AZMAN BIN SENIN
President/Chief Executive Officer
Universiti Kuala Lumpur

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF CAMPUS UNIVERSITI KUALA LUMPUR ROYAL COLLEGE OF MEDICINE PERAK (UniKL RCMP)



Dear Esteemed Guests, Speakers, and Participants,

Welcome to Ipoh, a city renowned for its rich history and vibrant culture, and to Universiti Kuala Lumpur Royal College of Medicine Perak. It is with great honour and delight that I welcome you to the **Symposium on Tropical Medicine and Infectious Diseases (STMID) 2024**, held at the Hotel Casuarina @ Meru, Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia. I would like to extend a special welcome and appreciation to our distinguished guests for graciously consenting to inaugurate this symposium. On behalf of Universiti Kuala Lumpur Royal College of Medicine Perak, we are truly pleased to be your host.

This year, we are hosting the well-established and highly regarded event as a one-day symposium, focused on the theme "*Fortifying Defenses against Infectious Threats*," which is both vital and urgent. Infectious diseases remain a major cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide, making it crucial to prioritize research for developing more effective methods of identification, prevention, treatment and control. As the landscape of infectious diseases constantly shifts in our interconnected world, we face many unprecedented challenges. The rise of emerging and re-emerging pathogens, intensified by climate change and the escalating threat of antimicrobial resistance, demands bold and innovative strategies. This symposium offers a valuable platform for exchanging ideas and fostering collaborative strategies to strengthen our defenses and protect global health.

With an impressive lineup of renowned expert speakers, I am certain that this symposium will offer an excellent opportunity for delegates to deepen their knowledge, discover new opportunities, reconnect with colleagues, and forge new connections.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all the speakers, organizing committee members, delegates, and sponsors. I trust that everyone will have an engaging and fruitful session at this symposium.

Thank you.

TUAN HAJI HISSHAMUDDIN OMAR

Head of Campus

Universiti Kuala Lumpur Royal College of Medicine Perak

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF FACULTY OF MEDICINE UNIVERSITI KUALA LUMPUR ROYAL COLLEGE OF MEDICINE PERAK (UniKL RCMP)



Dear Distinguished Guests, Esteemed Speakers and Participants,

It is with great pleasure that I extend a warm welcome to all participants of the Symposium on Tropical Medicine and Infectious Diseases (STMID) 2024. On behalf of the organising committee of STMID 2024, I am honoured to invite esteemed speakers, guests and delegates to join us at Hotel Casuarina @ Meru, Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia. This symposium promises to be an exceptional platform for the exchange of pioneering scientific findings, innovative ideas and invaluable networking opportunities.

We anticipate this symposium to be a prestigious gathering, attracting leading scientists, academics, researchers, industry professionals and students. In a world where infectious diseases continue to pose significant challenges, this symposium, under the theme 'Fortifying Defenses against Infectious Threats,' is designed to equip healthcare professionals with the most up-to-date knowledge in the field of tropical medicine. Our programme is thoughtfully curated to feature the insights of distinguished Malaysian experts and to foster meaningful dialogue and collaboration among all participants.

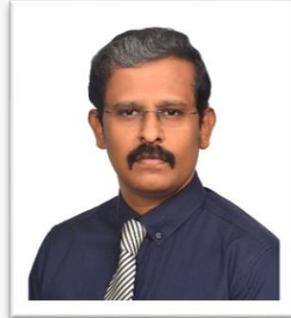
I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the Chairman and all committee members for their relentless effort, dedication and hard work in making this symposium a reality.

Building on the success of our previous events, we are confident that STMID 2024 will meet and exceed our expectations. We look forward to your active support and participation.

Thank you.

PROF. DR. SYED RAHIM SYED HAMID
Dean, Faculty of Medicine
Universiti Kuala Lumpur Royal College of Medicine Perak

MESSAGE FROM THE ORGANISING CHAIRMAN UNIVERSITI KUALA LUMPUR ROYAL COLLEGE OF MEDICINE PERAK (UniKL RCMP)



On behalf of the organizing committee, I extend a warm welcome to all our distinguished guests, delegates, and speakers to the Symposium on Tropical Medicine and Infectious Diseases 2024 in Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia.

This year's theme, "Fortifying Defenses against Infectious Threats," is especially relevant considering emerging challenges, such as mpox. We have curated a diverse program to engage and inspire all attendees, featuring a range of topics presented by esteemed speakers who will share their extensive knowledge and experience in tropical medicine and infectious diseases. Additionally, we have organized oral and poster presentations, with awards for the top three in each category.

We are deeply grateful to the Chief Executive Officer/Head of Campus, and our advisor, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Universiti Kuala Lumpur Royal College of Medicine Perak, for their unwavering support and encouragement in organizing this symposium. Our sincere gratitude also goes to our sponsors for their generous support. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the organizing committee for their dedication and teamwork in making this event a success.

In conclusion, I trust that all participants will depart from this symposium with profound knowledge and meaningful experiences that will contribute to their future professional pursuits.

Thank you.

DR VIGNESH RAMACHANDRAN

Organising Chairman – STMID 2024

Faculty of Medicine

Universiti Kuala Lumpur Royal College of Medicine Perak



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ORGANISING COMMITTEE

SYMPOSIUM ON TROPICAL MEDICINE AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

“Fortifying Defenses against Infectious Threats”

Advisor: Prof. Dr. Syed Rahim Syed Hamid

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En. Mohd Rizal Mohd Zainal

En. Suriadi Muhammad Sujari

En Muhammad Amir Saifuddin Mohd Zuhri

En. Shamsul Azhar Abdullah

Cik. Nurbatdrieyna Busyera bt Mohamad Sukri

Cik. Amiera Athira Razali

PROGRAMME

Symposium on Tropical Medicine and Infectious Diseases (STMID 2024) 11 September 2024, Ipoh	
08.00 - 08.30	Registration
SESSION 1 Chair: A/P Dr. Davinder Singha Bagh	
08.30 - 09.00	Antimicrobial Drug Resistance (AMR) – Are We Prepared? Dato` Dr Ker Hong Bee, Hospital Raja Permaisuri Bainun, Ipoh.
09.00 - 09.30	Tuberculosis – Prehistoric to Present Dr Irfhan Ali Hyder Ali, Hospital Pulau Pinang
09.30 - 10.00	Officiating Ceremony
10.00 - 10.30	Tea break
SESSION 2 Chair: A/P. Dr. Giryappanavar CR	
10.30 - 11.00	COVID-19 – Persisting Challenges Dr Thilaka a/p Chinnayah@Nadarajah, Division of Disease Control, MOH.
11.00 - 11.30	Preparedness for Disease X – Navigating the Unknown Dr Yasmin binti Mohamed Gani, Consultant Infectious Disease, Hospital Sungai Buloh.
SESSION 3 Chair: Dr. Hussain R.A. Saadi	
11.30 - 12.00	Artificial Intelligence – Harnessing AI in war against Infectious Diseases Dr Mahesh Appannan, Digital Health Division, MOH.
12.00 - 12.30	Behavioural Modification Effectiveness in the Control of Mosquito-borne Diseases. Prof Dr Osman Ali, UniKL RCMP.
12.30 - 01.00	Poster Viewing / Oral Presentation
01.00 - 02.00	Lunch
SESSION 4 Chair: Dr Syed Ibrahim Jamallulail	
02.00 - 02.30	Dengue – Updates and Prevention Strategies Dr Yong Yean Kong, Xiamen University
02.30 - 03.00	Malaria – Confronting the Bite Dr Tam Jenn Zheung, Disease Control Division, MOH
03.00 - 03.30	Zoonotic Diseases – Across Species Borders: DVS Role to Prevent and Control Zoonotic Diseases Dr Pravina Vathi a/p. Ramachanderan, Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar Negeri Perak Darul Ridzuan.
03.30 - 04.30	Poster Viewing / Oral Presentation
04.30 pm	<i>Prize Distribution, Tea and Closure</i>

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Session 1

Time: 1230 – 1300

Chairman: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sabaridah Ismail & Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yip Hung Loong @ Elvind Yip	
NO.	TITLE
OP-102	Survival Analysis of Adult Pulmonary Tuberculosis Patients in Selangor, Malaysia Between the Years 2013-2019 <i>M. H. Suhairi*, M. Mohamad, M. R. Isa, S. Abdul Halim</i>
OP-103	Adulticidal Efficacy of Alpha-Cypermethrin Against <i>Aedes albopictus</i> in Malaysia <i>O. Wan-Norafikah*, A. Farah-Farhani, Z. Atiqah-Izzah, S. Aliah-Fatihah, N.I. Nureen-Afrina, C.D. Chen, M.S. Nurul-Azira</i>
OP-104	Cerebral Toxoplasmosis Presenting as a Solitary Space Occupying Lesion <i>Jamallulail SI* and Cheng JT</i>

Session 2

Time: 1530 – 1630

Chairman: Associate Professor Dato' Dr. Aris Chandran & Prof Dato' Dr. Wahinuddin Sulaiman	
NO.	TITLE
OP-105	Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare: Knowledge and Perceptions Among Healthcare Professionals in a Private Hospital in Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia <i>N.A.I.C. Mut*, O. Ali, N.M. Zain</i>
OP-106	Short-Term Side Effect Patterns of COVID-19 Vaccines: Type and Dosage Matters <i>Prabhu. R*, Prabhu. G, Das. S, Thundakattil. AV, Htay. M NN, Moe. S</i>
OP-107	Diversity and Defenses: Exploring the Covid 19 Vaccine Efficacy Among Different Ethnic Groups of Malaysia <i>Thundakattil A V*, Prabhu R, Prabhu G, Mani M, De S, Lwin H, Nelli G, Das S</i>
OP-108	Emerging Challenges in Malaria Knowlesi Outbreak Control in Muallim District, Perak, Malaysia <i>Nur Hidayah PA*, Salawati MR, WanMuhammad ASWS, Zuraidah A, Raja Mohd Azim RH</i>
OP-109	Knowledge, Attitude and Barriers Towards the Implementation of Telepharmacy by Community Pharmacists in Subang Jaya, Selangor <i>Nurul Nadiyah Binti Nahar Azmi, Santhanathan S. Rajendram*</i>

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

NO.	TITLE
PP-201	Comparison of the Performance of a Commercial Real-Time RT-PCR Kit with an In-House PCR Assay for Dengue Detection <i>Zainudin. NAZ*, Suppiah. J, Zulkifli. MMS, Adiee. AH, Dukut Soeharto. ME, Baharum. N, Mohd Zain. R</i>
PP-202	The Unusual Suspect: Sporotrichoid Spread Due to Non-Tuberculous Mycobacterial Infection – Lesson from a Five-Year Case <i>AR. Che Abdul Rahim, UA. Faisal</i>
PP-203	Environmental Molecular Detection of <i>Burkholderia pseudomalei</i> as a Cause of Melioidosis in Kedah, Peninsular Malaysia <i>H Anis, K Khairul, S Nahoor, N Zulkiflee, M Aizam, N Najib, I Masitah, V Gopalakrishnan, *AKR Hassan</i>
PP-204	Understanding Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (Hfmd) in Kinta District, Perak: Environmental Factors <i>Muhamad Nur Na'im*, Mohd Shukri, Fatimah Mat Kasim, Bah Binri</i>
PP-205	Assessing the Relationship Between Dietary Habits and the Occurrence of Dental Caries Among UniKL RCMP Medical Students <i>Chan Sook Ching*, Muhammad Aiman Fahmi bin Abdul Mutalib, Nayli Afza binti Sharizal, Ventiny A/P Mohan</i>
PP-206	Survival Analysis of Adult Pulmonary Tuberculosis Patients in Selangor, Malaysia Between the Years 2013-2019 <i>M. H. Suhairi*, M. Mohamad, M. R. Isa, S. Abdul Halim</i>
PP-207	Susceptibility Patterns, Resistance Genes, Risk Factors and Outcomes of Multidrug-Resistant <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> (MDR-PA) in North-Eastern Peninsular Malaysia: A Multicenter Study <i>Md Salim, S.N.*, Mohamad, N.I., Rashid, R., Sayed Hitam, S.A., Deris, Z. Z.</i>
PP-208	Prevalence of Abnormal Hearing Status and Its Association with Personal Factors Among Workers Exposed to Noise at a Textile Factory <i>Johari Mohamed, Hanizah Mohd Yusoff, Mohd Khairul Nizam Md Arshad</i>
PP-209	Association of ACE2 and TMPRSS2 Genetic Variants with COVID-19 Severity in the Malaysian Population <i>Mohd Zawawi, Z. *, Abu Bakar, N. A., Mohd Zain, R., Mohamed Gani, Y., Wan Juhari, W. K., Kalyanasundram, J., Thayan, R., Harun, A., Alwi, Z.</i>
PP-210	An Unexpected Consequences of Severe Rhabdomyolysis Induced by <i>Plasmodium vivax</i>: Acute Respiratory Failure with Preserved Renal Function <i>AA. Che Ani*, W. Chiang, NN. Abdul Halim, CK. Wong</i>
PP-211	Genetic Characterization of Hemagglutinin Gene of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Malaysia <i>Leow, B.L. *, Shohaimi, S.A., Mohd Yusop, F.F., Sidik, M.R., Mohd Saeid, F.H.</i>
PP-212	Complete Genome Sequences of Korean/ Y439-Like Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza Virus H9N2 Isolated from Chickens in Malaysia <i>Shohaimi, S.A. *, Leow, B.L., Azami, M.M., Mohd Yusop, F.F., Sidik, M.R., Barker, Z, Mohd Saeid, F.H.</i>
PP-213	Preventive Measure Practise of Sexually Transmitted Disease Among Gay, Bisexual and Queer (GBQ) Men in Lembah Klang <i>M. A. Ramlj, N. A. Abdullah</i>

NO.	TITLE
PP-214	A Unique Case of 4 Gastrointestinal Opportunistic Infection in AIDS Patient <i>Ibrahim A., Abdul Hafidz MI, Abu Bakar NA., Mohd Noh R.</i>
PP-215	Unlocking the Antibacterial Potential of Zirconium Oxide Nanoparticles Biosynthesized from <i>Aspergillus niger</i> Against Gram Negative Bacteria <i>Abdul Rahman Nursyarah Izzati, Ibrahim Nur Aina Athirah, Azizul Syahril Alani Fatini, Majeed Shahnaz, Muthukumarasamy Ravindran*</i>
PP-216 (Eposter)	Anthocyanin-Based Gel from <i>Clitoria ternatea</i>: Antimicrobial Efficacy Against <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> and Zebrafish Toxicity Assessment <i>S. Sivasankara Narayani¹, S. Mahesh Kannan, P. Lokesh, K. Kulasekarapandian, J. Ravindran</i>
PP-217	<i>Chromobacterium violaceum</i>, A Rare Life-Threatening Soil Pathogen <i>Vickneswary, A., Mahfuzah, M., Nor, A.F., Zahrul, L.A.</i>
PP-218	An Unusual Complication of Tuberculous Meningitis Causing Cerebral Venous Sinus Thrombosis <i>Vickneswary, A., Mahfuzah, M., Nor, A.F., Zahrul, L.A.</i>
PP-219	Outbreak at an Outdoor Camp: Unveiling the <i>Salmonella paratyphi B</i> Cluster in Batu Kurau, Perak <i>Logapragash K*, Norayuni I, Noor Rizawati M</i>
PP-220	COVID-19: Infection Control Measures Among Radiographers in Malaysia <i>Norhayati Mohd Zain* & Nur Anis Izzati Che Mut</i>
PP-221	Molecular Characterisation Trends of Carbapenemase-Producing Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CP-CRE) in Malaysia from 2021 to 2023 <i>Aisya Nazura A*, Nadia Syahirah S, Kerlina S, Nurseidah Z, Rohaidah H</i>
PP-222	Utilization of <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> Spores as Mucosal Vaccine Delivery System for Antigenic Outer Membrane Proteins (Omps) of <i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i> <i>Mat-Rahim NA*, Lee HY and AbuBakar S</i>
PP-223	Infective Endocarditis Caused by <i>Abiotrophia defectiva</i>: A Case Report from Malaysia <i>N. Amanina. F.Z., Mahfuzah. M., S. Fairuz, Zahrul. L.A.</i>
PP-224	Phylogenetic Analysis of Lumpy Skin Disease Virus (LSDV) from Outbreak Cases in Perak <i>Roslina, H.* , Khoo, C.K, Pauzi, N.A.S, Roshaslinda, D., Siti Suraya Hani, M.S., Mohd Hasrul, A.H., Zakiah, M.D., Nurul Aina, J., Mohammad Azam, A.R and Faizah Hanim M.S.</i>
PP-225	The Impact of Community Mobilization on Dengue Control in Muallim District, Perak, Malaysia: January Until June 2024 <i>Salawati MR, Nur Hidayah PA, Zuraidah A, Raja Mohd Azim RH, Mohamad Faiz MA</i>
PP-226	Preliminary Study of Multidrug-Resistant <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> and Its Monophasic Variant <i>Salmonella</i> I 4,12: I- Isolated from Animals in Malaysia <i>Khoo E.* , Nafizah M., Siti Nor Hanani R., Dhia Mardhia E. and Roseliza R.</i>
PP-227	Evaluation of Rabies Strain CVS-11 Antigen for Rabies Fluorescent Antibody Test <i>A.H. Norazura*, A.H. Nurshuhada, R. Muhamad Asyraf, R. Nur Anis Adilah, A.Y. Ahmad Fikri, Z. Zamila, W.O.B. Wan Normaziah and M. S. Faizah Hanim.</i>

NO.	TITLE
PP-228 (Eposter)	A Study of Drug Compliance, HIV Co Infection and Rifampicin Resistance in Tuberculosis Patients in a Tertiary Hospital <i>Raj Arul Mercy and T. Sundararajan</i>
PP-229 (Eposter)	Seroprevalence of Dengue Infection in Tertiary Care Hospital in Salem District <i>Maharaja Pandian, Sundararajan Thangavel, Selvarani P, Raj Arul Mercy S, Ismath Jahan</i>
PP-230 (Eposter)	Molecular Detection of <i>Mycobacterium leprae</i> from Skin Biopsies of Clinically Suspected Leprosy Patients - A Prospective Cohort Study <i>Lavanya Mallika, Sundararajan Thangavel, Balaji Govindan, Pushpendra Singh, Sakthivel K</i>
PP-231	Histopathology of Unspecified <i>Leptospira sp.</i> (Field Isolates) Isolated from Diagnostic Samples in the Guinea Pig <i>Dhia Mardhia E*, Roseliza R., Khoo E., Mohd Syakir A.H., Niny Fariza J., Zarrahimah Z, Siti Norhanani R., Nafizah M, Norazura A.H., Nursyuhada A.H., Noor Akmi M.N, Nor Ashikin M.S.</i>
PP-232	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> Infective Endocarditis and Biofilm Challenges: Confronting the Barriers <i>Mahfuzah.M.*, N.Amanina.F., Vicky.A, S. Fairuz, Zahrul, L.A.</i>
PP-233	Investigation of Non Typhoidal Salmonella (Multi Drug Resistance Organism) Outbreak in a Malaysia Tertiary Hospital <i>HR. Ammar*, SA. Mahani, TA. Catherine, SG. Rasidah</i>
PP-234	Antimicrobial Activities of Psychrotrophic and Psychrophillic Fungi Isolated from Arctic Soil <i>T.A. Nur Aliaa Sorfina, S. Zahyadyi Irdina, S. Siti Hajar, J. Ravindran</i>
PP-235	Effects of Aerobic Exercise on Physical Activity and Cardiovascular Fitness Among Students in UniKL RCMP <i>Vengata Subramani Manoharan*, Nur Erni Suhaili Binti Nasran, Jigy Ambika Mohan</i>
PP-236 (Eposter)	Acute Gastroenteritis and Accompanied Bacteremia Caused by Extended-Spectrum Beta-Lactamase Producing <i>Salmonella enterica</i> Serovar Kentucky Sequence Type 198: A Case Report from India <i>V. Mullai*, C.S. Sripriya, M. Sharmal Kumar, R. Saravanan</i>
PP-237 (Eposter)	Study on the Hepatitis B Virus Vaccine Response Among HIV-1 Infected Individuals in Salem <i>D.Thirunavukkarasu, S.Rajesh, S.Deepa, L.Arunachalam, A.V.Kanchana, T.Umaarasu</i>
PP-238	Cluster of Acute Febrile Illnesses from a Neglected Tropical Infection in Pekan, Pahang: Epidemiological Report and Its Challenges <i>Nuridayu A., Fahmi M.I., Narish K.D., Hamidah S.A.A.*</i>
PP-239 (Eposter)	Evaluating the Invitro Antibiofilm Activity of <i>Aerva lanata</i> Against Gram-Positive and Gram-Negative Bacteria <i>B.Preeja*, D.Bindu</i>
PP-240	Sensitivity and Specificity of In-House Rose Bengal Plate Test for the Detection of Brucellosis Antibody in Cattle, Sheep, and Goats <i>Ahmad Shuhaimy N.F. *, Ridzuan N., Abdul Rahim S., Rosli R. N., Ho H.W.</i>

NO.	TITLE
PP-241	The Change in Perceptions, Attitudes and Practices Towards Preventive Measures of Covid-19, Is It Behind the Recent Increase in the Number of Cases Among University Students in Malaysia? <i>Hussain R.A.Saadi* , Davinder Singh, Nur Kamaliah binti Ubaidillah, Ainul Fatimah binti Mohd Saidi and Muhammad Izzuddin bin Sudin</i>
PP-242	Dengue Virus Detection in Cerebrospinal Fluid Among Patients Presented with Central Nervous System Infection <i>Suppiah J*, Zainudin NAZ, Zulkifli MMS, Adiee AH, Soeharto MA, Ramli N, & Rozainanee MZ</i>
PP-243	Capturing the Misidentified <i>Streptococcus pseudopneumoniae</i>: A Retrospective Analysis of the Non-Typeable <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> <i>Revathy Arushothy*, Fakrul Niza Jamaludin, Nalini Ragandran, Murnihayati Hassan, Rohaidah Hashim</i>
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SPEAKERS ABSTRACTS

Antimicrobial Drug Resistance (AMR) – Are We Prepared?

Dato` Dr Ker Hong Bee

Hospital Raja Permaisuri Bainun, Ipoh.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the most critical global health challenges of our time, threatening to undermine decades of medical progress. Microorganisms develop resistance when bacteria/viruses/fungi/parasites no longer respond to the antimicrobial therapy. AMR is accelerated by misuse/ overuse of antimicrobials and poor infection and prevention measures. Our preparedness to combat AMR, causes, impacts, and current global responses will be highlighted. Only through sustained global action, public awareness, and robust policies can we hope to mitigate the devastating consequences of AMR and secure a future where effective treatments remain available.

Tuberculosis – Prehistoric to Present

Dr. Irfhan Ali Bin Hyder Ali

Hospital Pulau Pinang.

Tuberculosis continues to plague humankind from the ancient times up to today. The disease, caused by *mycobacterium tuberculosis* is spreading at an alarming rate and more worryingly, the rates of drug resistant TB (DRTB) is also on the rise. The Covid-19 pandemic further worsened the TB control globally.

Malaysia has not be spared from the spread of the disease as it continues to burden our health system, causing both mortality and morbidity to our patients. Despite the increasing cases, there has been great advancements in TB diagnosis and treatment. These updates are emphasized in the Management of Tuberculosis CPG launched in 2022. New developments in TB management including latent TB infection management, newer drugs for DRTB and other aspects will be covered during this talk. It is hoped that with adequate knowledge and by working together at all levels of health care , we can stem the rise in tuberculosis in Malaysia.

COVID-19 – Persisting Challenges

Dr Thilaka a/p Chinnayah@Nadarajah
Division of Disease Control, MOH.

The world is continuing to experience the COVID-19 pandemic, which has resulted in more than 776 million reported cases and more than 7 million deaths as of 21 July 2024. However, we have often heard a lot of people refer to the pandemic in the past tense. “During COVID,” they say, or, “when we were in the pandemic... been repeatedly heard. Whatever it is, the challenges that came with it is still lingering and still poses a risk but we are no longer in the crisis state that we were in 2020. What are the persisting challenges from this COVID-19 pandemic? The five top challenges could be, 1. Balancing the live and livelihood since the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a global health crisis with severe economic and social consequences. 2. The COVID-19 pandemic, threatened to reverse the progress that’s been made in the elimination of many chronic diseases. For example, the guardian reported, “Twelve months of COVID-19 has reversed 12 years of global progress against tuberculosis”. 3. COVID-19 associated illness, long-term effects from the virus like long COVID which includes pulmonary, cardiovascular and neurological complications, as well as rehabilitation and psychological concerns. 4. Public fear and lack of trust still remain a challenge for health care system in managing future outbreak. And the 5th challenge is restructuring health care system to be more resilient and future pandemic proof.

Preparedness for Disease X – Navigating the Unknown

Dr Yasmin binti Mohamed Gani
Infection Control Unit, MOH.

Artificial Intelligence – Harnessing AI in war against Infectious Diseases

Dr Mahesh Appannan
Digital Health Division, MOH.

Behavioural Modification Effectiveness in the Control of Mosquito-borne Diseases

Prof Dr. Osman Ali

Royal College of Medicine Perak, Universiti Kuala Lumpur.

Mosquito-borne diseases, like malaria, dengue fever, and Zika virus, are still a major public health concern globally, affecting millions of people each year. The primary way to control these diseases has been through vector control interventions, such as insecticide-treated bed nets and indoor residual spraying. Emerging evidence indicates that adding behavioural modification strategies to traditional interventions can significantly improve disease control efforts.

Behavioural modification interventions involve a variety of things, including communication campaigns, health education, community engagement, and socio-cultural outlook. These methods are crucial in motivating individuals and communities to adopt preventive practices and adhere to recommended behaviours that minimize mosquito-human contact and breeding site availability. However, the effectiveness of it in combating mosquito-borne diseases has been inconsistently found by various studies worldwide.

Health communication campaigns in the present day use a variety of channels, including mass media, social media, and community outreach. The aim is to raise awareness, distribute information, and educate communities about mosquito-borne diseases. These campaigns have been proven to be effective in enhancing knowledge, attitudes, and preventive practices, resulting in a reduction in disease transmission rates.

Health education and community engagement initiatives, in conjunction with communication strategies, allow individuals and communities to take responsibility for their health. By supplying resources, knowledge, and skills, these interventions encourage sustained behaviour change and foster a sense of responsibility for disease prevention.

In behavioural modification efforts, it is crucial to address the socio-cultural factors that influence disease transmission. The behaviour of individuals and communities is greatly influenced by cultural practices, gender disparities, and beliefs. By acknowledging these influences, culturally sensitive and appropriate interventions can be tailored to resonate with the target population and improve their effectiveness.

There is a dire need for collaborative efforts among researchers, public health practitioners, policymakers, and communities to develop evidence-based behaviour modification strategies that have lasting impacts on disease control and prevention. Integrating behavioural interventions with traditional vector control strategies can lead to greater success in reducing the burden of these diseases.

Dengue – Updates and Prevention Strategies

Dr Yong Yean Kong
Xiamen University.

Dengue disease has become a significant and growing global public health concern, particularly in tropical and subtropical regions of the world. The disease is estimated to cause around 56 million cases and up to 40,000 deaths annually. The primary vectors responsible for dengue transmission are *Aedes* mosquitoes, which thrive in urban centers, leading to widespread transmission. This situation has been further exacerbated by the impacts of climate change, which have contributed to increased mosquito survival, reproduction, and biting rates, ultimately resulting in longer dengue transmission seasons.

The severity of dengue disease is influenced by interacting factors such as the specific dengue virus strain, the age of the patient, the immune status of the host, as well as host genetic variability. A phenomenon known as antibody-dependent enhancement best explains the correlation between the vascular permeability syndrome and second heterotypic dengue virus infections, as well as infections in the presence of passively acquired antibodies. Growing evidence from *in vivo* and *in vitro* studies indicates that the dengue viral non-structural protein 1 (NS1), plays a key role in the pathogenesis of severe dengue disease, triggering endothelial dysfunction, platelet abnormalities, and vascular leakage.

With no effective vaccine or antiviral treatment currently available, the primary focus for addressing the dengue burden has been on implementing preventive strategies. These strategies aim to combat the disease-carrying mosquitoes and reduce human-mosquito interactions. This topic provides a comprehensive summary of the latest developments in dengue research, including updates on epidemiology, pathogenesis, vaccine development, progress in antiviral medication development, novel therapeutic approaches, and advancements in vector control methods.

Malaria – Confronting the Bite

Dr Tam Jenn Zheung
Disease Control Division, MOH.

Zoonotic Disease across Species Borders: DVS Role to Prevent and Control Zoonotic Diseases

Dr. R. Pravina Vathi Ramachanderen
Department of Veterinary Services Perak, Malaysia.

Zoonotic diseases are diseases which are transmissible from animals to humans. It is estimated that zoonotic diseases account for about 60% of new diseases that are reported worldwide. Over 30 new human diseases have been identified in the previous three decades, and 75% of these are animal-origin pathogens. The increasing volume of international trade, close proximity to animals, transboundary livestock movement within neighbouring countries, massive development and disappearance of forest and wild animal habitats are major contributing factors to the rising threat of zoonotic diseases in Malaysia. Zoonotic infections also pose economic consequences due to loss of animal trade through morbidity and mortality of infected animals and also due to the impact on human health and livelihood. A large number of smallholder ruminant and livestock farms pose as one of the important risk factors for zoonoses in Malaysia. Zoonotic diseases of concern in Malaysia include Rabies, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Brucellosis, Leptospirosis, Nipah and Q-fever. The Department of Veterinary Services, Malaysia conducts active surveillance for these diseases annually to reduce prevalence of the disease and also to maintain freedom from the disease. Further to that, animal health surveillance is also conducted along the livestock and livestock production chains which includes the entry point, farms, slaughterhouse and processing plants for detection of zoonotic pathogens to ensure the safety of human health and sustain food safety. As human health, animal health and environment are closely connected, the One-Health concept or collaboration across all sectors is crucial to address the existing and emerging zoonotic diseases.

Keywords: zoonotic, animal, human, one-health

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