



EDITORIAL MESSAGE

It's halfway through 2019
How have you all been?
Chasing KPI like there's no end
Struggling with family in-between

Lectures, PBLs and tutorials
Hours spent preparing exam questions
Equipped yourself with red pens
To draw big fat zero on blank answer scripts

How many grants secured?
How many rats sacrificed?
How many students graduated?
How many articles published?

Submission after submission
Rejection after rejection
We just have to move on
To infinity and beyond!

- Prof. Dr. Norazliha Mohamed -

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **33rd MSPP Scientific Meeting**
 - Theme: Towards Innovative and Sustainable Research in Drug Discovery
 - Date: 15-16 July 2019
 - Venue: Everly Hotel, Putrajaya
- **Refresher course***
 - Topic: Neuroscience
 - Date: November 2019
 - Venue: University Malaya
- **Seminar Series 2019***
 - Topic: Active Learning
 - Venue: Monash University Malaysia, Bandar Sunway

* More details will be available soon

LATEST LIFE MEMBERS OF MSPP

- WAN SALMAN WAN SAUDI (UMS)
- MOHAMMED SHAMSUR RAHMAN (UMS)
- AZIZAH UGUSMAN (UKM)



Bidding for the 2027 Congress of the Asian and Oceanian Physiological Societies (FAOPS 2027)

As a member society of the Asian and Oceanian Physiological Societies (FAOPS), the Malaysian Society of Pharmacology and Physiology (MSPP) with the support of MyCEB undertook to bid for FAOPS 2027 at the FAOPS 2019 Congress which was held in Kobe, Japan on the 28-31 March 2019. The bidding committee comprised the following members of MSPP:

- Professor Dr Nor Ashikin Mohamed Noor Khan (head)
- Associate Professor Dr Rusliza Basir
- Professor Dr Harbindar Jeet Singh
- Prof Dr Lam Sau Kuen

The last FAOPS meeting organized by MSPP was in Kuala Lumpur on 22-23 September 2002. The Society felt that it would be timely to host another congress after 25 years. The strength of MSPP lies in solid ground support from members comprising representatives from most major public and private universities, as well as MyCEB and the Ministries of Education and Health.

In preparation for the bidding, MSPP committee members met with representatives from MyCEB. The proposed venue for FAOPS 2027 was the Sabah International Convention Centre (SICC) in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. Materials for bidding presentation were provided by the MSPP committee, MyCEB, Sabah State Tourism and SICC. Sabah State Tourism provided doorgifts in the form of Sabah tea and traditional Sabah beaded necklaces.

Presentation for the bidding was carried out at two stages. The presenter was Professor Dr Nor Ashikin Mohamed Noor Khan, a member of the MSPP executive committee. The bids were first presented to the FAOPS Council members on the 28th March 2019.



The council decided that all 3 bidding proposals from Taiwan, Korea and Malaysia were suitable to be presented at the FAOPS General Assembly. The second round and voting was carried out on 29th March 2019 at the FAOPS General Assembly.

Korea won the bid with a total of 23 votes. Malaysia came in second with a total of 14 votes. Taiwan obtained 4 votes. Better luck next time!

ANNUAL MSPP YOUNG TEACHER'S AWARD 2019

This year's Young Teacher's Award was successfully held on 2nd July 2019 under the team led by Dr Izuddin Fahmy Abu. The topic for Physiology was The Gate Control Theory of Pain while for Pharmacology the topic was Opioids in Pain Management.

Below are the list of contestants who participated this year:

Physiology

- Dr Roslina Abdul Rahim (IIUM)
- Dr Ebrahim NKC (QUEST)
- Dr Jayakumar Murthy (UKM)
- Dr Nurul Hayati Mohamad Zainal (UPM)

Pharmacology

- Dr Vetriselvan Subramaniyan (MAHSA)
- Dr Mohmad Farooq Shaikh (Monash)
- Ms. Nabilah Hanim Mohd Sabri (UniKL)

The winners are Dr Jayakumar Murthy (UKM) and Dr Mohmad Farooq Shaikh (Monash). Prizes will be presented during the 33rd MSPP Scientific meeting.

Congratulations to all winners!



MSPP Seminar Series 2019

Free seminar series are being scheduled for MSPP members. We started off with a seminar on Writing a Winning Research Grant Proposal, given by Professor Dr Harbindar Jeet Singh Gurcharan Singh from UiTM. The seminar was held on 2nd July 2019 at Faculty of Health Sciences, UKM.

Several lecturers and postgraduate students came to listen to the talk.



Members' Achievements

CONGRATULATIONS!!

To Professor Dr Gan Siew Hua from Monash University Malaysia for winning the National Outstanding Educator Award (Researcher Award - Pharmacogenetics)



Quote of the issue



There are two possible outcomes: if the result confirms the hypothesis, then you've made a measurement. If the result is contrary to the hypothesis, then you've made a discovery.

- Enrico Fermi -

Member's Corner



**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vetriselvan
Subramaniyan**
MAHSA University

Scope of pharmacology

It provides scientific knowledge of drugs. Before the establishment of this discipline, the scientist was reluctant to apply scientific principles to heal disease. Modern scientific understanding of drugs enables us to predict the pharmacological effect of medicinal compounds. The scope of pharmacology has expanded greatly over the last decade to incorporate many new approaches such as computer assisted drug design, genetic screens, protein engineering and development of drug delivery system. Due to the demand of drug therapy, our society needs more pharmacologists who understand the basic knowledge of modern therapy.

World's Pharmacology / Physiology News

Physiology News: Women work best at higher temperature



Researchers from United States and Germany found that women performed better on math and verbal tasks at higher temperatures, while the opposite was true for men, although the relationship between temperature and men's performance was less pronounced.

"It's been documented that women like warmer indoor temperatures than men — but the idea until now has been that it's a matter of personal preference," said co-author Dr. Tom Chang, a researcher in University of Southern California Marshall School of Business.

"Given the relative effect sizes, our results suggest that in gender-balanced workplaces, temperatures should be set significantly higher than current standards."

Excerpt from an article published in Sci-News, 29 May 2019: Working in Warmer Temperatures Improves Women's Cognitive Performance and Productivity.

<http://www.sci-news.com/othersciences/physiology/warmer-temperatures-womens-cognitive-performance-productivity-07230.html>

Pharmacology News: A drug to overcome cancer resistance

Scientists have discovered a small molecule drug that may stop cancer cells from becoming resistant to chemotherapy.



Scientists have identified a key protein involved in cancer drug resistance, named Rev1, and have even disrupted it through genetic means. However, attempts to do the same with small molecules had never succeeded, presumably because the protein lacked an obvious binding pocket that a potential drug could exploit.

In this study, Professor Pei Zhou and his collaborators at Duke University School of Medicine, MIT, and the University of Rhode Island found that one molecule, called JH-RE-06, was able to block or inhibit Rev1.

Excerpt from an article published in ScienceDaily, Duke University, 7 June 2019: A molecular glue to overcome cancer drug resistance? Small molecule drug may prevent chemotherapy resistance.

www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/06/190607140444.htm