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## FOREWORD

The year 2011 was another challenging, yet a colourful year to most of us at the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine (SPM). I took up the Head of Department (HOD) office in July following the normal rotation exercise of HOD. The challenges were addressed and have been overcome smoothly and successfully; thanks to the support that was given by the top management of the faculty and especially the cooperation that was given by all the staff at the department. Together with the achievements in the first six months of the year under the headship of previous HOD, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Retneswari Masilamani, and with the efforts by everyone, the department had achieved 2011 targets and schedules more than in the previous years.



As in the last 3 years, the programs run by SPM were popularly applied by not only Malaysians but also by many applicants from other countries. Our Master of Public Health and Master of Medical Science of Public Health registered 46 students, with 50% international students. Including the intake of 2011/2012 (4<sup>th</sup> cohort), our Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) program, has 55 students in total while the PhD and Master of Science by research has 16 and two (2) students, respectively. As in the previous years, our teachings are not only for the programs that we run at SPM, but also extended to programs in other departments such as the Nursing, Clinical Oncology, Bachelor of Bio-Medical Science, Diploma of Medical Laboratory Technician and MBBS which are all within the Faculty of Medicine and also the master program of the Dental faculty.

The administrative duties of the department are shared by HOD with the rest of the academics whereby every academician is coordinating at least one work theme such as the post graduate, undergraduate, short course, quality audit, research club, wellness, webmaster and several others, all were set to enhance the administrative and other non teaching activities of the department.

2011 is a year of joy to many of us with some having their first born baby, got married, successfully completed their PhD and had been promoted to associate professors. We had several occasions celebrating the happy events and the successes that we had obtained throughout the years.

The department has successfully published 82 ISI journal articles and one chapter in a book in the year 2011. We were in the top 10 list of departments with most number of journals in the faculty despite the comparatively smaller number of staff. This is a great achievement for the department especially with the number of undergraduate and postgraduate teaching programmes that the department caters.

The university has been generous in allowing and sponsoring many of our staff to go overseas either for attending conferences for presentations of their research endeavours or attending courses related to their area of expertise. As HOD, I had represented the Dean at the 43<sup>rd</sup> APACPH Conference at Seoul, Korea. This year we are proud that our ex Dean, Prof. Dato Dr. Mohd Amin Jalaludin is the President for APACPH (Asia Pacific Academician Consortium of Public Health).

The Julius Centre, under the leadership of Professor Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud, made great strides in the field of Clinical Epidemiology and Evidence. There were many short courses on epidemiology/statistics conducted by the centre which benefited the students and lecturers, not only from our department but also from other faculty members and participants from other institutions.

The Centre for Population Health (CePH) under the leadership of Associate Professor Dr. Tin Tin Su had several seminars with distinguished speakers such Prof Liam Murray from Queen's University Belfast and Dr. Jennifer Lim from University of Leeds. Many of the lecturers at the department are involved in researches with big grants obtained under both centres.

We have continued our tradition of appointing visiting professors to support our teaching and research by various expertise; among which were Prof. David Koh (Occupational Health), Prof. Dr Phratap Tharyan (The Cochrane Systematic Review), Dr. Ang Eng Suan (Sexual Reproductive Health), Dr. Jennifer Lim (Qualitative Studies) and Prof Liam Murray (MyHEART and MyBCC studies). Our external examiners for the undergraduate exam (MBBS Phase 3) and post graduate exams (MPH, MMedScPH and DrPH) were Prof Leon Guo from National Taiwan University and Prof Daniel Reidpath from University of Sunway Monash, respectively.

The department undertook several activities for staff and students. These were a very interactive orientation week; a family day and a farewell day for the 2010-2011 students. The Family Day organised at Ulu Yam Forest Reserve was a hit. Thanks to the organizing committee for the excellent organisation of all these activities.

Together with Prof Retneswari, I take this opportunity to thank one and all in the department for all the hard work put in to accomplish the targets set in one way or the other. The support staffs were very supportive in all activities carried out and had shared the HOD aspirations in making all plans and works possible. Finally, a big thanks to Dr Anselm Su Ting who has coordinated in compiling all the profiles and activities towards the output of this annual report.

***Associate Prof Dr Maznah Dahlui***

## THE BEGINNINGS OF THE DEPARTMENT

**Professor Winifred Danaraj**

**L.M.S. (Singapore), D.C.H. (London), M.P.H. (Magna cum Laude, Harvard)**



***Foundation Professor of the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya***

Professor Winifred Danaraj nee Lewis was born on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 1916. She read Medicine at the King Edward VII College of Medicine, Singapore and graduated as Licentiate of Medicine and Surgery in 1938. On graduation she served in various states in Malaya, including during the Second World War (1942 – 1945). This was followed by a stint of private practice (1947-1949). The war years delayed her postgraduate training. However in 1952 she was able to obtain her Master of Public Health (magna cum laude) from the Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, U.S.A. and the Diploma in Child Health from the Royal College of Physicians of London and the Royal College of Surgeons of England also in 1952.

In October 1949, she joined the Faculty of Medicine in Singapore, as lecturer in the Department of Social Medicine and Public Health. She was promoted to senior lecturer in 1958. In 1961, with the resignation of the incumbent, she became the head of the department.

She was the first woman to be appointed to an academic medical chair in the University of Malaya in Singapore, and later became the first local person to be appointed as Professor of Social Medicine and Public Health. In 1964 she accepted the post of Professor of Social and Preventive Medicine in the newly established medical school in Kuala Lumpur, while her husband, Professor T.J. Danaraj was appointed Foundation Dean and Professor of Medicine. Her appointment as the first professor to the chair in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine (SPM) gave her the opportunity to develop a department with her own vision and philosophy as to the direction the department must take in pursuing change in the field of public health in the then developing Malaya. Her academic and administrative skills honed while in Singapore enabled her to develop the department despite acute staff

shortage. She was able to recruit experienced staff from overseas, while encouraging young Malaysian doctors to pursue a career in public health. Many were sent overseas to read for higher degrees and also to gain valuable experience in the field of public health. On return they became the future academic staff of the department.

She was also involved in the development of the medical curriculum which gave emphasis to 'integrated teaching' and also relevant to the needs of a developing country. Social and preventive medicine became important elements in the undergraduate curriculum, in the face of opposition from her clinical colleagues. She worked closely with the Ministry of Health Malaysia so as to expose medical students, early in their studies, to problems faced by the public health officers in the various districts. This was done by rural visits as well as postings to the districts. The first intake of students was in 1964 and they completed a 5 year programme, graduating in 1969. Professor W. Danaraj did not rest on her laurels, but embarked on planning for a Master of Public Health programme. This was to provide more specialists in the field of public health to meet the need of the health services in the country, as it was the policy of the government to uplift the health of the rural people, who at that time consisted of 75% of the population. The programme was introduced in 1974. Since then it has produced 569 graduates, 407 local and 162 foreign candidates.

Professor W. Danaraj could be seen from afar as she was a 'big' person with a 'big heart' and her signature instrument was a large blackboard set-square which she used in teaching. She loved teaching and her lectures were well prepared and rich in facts. Her English was immaculate, spiced with wit and humour. Students had to be punctual, if once too often, were 'invited to tea'. Books borrowed from her department had to be returned on time, otherwise their names will be mentioned in dispatches, with their names up on the notice board, under the heading of 'in disgrace' for first time offenders and 'in deep disgrace' for recalcitrants.

She was a person of warmth and a deep sense of humour. She always had a 'ear' for her staff and students and was always available to those who sought her wisdom on matters personal or otherwise. Her staffs were her personal friends and her colleagues enjoyed her company. All was forgiven at Christmas time as she organized a Christmas party in her department and all staff and students of the faculty were invited. It stretched from morning coffee till lunch, and if there were left-over's until afternoon tea. She lived to see the transformation of a hill covered with scrub into a medical complex comprising of the faculty, teaching hospital and student community. Her untimely death in 1974, after a long illness was unfortunate as it robbed the faculty of an icon, a good teacher and a pillar of strength to the staff and students.

Many professors will pass through this department but none will be able to leave an impact as she did. They do not make professors like that anymore strict, jovial with a sense of humour to wit.

***By: Dato' Dr Sirajoon Noor Ghani***

## VISION AND MISSION

### Vision

To become the institution of excellence which will provide leadership in activities for the education, training, research, development, spread and provision of service in the domain of Public Health and in all the specialities associated with it.

### Mission

The Department views its mission at the undergraduate level as being charged with the responsibility, via the medical undergraduate instructional programme, for the preparation of the potential graduate to take up duties in the running of health programmes for the community in all parts of the nation and to be able to operate from the national health care service system effectively and efficiently (at the level of the medical officer).

The Department views its mission at the post-graduate level as being charged with the responsibility, via its post-graduate public health training programmes, to produce a doctor who may be considered as a professional and a specialist in the general domain of public health as well as in a particular chosen specialty within it.

The Department also considers its mission to share the knowledge and skills gained in its various activities with others who are interested. This is envisaged to be achieved in various ways including the conduct of short courses from time to time.







## UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME

The Department of Social and Preventive Medicine (SPM) contributes to the undergraduate medical and science programmes of the Faculty of Medicine and the University. The programmes are:

1. MBBS
2. Bachelor in Science Nursing
3. Bachelor in Biomedical Science
4. Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology
5. Diploma in Nursing

The courses offered include the following: 1) The Management of Self, 2) Foundations of Epidemiology, 3) Medical Statistics, 4) The Management of Resources, 5) Epidemiology of Specific Diseases, 6) Family Health, 7) Health Promotion, 8) The Management of People, 9) Environmental Health, 10) Occupational Health and, 11) International Classification of Diseases

The department also conducts two field programmes every year, namely the Community Residency Programme (CRP) and Organisation and Management of Healthcare Services (OMHS) for the MBBS students to enhance their knowledge and practical experience in the rural health and the management of health organisation.

### **The Community Residency Programme**

The CRP for phase IIIA MBBS students was conducted from 7th Mac 2011 to 1st April 2011. The CRP offers an opportunity for medical student to interact with residents in rural areas and understand their life-style, health beliefs and problems. The programme was carried out in five rural districts in the state of Perak. These five districts include Gerik (Hulu Perak), Kuala Kangsar, Parit Buntar (Kerian), Taiping/Larut and Matang. During the programme, the students visited places of public health interest such as water treatment plants, sanitary land fill, sewage treatment plants, gravity feed water supply systems, vector control activities and factories. This gave the students an opportunity to learn possible environmental and occupational health issues faced by the community in these facilities. The students also involved with community survey of health status which exposed them with the hands on experience of data collection, data entry, data analysis, interpretation and presentation of findings.

### **Organisation and Management of Healthcare Services**

Organisation and Management of Healthcare Services is another field programmes conducted by the department for MBBS phase IIIB undergraduates. The OMHS programme

allows potential medical graduates to understand various systems of health care delivery in the country. The students have the opportunity to familiarise with their future work environment as they learn about the functions of the various categories of staff who man the hospitals and health centres.

This year, the module started on 6th June 2011 and commenced until 24th June 2011. The students were divided into 6 groups and posted to districts in Selangor (Kuala Langat, Klang, Petaling), Wilayah Persekutuan (Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya) and Negeri Sembilan (Port Dickson) for hands-on experience on the health organisations in the respective areas. The module was concluded with the students' presentations on the health organisations and focus areas which were assigned to each group.

### **Clinical Epidemiology and Evidence Based Medicine**

The Clinical Epidemiology and Evidence Based Medicine (CEEBM) module was introduced into the undergraduate curriculum in 2009. The module was borne out of the collaboration between the University of Malaya (UM) and the University Medical Centre, Utrecht (UMCU), University of Oxford, the Rumah Sakit Cipto Mangunkusumo (RSCM) Hospital under the Asia-Link programme. The programme aimed to introduce the principles of clinical epidemiology, critically appraise evidence and how to apply evidence in clinical practice. The programme was a success with support from clinicians and staff from SPM whom had contributed to the teachings of this module.

## POSTGRADUATE UNIT

The SPM Postgraduate Unit of the aims to produce professionals who are specialists in the general domain of Public Health as well as in a particular specialty. This unit is responsible to the Head of Department. It is headed by Dr. Farizah Mohd Hairi and assisted by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Noran Naqiah Mohd Hairi and Dr. Hazreen Abd. Majid. This unit is also supported by four dedicated staff. They are Ms Shamsina Shamsuddin (Programme Assistant/Assistant Scientific Officer), Mdm Mariam Aziah Borhan (Programme Assistant), Mdm Nony Mohd Abdul Wahab and Mr. Kamar Junus.



### **Unit Activities**

Throughout 2011, SPM Postgraduate Unit has been actively organizing departmental and unit level activities. PG unit was also involved with Faculty and University activities.

We conduct quarterly postgraduate meeting to review the courses and curriculum in the postgraduate programmes. Other routine administrative activities such as registration of students, printing of post-graduate programme handbooks, coordinating teaching schedule, coordinating classes and teaching/learning facilities, coordinating presentations by doctorate candidates, and coordinating examinations, were all done to ensure the smooth running of the Public Health postgraduate programmes offered. Basically PG unit handles 5 programmes, namely Master of Public Health (MPH), Master of Medical Science in Public Health (MMedScPH), Doctor of Public Health, Master of Medical Science (by research) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). The first 3 programmes are by course-work and research; and the last 2 programmes are purely research based. Our external examiner for MPH/MMedScPH and DrPH Part 1 is Professor Dr. Daniel D. Reidpath from Monash University Malaysia.

### **MQA Requirements**

In fulfilling the Malaysian Qualifying Agency requirements on the standards to be achieved for higher learning institutions, the curriculum of the MPH/MMedScPH and DrPH programmes had to be reviewed. All courses were reviewed to match its learning outcomes with the strategies and subjects to be taught and the matrix of soft skills were developed. As we entered 2011, course coordinators and their programme assistants worked doubly hard to get these MQA requirements in place and all efforts were paid off when our post-graduate programmes and courses were approved by Senate in February 2011.

### **IPS Open Day (Karnival Jom Masuk UM 2011)**

The Institute of Postgraduate Studies (IPS) organised a 2-day carnival promoting University of Malaya's postgraduate programmes on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of April 2011 at the Perdanasiswa. Various faculties and institutions in UM were involved. Staff from PG Unit, SPM Department helped out at the Faculty of Medicine's booth. There were many enquiries about our Public Health postgraduate programmes.

### **Family Day**

SPM Family Day was held on 14th May 2011 at The Woods Resort, Ulu Yam. It was organised by SPM staff and post-graduate students. More than 100 participants attended this event; staff and students, as well as their families. The event started off with morning

exercises and followed by Tele-match for adults and children, and Treasure Hunt. There were also other activities such as karaoke session, lucky draws and local fruit festve. The event ended with prize giving for the winners. Everyone had great fun especially the students who had been working hard to complete their studies and examinations for the past one year.



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### Orientation Week

The orientation week for post graduate candidates session 2011/2012 was held from 5th until 9th September, 2011. It is for the MPH, MMedScPH and DrPH Year 1 programmes. Organised by the Postgraduate Unit with the assistance from other units in the department, we started off with a brief introduction about the department by our Head of Department, Associate Professor Dr. Maznah Dahlui, followed by general overview of courses offered by each Head of Units. Subsequently, Dr Hazreen and Dr Maslinor conducted an ice-breaking session for the new master candidates, assisted by volunteers from the DrPH Year 1 programme. The master candidates were then divided into four groups. On the last day, each group presented selected major festivals, i.e. the celebration of Chinese New Year, Deepavali (The Festival of Light), Gawai and Nowruz, a celebration in Iran. Their group work helped them explore their cultural diversity, instil integration and tolerance. Their presentation were judged by Dato' S. Noor Ghani, Prof Chan Chee Koon, Assoc. Prof Wong Li







Ping, Prof Karuthan and Dr Azlan Darus. Nowruz celebration won the best presentation. Last but not least, our orientation week was wrapped up with some useful guidance and advice from Dato' S. Noor Ghani.

On Sept 6th, 2011 our department hosted a Raya Celebration Lunch at the Synapse, in the Faculty of Medicine. In conjunction with the Orientation Week, this event marks our Department's warm welcome to our new post graduate candidates. During this festive, joyful mood over delicious food creates a good ambiance towards a better rapport between staff and new members of the department. Enjoying the delicious local Raya delicacies such as lemang, rendang and lontong as well as home-made Raya cookies is truly an unforgettable experience, as evidence of happy smiling faces in these photos!

### MPH Convocation 2011

Heartiest Congratulations to our 2010/2011 MPH and MMedScPH graduates, who received their scrolls at Dewan Tunku Canselor (DTC) on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2011. Eighteen graduates from this batch continued with their DrPH studies in Session 2011/2012.





**Courses Offered in Session 2011/2012**

Master of Public Health (MPH)/Master of Medical Science in Public Health (MMedScPH)

## Semester 1

No.	Core Courses	Code	Coordinator
1	Principles of Biostatistics	MOGB6109	A/P Dr. Karuthan Chinna
2	Management in Health	MOGB6110	Dr Farizah Mohd Hairi
3	Principles and Methods of Epidemiology	MOGB6107	A/P Dr. Noran Naqiah Hairi
4	Principles of Family Health	MOGB6105	Dr. Maslinor Ismail
5	Research Methodology	MOGB6108	A/P Wong Li Ping
6	Occupational and Environmental Health	MOGR6107	Dr. Azlan Darus
No.	Elective Courses	Code	Coordinator
1	Health Risk Assessment	MOGR6304	Dr. Anselm Su Ting
2	Law and Health	MOGB6306	A/P Dr. Tin Tin Su
3	Public Health Nutrition	MOGR6302	Dr. Hazreen Abdul Majid

## Semester 2

No.	Core Courses	Code	Coordinator
1	Society, Behaviour and Health	MOGB6106	A/P Dr. Wong Yut Lin
2	Research Proposal Development	MOGB6280	Dr. Choo Wan Yuen
No.	Elective Courses	Code	Coordinator
1	Occupational Medicine	MOGB6317	Dr. Azlan Darus
2	Epidemiology of Diseases in Malaysia	MOGB6301	A/P Dr. Noran Naqiah Hairi
3	Women, Child and Adolescent Health	MOGB6307	Dr. Maslinor Ismail
4	Health Economics	MOGB6305	A/P Dr. Ng Chiu Wan
5	Medical Surveillance and Fitness to Work	MOGB6318	Dr. Anselm Su Ting
6	Qualitative Inquiry in Public Health	MOGR6303	A/P Wong Li Ping
7	Producing Better Evidence	MOGB6303	A/P Wong Li Ping

## Doctor of Public Health (DrPH)

## Semester 1

No.	Core Courses	Code	Coordinator
1	Research Protocol Development	MOHX7101	Dr. Moy Foong Ming
2	Essentials of Epidemiology in Public Health	MOHX7102	Dr. Moy Foong Ming
3	Health Policy and Leadership	MOHX7103	A/P Dr. Ng Chiu Wan
No.	Core Courses	Code	Coordinator
1	Human Factor and Ergonomics	MOHX7314	A/P Retneswari Masilamani
2	Health Economics	MOHX7303	A/P Dr. Maznah Dahlui
3	Nutrition and Lactation Management	MOHX7309	Dr. Hazreen Abdul Majid
4	Analysis of Rates and Proportions	MOHX7322	A/P Dr. Karuthan Chinna

## Semester 2

No.	Core Courses	Code	Coordinator
-	-	-	-
No.	Elective Courses	Code	Coordinator
1	Quality in Health	MOHX7305	A/P Dr. Tin Tin Su
2	Clinical Epidemiology	MOHX7319	A/P Dr. Noran Naqiah Hairi
3	Occupational Safety Health in Management System	MOHX7317	Dr. Azlan Darus
4	Human Resource Planning and Management	MOHX7301	A/P Dr. Saimy Ismail
5	Qualitative Methods in Health Research	MOHX7328	Dr. Choo Wan Yuen
6	Lifetime Health	MOHX7308	Dr. Maslinor Ismail
7	Disability Assessment	MOHX7315	Dr. Anselm Su Ting

## Semester 3 / Special Semester

No.	Core Courses	Code	Coordinator
1	Professional Internship	MOHX7180	A/P Dr. Noran Naqiah Hairi

**Postgraduate Candidates Session 2011/2012**

## Number of Postgraduate Candidates

COUNTRIES	PROGRAMMES							
	MPH	Mmed ScPH	DrPH	DrPH (Year 2)	DrPH (Year 3)	DrPH (Year 3 extended)	MMedSc (Research)	Doctor of Philosophy
Malaysia	21		18	16	8	13	1	5
Somalia	2							
Sudan	12	3						2
China	1							
Russia	1							
Myanmar	1							
Iraq	1							
Iran	1	3						
Nigeria			1					3
Libya								2
Indonesia								1

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## Enrollment and Graduation

Programme	No. of students enrolled Session 2011/2012	No. of students graduated Session 2010/2011
Master of Public Health	40	18
Master of Medical Science in Public Health	6	6
Master of Public Health (Specialty) Year 3	-	-
Master of Public Health (Specialty) Year 4	-	-
Doctor of Public Health (DrPH)	56	-
Master of Medical Science (by Research)	1	-
Doctor of Philosophy (by Research)	13	-

Master of Public Health Candidates



Dr. Abuobayda  
Ibnouf  
(Sudan)



Dr. Abuobieda Khogali  
Abdalla Abdalrouf  
(Sudan)



Dr. Affendi bin Ahmad  
(Malaysia)



Dr. Ahmed  
Abdullahi Jama  
Liban  
(Somalia)



Dr. Alsadig  
Hamid Abdallah  
Suliman  
(Sudan)



Dr. Amran bin  
Amir Hamzah  
(Malaysia)



Dr. Chai Ping Tze  
(Malaysia)



Dr. Faridzal Harrymen  
bin Mohd Din  
(Malaysia)



Dr. Fatima Elnagieb  
Adam Gamer  
Eldien  
(Sudan)



Dr. Jeyanthini  
a/p Sathasivam  
(Malaysia)



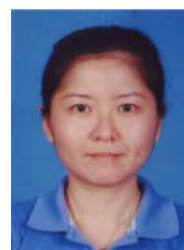
Dr. Justen Wong  
Han Wei  
(Malaysia)



Dr. Karen Sharmini  
a/p Sandanasamy  
(Malaysia)



Dr. Lee Kun Yun  
(Malaysia)



Dr. Lee Soo Cheng  
(Malaysia)



Dr. Lim Sheau  
Tyan  
(Malaysia)



Dr. Marwa Badr  
Eldin Ibrahim Abu  
Kadouk  
(Sudan)



Dr. May Yadanar  
Htun  
(Myanmar)



Dr. Meisyashaer  
Abuduliahaiti  
(China)



Dr. Mohamed  
Ahmed Haji  
Abdalla  
(Somalia)



Dr. Mohamed El  
Amin Eltahir  
Mohamad  
(Sudan)



Dr. Mohamed  
Hashim Mohamed  
Elhassan  
(Sudan)



Dr. Noor Safina  
Ahmad Noor  
(Malaysia)



Dr. Nor Asma  
binti Musa  
(Malaysia)



Dr. Norliana binti  
Ismail  
(Malaysia)



Dr. Nurul Haniza  
binti  
Md Yusof  
(Malaysia)



Dr. Osama  
Mohamed  
Elhassan  
Khalafalla  
(Sudan)



Dr. Punitha a/p  
Makeswaran  
(Malaysia)



Dr. Raja  
Abdelrahim  
Mohamed Fadil  
(Sudan)



Dr. Ramadan  
Ibrahim  
Mohamed  
(Sudan)



Dr. Rida Khalafalla  
(Russia)



Dr. Sharifah  
Malihah binti  
Wan Mustapha  
(Malaysia)

Dr. Shayma  
Salam Anwar Al-  
Allawi  
(Iraq)

Dr. Suhaila binti  
Abu Hassan  
(Malaysia)

Dr. Tariq Nasreldin  
Badawi  
(Sudan)

Dr. Tilal Ibrahim  
Abdalla  
(Sudan)



Dr. Vickneshwaran  
a/l Muthu  
(Malaysia)

Dr. Wan Md  
Shihabudin  
bin Wan Mamat  
(Malaysia)

Dr. Zahra Syavash  
Vahabi  
(Iran)

Dr. Zulfa Zety bin  
Dol Bakri  
(Malaysia)

Dr. Zulkeffeli bin  
Mat Jusoh  
(Malaysia)

Master Of Medical Science in Public Health Candidates



Mr. Ahmed Hagar  
Ahmad  
(Sudan)



Ms. Akram Abedi  
(Iran)



Mr. Mohammad  
Bagher Mehboudi  
(Iran)



Mr. Obadah Abdel  
Rahman Elsheikh Ali  
(Sudan)



Ms. Sareh Dashti  
(Iran)



Ms. Tamani  
Mohamed Ahmed  
Elamin  
(Sudan)



## Doctor of Public Health Candidates (Year 1)

No	Name of Candidates	Supervisor	Country
1	Dr. Ainul Nadziha binti Mohd Hanafiah	A/P Dr. Ng Chiu Wan / Dr. Choo Wan Yuen (Co-Supervisor)	Malaysia
2	Dr. Ashivini a/p Jayapalan	A/P Dr. Wong Li Ping	Malaysia
3	Dr. Azran bin Kamarudin	A/P Dr. Wong Li Ping	Malaysia
4	Dr. Cassidy a/l Devarajoooh	A/P Karuthan Chinna	Malaysia
5	Dr. Chitra a/p S. Cumarasamy	Prof. Chan Chee Khoon	Malaysia
6	Dr. Haslina binti Ismail	A/P Dr. Wong Yut Lin	Malaysia
7	Dr. Khairiah binti Ibrahim	A/P Karuthan Chinna	Malaysia
8	Dr. Lily Rafidah binti Mohamed Zaki	A/P Dr. Noran Naqiah Mohd Hairi	Malaysia
9	Dr. Mazliza binti Ramly	Dr. Moy Foong Ming	Malaysia
10	Dr. Muthu Chelvan a/l Mathi Arasu	Dr. Hazreen Abd Majid	Malaysia
11	Dr. Nirmalah a/p Subramaniam	A/P Dr. Wong Li Ping	Malaysia
12	Dr. Norsilah binti Sudin	A/P Dr. Maznah Dahlui	Malaysia
13	Dr. Rajini a/p Sooryanarayana	Dr. Choo Wan Yuen / A/P Dr. Noran Naqiah Mohd Hairi (Co-Supervisor)	Malaysia
14	Dr. Razatul Shima binti Abdul Razak	Dr. Farizah Mohd Hairi / Dr. Hazreen Abd Majid (Co-Supervisor)	Malaysia
15	Dr. Roddy Teo	A/P Dr. Ng Chiu Wan / A/P Dr. Maznah Dahlui (Co-Supervisor)	Malaysia
16	Dr. Shazimah binti Abdul Samad	Dr. Maslinor Ismail / A/P Dr. Noran Naqiah Mohd Hairi (Co-Supervisor)	Malaysia
17	Dr. Shubash Shander a/l Ganapathy	Prof. Chan Chee Khoon	Malaysia
18	Dr. Tan Seok Hong	A/P Dr. Wong Yut Lin	Malaysia
19	Dr. Tukur Ismail	Prof. Chan Chee Khoon	Nigeria



Dr Ainul Nadziha  
Bt. Mohd  
Hanafiah



Dr Ashvini a/p  
Jayapalan



Dr Azran bin  
Kamarudin



Dr Cassidy a/l  
Devarajoo



Dr Chitra a/p S.  
Cumarasamy



Dr Haslina bt.  
Ismail



Dr Khairiah bt.  
Ibrahim



Dr Lily Rafidah  
bt. Mohamed  
Zaki



Dr Mazliza Bt.  
Ramly



Dr Muthu  
Chelvan a/l  
Mathi Arasu



Dr Nirmalah a/p  
Subramaniam



Dr Norsilah bt.  
Sudin



Dr Rajini a/p  
Sooryanarayana



Dr Razatul Shima  
bt. Abdul Razak



Dr Roddy Teo



Dr Shazimah bt  
Abdul Samad



Dr Shubash  
Shander a/l  
Ganapathy



Dr Tan Seok  
Hong



Dr. Tukur Ismail

## Doctor of Public Health Candidates (Year 2)

Name of candidate	Title of Project	Supervisors
Dr. Alfred Aldrin a/l S. Perianayagam	Pulmonary Prevalence of Tuberculosis among Correctional officers in Malaysian Prison	A/P Dr. Wong Yut Lin
Dr. Anisah Jantim	Dose Response Relationship Between Whole Body Vibration And Low Back Pain Among Different Type of Commercial Vehicular Driver (Lorry, Bus and Taxi) in State of Sabah	Dr. Anselm Su Ting / Dr. Moy Foong Ming
Dr. Bala Murali	Effectiveness of Breathing Exercise and Progressive Muscle Relaxation in Alleviating Job Stress Among Assembly Workers.	A/P Dr. Retneswari Masilamani / A/P Dr. Maznah Dahlui
Dr. Balachandar a/l S. Sayapathi	Effectiveness of Hearing Conservation Program on Standard Threshold Shift Using Different PEL and ER Among Cement Factory Workers in a State in Malaysia (An Intervention Study)	A/P Dr. Tin Tin Su / Dr. Anselm Su Ting
Dr. Chow Sze Loon	Contact Dermatitis Among Workers in Cleaning Industries	Dr. Anselm Su Ting / A/P Dr. Tin Tin Su
Dr. Dyanan a/l Puvanandran	Evaluation of the Reviewed Approach Programme – A Mixed Method Approach	A/P Dr. Nabilla Al Sadat
Dr. Erlendawati Mohd Anuar	Prognostic Model in Return to Work Among Workers With Industrial Accident	Dr. Azlan Darus / Dr. Choo Wan Yuen
Dr. Juliana Sharmini Paul	Sexual Harassment at Workplace	Dr. Maslinor Ismail / Dr. Choo Wan Yuen
Dr. Mohammad Idris Zamhuri	Work Resettlement Services in UMMC	Dr. Azlan Darus / A/P Dr. Tin Tin Su
Dr. Siti Noraida Jamal	Group Base Life Style Modification Programme Resion Dictary Conseling Among Obese Staff UM	Dr. Moy Foong Ming
Dr. Norliza Ahmad	Socio Economic Impact of Late Stage Breast Cancer : A Comparison Between MOH Tertiary Referall Centre and UMMC.	A/P Dr. Maznah Dahlui / A/P Dr. Nuraishah Taib
Dr. Norliza Ibrahim	A Community Based Healthy Lifestyle Intervention Among Highrisk Adults for Type 2 Diabetes	A/P Dr. Wong Li Ping
Dr. Nur Suffia Sulaiman	'Healthy Worker; Program to Improve Physical Activity, Dietary Intake Quality of Work Life Among Workers in Klang Valley	Dr. Choo Wan Yuen
Dr. Nuraidah Mohd Marzuki	Health Informatics	A/P Dr. Saimy Ismail / A/P Dr. Nabilla Al Sadat
Dr. P. Raviwharmman a/l Packierisamy	Evaluation of Vector Control Activities in Malaysia 2010	A/P Dr. Ng Chiu Wan / A/P Dr. Maznah Dahlui
Dr. Tuty Adrizan	Evaluation of Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative Program in Hospitals, a Mixed Method Approach	A/P Dr. Wong Yut Lin



Dr Alfred Aldrin  
a/l  
S. Perianayagam



Dr Anisah Jantim



Dr Bala Murali



Dr Balachandar  
a/l  
S. Sayapathi



Dr Chow Sze Loon



Dr Dyanan a/l  
Puvanandran



Dr Erlendawati  
Mohd Anuar



Dr Juliana  
Sharmini  
Paul



Dr Mohammad  
Idris Zamhuri



Dr Noraida Jamal



Dr Norliza Ahmad



Dr Norliza Ibrahim



Dr Nur Suffia  
Sulaiman



Dr Nuraidah  
Mohd Marzuki











Dr P.  
Raviwharmman  
a/l Packierisamy



Dr Tutty Adrizan

## Doctor of Public Health Candidates (Year 3)

Name of candidate	Title of Project	Supervisors
Dr. Ismawati Ismail	Characteristics, Treatment Outcome and Survival of TB/HIV Co-Infected Patients in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor – A Multi Centre Study	Prof. Dr. Awang Bulgiba bin A. Mahmud
Dr. Jenifer @ Jennifer John	Economic Evaluation of Thalassaemia Treatment in Hospital Kuala Lumpur	A/P Dr. Maznah Dahlui
Dr. Mohamad Rodi bin Isa	The Impact of the Progressive Deep Muscle Relaxation to the Level of Anxiety, Stress, Depression and Quality of Life Among Prostate Cancer Patients: Randomized Controlled Trial	Dr. Moy Foong Ming
Dr. Mohd Harriszamani Abu Bakar	Career Advancement and Internal Brain Drain Among Medical Officers in Malaysia	A/P Dr. Tin Tin Su / A/P Dr. Maznah Dahlui
Dr. Mohd Ridzwan bin Shahari	Equity in Utilization of Healthcare in Malaysia: Evidence from National Household Health Surveys	A/P Dr. Ng Chiu Wan / A/P Dr. Maznah Dahlui
Dr. Premila Devi	Factors Influence Transition of Smoking Stages Among Secondary School Student in Kelantan and Kuala Lumpur: a Longitudinal Study	A/P Dr. Nabilla binti Abdul Mohsein
Dr. Rima Marhayu binti Abdul Rashid	The Call-Recall System in Klang: The Effect of Different Types of Reminder on the Patients' Response Rate	A/P Dr. Nabilla binti Abdul Mohsein / A/P Dr. Maznah Dahlui
Dr. Sophia binti Mohd Ramli	Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Clinical Breast Examination and Mammogram in Breast Cancer Detection in Klang District, Selangor	A/P Dr. Maznah Dahlui

			
Dr. Ismawati Ismail	Dr. Jenifer @ Jennifer John	Dr. Mohamad Rodi bin Isa	Dr. Mohd Harriszamani Abu Bakar
			
Dr. Mohd Ridzwan bin Shahari	Dr. Premila Devi	Dr. Rima Marhayu binti Abdul Rashid	Dr. Sophia binti Mohd Ramli

## Doctor of Public Health (Year 3-extended)

Name of candidate	Title of Project	Supervisors
Dr. Narimah Hanim binti Ibrahim	Survival Analysis of End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Patients in Malaysia	Prof. Dr. Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud
Dr. Noorhaire Sumarlie bin Nordin	Determinants of Clinical Outcomes in Coronary Artery Disease Patients Following Percutaneous Coronary Intervention in the UMMC	Dr. Moy Foong Ming
Dr. Nurhuda binti Ismail	Mathematical Modelling in Tuberculosis Transmission and Impact on Early Intervention (Chemoprophylaxis in Malaysia)	Prof. Dr. Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud / Prof. Dr Nicolaas J.D. Nagelkerke
Dr. Rafdzah binti Ahmad Zaki	Methods of Determining Agreement and Reliability in Some Medical Application	A/P Dr. Noor Azina binti Ismail / Prof. Dr. Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud
Dr. Fauziah binti Abdullah	A Call-Recall System to Increase Attendance at Screening for Cervical Cancer Among Non-Compliance Female School Teachers in Kuala Lumpur	A/P Dr. Tin Tin Su
Dr. Nik Daliana binti Nik Farid	Predictors of High Risk Sexual Behaviour Among Adolescents in Welfare Institutions	A/P Dr. Nabilla Al-Sadat binti Abdul Mohsein
Dr. Nor Irdawaty binti Ibrahim	Ethnic Differences in Female Breast Cancer : A Cohort Study	A/P Dr. Maznah Dahlui
Dr. Noraliza Zabari	Effectiveness of school based weight intervention program in overweight adolescents: A community trial study	A/P Dr. Tin Tin Su
Dr. Norzakiah binti Mohd Tahir	Telephone Lactation Counseling and Breast Feeding Practices: A Randomized Controlled Trial	A/P Dr. Nabilla Al-Sadat binti Abdul Mohsein
Dr. Siti Horirotul Hamrok binti Asis	Employment Status and Breastfeeding Practices in Kuala Langat District: Retrospective and Qualitative Study	A/P Dr. Nabilla Al-Sadat binti Abdul Mohsein
Dr. Siti Munira binti Yasin	Smoking Cessation at the Workplace: The Dynamic Process of Lapse and Relapse after Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT)	A/P Dr. Retneswari Masilamani / Dr. Moy Foong Ming



			
Dr. Narimah Hanim binti Ibrahim	Dr. Noorhaire Sumarlie bin Nordin	Dr. Nurhuda binti Ismail	Dr. Rafdzah binti Ahmad Zaki
			
Dr. Fauziah binti Abdullah	Dr. Nik Daliana binti Nik Farid	Dr. Nor Irdawaty binti Ibrahim	Dr. Noraliza Zabari
			
Dr. Norzakiah binti Mohd Tahir	Dr. Siti Horirotul Hamrok binti Asis	Dr. Siti Munira binti Yasin	



## Master of Medical Science (Research)

Name of candidate	Title of Project	Supervisors
Ms. Anne Chu Hin Yee	Reliability and Validity of IPAQ for Measuring Physical Activity of Adults in University Malaya	Dr. Moy Foong Ming

## Doctor of Philosophy (Research)

Name of candidate	Title of Project	Supervisors
Dr. Bello Arkilla Magaji	Pattern, Predictors Of Survival And Health Related Quality Of Life Among Colorectal Cancer Patients In University Of Malaya Medical Center	Dr. Moy Foong Ming
Dr. Isam Eldin Elnour Mohamed Baloul	Evaluation of National Health Insurance Fund-Sudan	A/P Dr. Maznah Dahlui
Dr. Mas Ayu Binti Said	Safety and Efficacy of Aripiprazole and Ziprasidone Among Schizophrenia Patient With Metabolic Syndrome	Prof. Dr. Mohamad Hussain Habil
Dr. Rosalia binti Saimon	Physical Activity and Physical Fitness: The Needs of Adolescents For Built Environment Structures	Prof. Dr. Awang Bulgiba
Dr. Rahayu Lubis	Identification Of Determinants For Progression To Aids In HIV Patients Receiving Antiretroviral Treatment	Prof. Dr. Awang Bulgiba
Dr. Umar Yagoub Mohammed	Factors Affecting Adherence To Antiretroviral Treatment in HIV Patients	Prof. Dr. Awang Bulgiba
Dr. Yusuf Abdu Misau	Antibiotics for chronic AIDS associated diarrhoea in adults	A/P Dr. Nabilla Al-Sadat Abdul Mohsein
Dr. Ashiru Hamza Mohammad	A mixed Method Research on the Impact and Determinants of Quality of Life among Stroke Survivors in Nigeria	A/P Dr. Nabilla Al-Sadat Abdul Mohsein
Salem Alkoshi	Economic Evaluation of aRotavirus Vaccination in Libya	A/P Dr. Maznah Dahlui
Khin Thuzar	Cost Analysis & Econometric Modelling of Demand for Diabetes Care	A/P Dr. Retneswari Masilamani
Mohd Roshidi Ismail	Measuring Cancer Awareness in Malaysia	A/P Dr. Tin Tin Su
Yeoh Ping Ling	Title yet to be confirmed	A/P Dr. Maznah Dahlui
Mazapuspavina Md Yasin	Title yet to be confirmed	Prof. Dr. Awang Bulgiba
Nur Rafiatul Rizwanni Ahmad Nizar	Title yet to be confirmed	A/P Dr. Karuthan Chinna
Dr. Muftah Abdusalam Elbahloul	Title yet to be confirmed	A/P Dr. Karuthan Chinna

## FAMILY HEALTH UNIT

It has been a successful year for the Family Health Unit in 2011 under the headship of Associate Professor Dr Wong Yut Lin. She was ably supported by two full-time academics Dr. Maslinor Ismail and Dr Hazreen Abdul Majid and a part-timer, Associate Professor Dr Nabilla Al-Sadat Abd Mohsein who was recruited to head the newly formed Student Empowerment Research Unit (SERU) in the Student Affairs Division (HEP) directly under the Deputy Vice Chancellor of University of Malaya, Datuk Prof Dr Rohana Yusof. En Abdul Hadi Tabrani (PPS Gred C27) continued as support staff for the unit.

The aims of the unit are:

1. To produce students who are theoretically sound and technically competent especially in handling issues regarding family health and nutrition
2. To empower the staff with skill related to their job scope and research.

### Strengths / Expertise

Assoc. Prof. Dr Wong Yut Lin	Sexual Reproductive Health, Rights & Advocacy Gender-Based Violence & Interventions Behavioural (Qualitative) Research Methods
Assoc. Prof. Dr Nabilla Al-Sadat Abd Mohsein	Adolescent Health Tobacco Control and Economics Behavioural Science
Dr Maslinor Ismail	Infertility Sexual & Reproductive Health Child Health
Dr Hazreen Abd Majid	Sports Nutrition Clinical Nutrition Obesity

### Family Health Unit Activities

Research projects involvement in 2011:

1. MENCARE! Male Support of Breast Cancer Screening: Evaluation Research August 2008 - 2011. RM 50,000 NCWO/Pfizer.
2. Review of Hospital-Based One Stop Crisis Centre Services October 2008-2012. RM50,000 UNPFA/WIM.

3. Reproductive Rights and Choice: Insights from Women on Pregnancy Termination December 2010-December 2011. RM35,000 WHO (Malaysia).
4. MyHearts (Risk factor for chronic non-communicable diseases among adolescents) UMRG 299/11HTM – RM 60,000 + VC special funding (RM200,000).
5. Global Adult Tobacco Study 2011 (GATS) funded by CDC Atlanta, and WHO-organized by IKU.
6. Developed - Developing Countries Partnership for Chronic Diseases Prevention-Global Health Child Section 12-18 funded by Al-Ain University, UAE.
7. 3 minute nutrition screening (3 minNS) for identification of hospitalised adult patients at risk of malnutrition.
8. Flagship Project on Diseases among poverty – a community based project.
9. Malaysian Breast Cancer Survivorship Cohort (MyBCC) –a HIR (High Impact Research) project.

Research publications in 2011:

1. Yut-Lin Wong. Taking Stock of Alma-Ata Primary Health Care Health for All: Moving Toward New Directions in Global Preventive Health. *Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health* 2011 23(2): 125-126
2. Wan-Yuen Choo, Michael P. Dunne, Mary J. Marret, Mary Lou Flemming & Yut-Lin Wong. Victimization Experiences of Adolescents in Malaysia. *Journal of Adolescent Health*.doi:10.1016/j.jadohealth.2011.04.020
3. Wong Yut Lin & Rashidah Abdullah. Unwanted pregnancies and women's access to contraception and legal safe abortion in Malaysia: role of health providers. *Malaysian Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology* 2011 Vol. 8 No. 21 (Supplementary): 135.
4. Wong Yut Lin. Hospital-based One-Stop Crisis Centres (OSCC): Health Sector Response to Gender-Based Violence in Peninsular Malaysia. 2011, United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA), Malaysia. ISBN 978-983-3055-07-4
5. N. Al-Sadat, R. Yusof, F. Yunus, R Maznah, LL Ng. 2011 Student empowerment and Research Unit (SERU): a case study in enhancing development of soft skills among tertiary institutional students *EDULEARN* 11, July 2011 ISBN 978-84-615-0441-1
6. Asnida Anjang Ab Rahman, Nabilla Al-Sadat, Wah Yun Low. 2011. Prevalence of erectile dysfunction in primary care setting, Malaysia. *J Men's health*, April 2011, 8 (supple 1): S50-53
7. Asnida Anjang Ab Rahman, Nabilla Al-Sadat, Wah Yun Low. 2011. Help seeking behavior among men with erectile dysfunction in primary care setting, Malaysia. *J Men's health*, April 2011, 8 (supple 1): S 94-S96
8. M Dahlui, CW Ng, N Al Sadat, S Ismail, AM Bulgiba. Is breast self examination (BSE) still relevant? A study on BSE performance among female staff of University of Malaya. *Asian Pacific Journal of cancer prevention* 2011, Vol. 12: 369-372

9. Majid HA, Emery PW, Whelan K (2011) Faecal microbiota and short-chain fatty acids in patients receiving enteral nutrition with standard or fructo-oligosaccharides and fibre-enriched formulas. *J Hum Nutr Diet.* 2011, 24(3):260-8

#### **Academic Staff**

1. Associate Professor Dr Wong Yut Lin (Head of Unit)
2. Associate Professor Dr Nabilla Al-Sadat Abd Mohsein
3. Dr Maslinor Ismail
4. Dr Hazreen Abd Majid

#### **Support Staff**

1. En Abdul Hadi Tabrani



The Family Health Unit: (from left) Dr Hazreen Abd Majid, Assoc. Prof. Dr Nabilla Al-Sadat Abd Mohsein, Assoc. Prof. Dr Wong Yut Lin, Dr Maslinor Ismail, Mr. Abdul Hadi Tabrani

## OCCUPATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL UNIT

The Occupational and Environmental Health Unit (OEH) within the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine continued our efforts to become a prominent teaching cum research centre for postgraduate and doctorate studies in Occupational and Environmental Health in the country. In the year 2011, efforts were concentrated on further establishing the unit and its activities. The unit provides teaching for the modules in occupational and environmental health for the attainment of the MPH, MMedSc(PH), MPH (Occ. Health), DrPH and MBBS at the department, as well as taught modules for the M. Engg(SHE) at the Faculty of Engineering.

The aims of this unit are:

1. To deliver occupational health physicians with commendable occupational health clinical skills to provide occupational health service par excellence to industries locally and regionally.
2. To promote occupational health through the establishment of a centre for environmental and occupational health research
3. To pave into new niche areas of occupational and environmental research.

The unit continued its' build up of strength in teaching, research and also clinical practice in the field of occupational and environmental health. Our research activities continued with studies conducted by the academicians and also our doctorate candidates. This year we welcome back Dr. Victor Hoe who completed his PhD in Monash University. In addition to that, Professor David Koh from the National University of Singapore continued his tenure as a visiting professor to further strengthen the teaching and research activities in the OEH unit.

Based on the current interest of the academicians in the unit, the unit is developing research expertise in several fields in occupational health. These include:

1. Occupational stress and salivary biomarkers for stress
2. Musculoskeletal diseases
3. Burden of occupational diseases
4. Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome.

The unit also continued collaboration with other organisation for research such as the Monash University (Australia), University of Wakayama and Kinki University (Japan), SOCSO, the Ministry of Health and the Malaysian Airline Systems.

### **The Occupational Medicine Clinic**

The clinic continues to be the clinical arm of occupational health practice at the University of Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC). Apart from clinic based patient management, the specialists also conducted walkthrough surveys relevant to the patients at their workplaces. Thus the scope of diagnostic measures at the clinic goes beyond the hospital facilities and medical diagnosis, as the walkthrough surveys also enable us to scrutinize environmental and hygiene monitoring at the workplace to diagnose occupational diseases. The Occupational Medicine Clinic continues to be the only such facility in a teaching hospital in the country.

### **Unit Activities**

Members of the unit continued to be active members of the Occupational Safety and Health committees at the Faculty and hospital level. The members are involved in providing expert advice and also directly involve in the management activities such as preparation of for the MSQH and the JCI accreditation.

In a continuous effort to promote occupational health Dr. Azlan appeared on 3 episodes 'Wanita Hari Ini' on TV3 to promote workplace hygiene.

Dr Azlan and A/P Dr Retneswari and have been providing occupational health advisory services to Unilever Malaysia Holdings Sdn Bhd since December 2008.

This year the unit also provided a consultancy service to the Malaysian Airline System (MAS) for their Fatigue Risk Management System.

The unit continued to be actively involved in research projects throughout the year. The list of research projects can be viewed at the individual academic staffs profiles in the annual report.

### **The future**

The OEH unit is looking forward to further develop our research activities and Occupational Medicine Clinic. The unit is actively pursuing the effort to establish an Occupational and Environmental Health Research Centre to strengthen our university. In 2012, we also look into further collaborations with projects already planned with several universities in the Asia Pacific and also Germany. With proper planning, we envisage the unit to grow even further in 2012 and beyond.

### **Academic Staff**

1. Dr. Azlan Darus (Head of Unit)
2. Associate Professor Dr Retneswari Masilamani
3. Dr. Victor Hoe Chee Wai
4. Dr. Anselm Su Ting
5. Dr. Marzuki Isahak (on study leave)

### **Support Staff**

1. Ms Nur Fadhlina Othman (Assistant Scientific Officer)



The Occupational and Environmental Health Unit: (from left) Dr. Victor Hoe, Dr. Marzuki Isahak, S/N Hasdharina Johari, Ms. Nur Fadhlina Othman, A/P Dr. Retneswari Masilamani, Dr. Anselm Su Ting, Dr. Azlan Darus.



## HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT UNIT

2011 has been an exciting year for the Health Policy and Management Unit. Early in the year, the unit made a decision to shed its old name, “Health Management Unit”, to better reflect current teaching and research interests of its academic members. Over the past few years, there has been a gradual departure from teaching just pure management to medical undergraduates and postgraduate students to include the understanding of policy matters especially as they apply to the health system in this country. This move is deemed essential in view of the major changes that are expected in the system in the coming years and the dominant roles within this transformation that our graduates are expected to shoulder.

In addition to existing teaching modules, several new and exciting post-graduate teaching modules in health policy and management have been planned for the coming years. These modules will continue the current unit policy to not just emphasise on theoretical knowledge but also applied and practical aspects of health policy and management. Students have been given opportunities to visit existing health facilities to learn from actual managers in the field. Unit members are also contributing actively to the re-vamp of the medical undergraduate curriculum in the university. Again the focus of the unit participation is to arm future medical graduates with the knowledge and skills to contribute effectively to the betterment of the country’s health system.



Master students visited the Senawang Health Clinic and Pantai Community Clinic in Negeri Sembilan on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2011 to improve understanding of health care delivery system in Malaysia

The unit hosted a visit by Prof Vivian Lin from the La Trobe University School of Public Health on 6<sup>th</sup> April 6, 2011 who is a world renowned expert on health promotion and health systems development in the Asia-Pacific region. Prof Lin drew upon her extensive experience in research and consultancy for an insightful talk to the members of the Faculty of Medicine on *Health Care Policy in Transition in China: Reforming the reforms*. Following the talk, she met with department members to share her experiences as the founding director of the La Trobe University School of Public Health (2000-2005).



The Health Policy and Management Unit: (from left) Dr. Saimy Ismail, A/Prof Dr. Maznah Dahlui, Dr Farizah Mohd Hairi, A/Prof Dr. Ng Chiu Wan, Dr. Chan Chee Khoo, A/Prof Dr. Tin Tin Su, Pn. Suhaili Suboh.

#### **Academic Staff**

1. A/Prof Dr. Ng Chiu Wan (Head)
2. A/Prof Dr. Maznah Dahlui
3. A/Prof Dr. Tin Tin Su
4. Dr. Farizah Mohd Hairi

#### **Academic Consultants**

1. Dr. Chan Chee Khoo
2. Dr. Saimy Ismail

#### **Support Staff**

1. Pn. Suhaili Suboh

## EPIDEMIOLOGY AND STATISTICS UNIT

The Epidemiology and Biostatistics Unit is headed by Dr Moy Foong Ming. There are a total of eight academic staff and one trainee lecturer in this unit. Assoc. Prof Sanjay Rampal and Dr Mas Ayu Said are currently on study leave for their PhDs. Dr Noran Naqiah Hairi just completed her PhD and re-joined our unit in April 2011, while Dr Claire Choo left for her sabbatical from August to December 2011.

This unit is involved in the teaching of Epidemiology and Biostatistics to both undergraduate and postgraduate candidates of Faculty of Medicine. It also provides consultation in research methodology and medical statistics to post-graduate candidates, doctors, allied health practitioners and academic staff of the faculty.

Together with Julius Centre University of Malaya (Centre of Clinical Epidemiology & Evidence Based Medicine), the unit runs many courses and workshops such as Evidence Based Practice, SPSS, Regression Analysis, Survival Analysis, Endnote etc. throughout the year.

### Unit Activities

Other than teaching the MBBS candidates, the unit also teaches the Bachelor of Biomedical Science (BBMS), Bachelor of Nursing (B Nursing), Diploma of Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT). For post-graduate programs, this unit plays a vital role in the Master of Public Health (MPH), Master of Medical Science in Public Health (MMedScPH) and Doctor of Public Health (DrPH). The Research Methodology which is a compulsory module to be taken by all research candidates of Faculty of Medicine is also conducted by our unit. Every year, there are about 100 research candidates signing up for this module. Other than the public health programs, our unit also teaches master students from Clinical Oncology, Psychological Medicine, Nursing and Community Dentistry in Epidemiology and Medical Statistics.

The core modules taught are as follows:

1. MBBS – Epidemiology & Statistics (Phase II), Clinical Epidemiology & Evidence Based Medicine (Phase IIIA)
2. MPH / MMedScPH – Principles of Biostatistics, Principles & Methods of Epidemiology, Research Methodology, Research Proposal Development, Epidemiology of Diseases in Malaysia, Producing Better Evidence, Qualitative Research in Public Health
3. DrPH – Essential Epidemiology in Public Health, Research Protocol Development, Clinical Epidemiology, Analysis of Rates and Proportions

The unit also involved actively in most of the activities organised under the Julius Centre University of Malaya (please refer to JCUM's report).

### **Academic Staff**

1. Professor Dr Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud (Director, Strategic and Planning Unit, Chancellery)
2. Associate Professor Dr Karuthan Chinna
3. Associate Professor Dr Wong Li Ping
4. Dr Noran Naqiah Mohd Hairi
5. Dr Moy Foong Ming
6. Dr Claire Choo Wan Yuen
7. Associate Professor Dr Sanjay Rampal (on study leave)
8. Dr Mas Ayu Said (on study leave)
9. Dr Rafdzah Ahmad Zaki (Trainee Lecturer)

### **Support Staff**

1. Ms Norlissa binti Gani (Dietician/Programme Assistant)
2. Ms Nur Hashimah Kamar Redzawan (Assistant Scientific Officer/Programme Assistant)

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The Epidemiology and Statistics Unit: (from left) Ms Norlissa Gani, Dr Moy Foong Ming, Dr Noran Naqiah Mohd Hairi, A/Prof. Karuthan Chinna, Dr Claire Choo Wan Yuen, A/Prof. Wong Li Ping, Ms Nur Hashimah Kaman Redzaman



## JULIUS CENTRE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA

### Formation of the Centre

The Julius Centre University of Malaya was borne out of the collaboration between the University of Malaya (UM) and the University Medical Centre, Utrecht (UMCU). UMCU together with the Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (CEBM), University of Oxford, the Rumah Sakit Cipto Mangunkusumo (RSCM) Hospital, Jakarta and UM had earlier won a bid under the Asia-Link project series funded by the European Union. The winning bid for this particular Asia-Link project was called the Asia-Europe Clinical Epidemiology and Evidence-Based Medicine project (fondly referred to as Asia-Link within JCUM) and required the collaboration of at least 2 European and 2 Asian partners. The project which ended in Dec 2010 lasted for 3 years (Nov 2007 to Dec 2010) and was officially launched on 19 Nov 2007 in UM. To further strengthen the ties between UMCU, CEBM, RSCM and UM, it was decided that the department would set up a centre which would further the collaboration beyond the remit of the Asia-Link project. Professor Awang Bulgiba presented the proposal to create this centre to the UM Management and the centre was approved by the UM Management on 9 Jan 2008.

Currently the centre has a Visiting Professor room, 3 work areas which are able to accommodate 16 doctoral students and 2 research officers, a utility room and a meeting room. The centre is currently equipped with 15 personal computers, printer/copier/fax and video-conferencing facilities.

The first project officer hired under the Asia-Link programme was Ms Celine Quek She Lin. She served as project officer from January to March 2008 and was succeeded by Ms Aimi Naira Mat Ruzlin who served from April to December 2008. Ms Aimi left to pursue her studies at the end of 2008 and she was succeeded by Ms Hamizwanis Abdul Hamid. Ms Devi Peramalah joined the centre as a Research Officer in 2009. Another project officer, Ms Lee Pek Ling and a Research Assistant for the STeMM Programme (Mr Jonathan Dass) were hired in 2011. The future is bright for JCUM as it is an officially recognised research centre in the Faculty of Medicine and is expected to grow to be the referral centre for epidemiology and evidence-based medicine in Malaysia.

### Aims

The aims of the JCUM are:

1. To carry out research in the field of epidemiology and evidence-based medicine
2. To develop the field of epidemiology and evidence-based medicine in Malaysia
3. To train medical staff in the field of epidemiology and evidence-based medicine



4. To improve the quality of epidemiological and evidence-based medicine research in Malaysia
5. To develop training and activity development programmes in epidemiology and evidence-based medicine in the University of Malaya
6. To act as the centre for problem solving in research methodology and medical statistics in the country

### **Strengths and Expertise**

The strengths of the centre lie in its expertise in statistics, evidence-based medicine, epidemiology and research. As a young centre, it is still growing in stature but has proven itself capable of organising itself very well. The other main strength of the centre is its close links to its partners in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates.

### **Centre Activities**

The activities of the JCUM are:

1. Managing research activities in the field of clinical epidemiology and evidence-based medicine.
2. Managing the Asia-Europe Clinical Epidemiology and Evidence-Based Medicine Programme.
3. Organising short courses in the field of clinical epidemiology and evidence-based medicine.
4. Coordinating student exchange programmes amongst PhD candidates between Utrecht, Oxford and Jakarta.
5. Developing the curriculum in the field of clinical epidemiology and evidence-based medicine.
6. Acting as a reference and advisory centre in the field of clinical epidemiology and evidence-based medicine.

Since its inception, the centre has been active in carrying out activities both under the Asia-Link programme as well as its own activities separately from the Asia-link programme. These activities include maintaining the Asia-Europe CE & EBM website (<http://www.asialink-ce.org>), organising short courses (with UMCU, CEBM and RSCM partners), selecting PhD fellows destined for UMCU and CEBM Oxford and coming out with the clinical epidemiology and evidence-based medicine module for the MBBS programme. Dr Ng Chong Guan and Dr Sharmini Selvarajah (Asia-Link PhD fellows selected in 2009) have both returned to Malaysia to complete their PhDs. Dr Nirmala Bhoo Pathy has published a number of papers and has completed her PhD from Utrecht. The following research projects were carried out by JCUM in 2011.

## Research Projects

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### STeMM – Spatio-Temporal Modelling and Meta-analysis

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Investigators:	Prof Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud Associate Prof Karuthan Chinna (Infectious Disease Modelling) Associate Prof Noran Naqiah Hairi (MyCaRDIO) Dr Moy Foong Ming (Meta-analysis) +19 others
Funding agency:	Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia
Grant:	MOHE-UM High Impact Research (HIR) Grant
Reference number:	E000010-20001
Amount:	RM2.47 million
Period:	July 2011 – December 2015

This project is divided into 3 parts (Infectious Disease Modelling, MyCaRDIO and Meta-analysis). It aims at producing models in space and time for at least one infectious disease (dengue), cardiovascular registry based models and meta-analysis/systematic reviews of conditions related to these 2 diseases. The study is expected to offer new insights into these diseases. Data collection into these diseases has started. The project is expected to fund research (in parts) of at least 2 PhD candidates. The project has resulted in the following outputs in 2011:

1. Hairi NN, Bulgiba A, Cumming RG, Naganathan V, Mudla I. Depressive symptoms, visual impairment, and its influence on physical disability and functional limitation. *J Am Geriatr Soc.* 2011; 59(3): 557-9.

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### The process of smoking cessation in smokers attending Quit Smoking Clinics in Malaysia

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Investigators:	Ms Wee Lei Hum Prof Dr Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud Prof Dr Robert West (Health Behaviour Research Centre, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University College London) – Advisor
Funding agency:	Ministry of Health Malaysia
Grant:	Ninth Malaysia Plan (Research and Development)
Reference number:	53-02-03-1016 (Oracle 8531016)
Amount spent:	RM520, 000
Period:	January 2007 – June 2011

This project attempts to test a new motivational theory called the PRIME theory in understanding how smokers prepare their quit attempts. This groundbreaking theory marks a significant shift in understanding the process and determinants of behavioural change. Despite the evidence on the effectiveness of various tobacco control strategies to improve the quit rates, there appear to be gaps in understanding the processes involve in smokers'

decisions to stop smoking. The study is expected to offer new insights into the process of smoking cessation and also set to discover new predictors and improve intervention strategies. The project is funded by the Ministry of Health and is expected to cost about RM520,000 over 4 years. Data collection for the project has been completed and the project is on schedule for completion in June 2011. The project has funded research by one PhD candidate (Ms Wee Lei Hum). In 2010 the project resulted in an online database system for smoking cessation clinics which was completed in 2011 and is currently in use by Tanglin Clinic. The project also resulted in the following outputs in 2011:

1. Wee LH, West R, Bulgiba A, Shahab L. Predictors of 3-month abstinence in smokers attending stop-smoking clinics in Malaysia. *Nicotine Tob Res.* 2011; 13(2): 151-6.
2. Wee LH, Shahab L, Bulgiba A, West R. Stop smoking clinics in Malaysia: characteristics of attendees and predictors of success. *Addict Behav.* 2011; 36(4): 400-3.

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#### **Mathematical Modelling in Tuberculosis Transmission and Impact on Early intervention (Chemoprophylaxis) in Malaysia**

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Investigators: Dr. Nurhuda Ismail  
 Prof. Dr. Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud  
 Prof. Dr. Nicolaas J.D. Nagelkerke

Funding agency: University of Malaya

Grant: UM Postgraduate Research Fund

Reference number: PS386/2009B

Amount: RM10,100.00

Period: June 2009 - May 2011

Epidemic modelling generates estimates and projections of disease morbidity and mortality over time. This project aims to apply the use of deterministic mathematical models to study the progression of latent tuberculosis infection in high risk sub-populations in Malaysia, and to assess the impact of chemoprophylaxis i.e. Isoniazid Preventive Therapy on reducing incidence. It is hoped that the result will demonstrate that treatment of infectives is more effective in the first years of implementation as treatment results in clearing active tuberculosis immediately and there after chemoprophylaxis will do better in controlling the number of infectives due to reduced progression to active tuberculosis. The model also suggests that this recommended chemoprophylaxis which identify and treat persons recently infected may have a substantial effect on controlling tuberculosis epidemics. The project is funding research by one DrPH candidate (Dr. Nurhuda Ismail), currently is being written up. The completion of the project should result in 2 journal papers, 2 conference papers and 1 DrPH thesis.

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#### **Factors affecting adherence to anti-retroviral treatment in HIV patients in Malaysia**

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Investigators: Prof Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud  
 Dr Umar Yagoub Mohammed  
 Dr Zamri bin Chik

Dr Christopher KC lee  
 Devi Peramalah  
 Funding agency: University of Malaya  
 Grant: University of Malaya Research Grant  
 Reference number: UMRG/RG006/09HTM  
 Amount: RM 222,200  
 Period: April 2009-March 2012

This project aims to determine the true level and determinants of adherence to anti-retroviral treatments in HIV positive patients in Sungai Buloh Hospital, Malaysia. It will also be used to validate self-reporting instruments as a means of testing adherence. This is the first study on adherence to antiretroviral treatment in Malaysia and expected to help in improving the clinical management of HIV/ AIDS patients, reduce drug resistance and treatment failure and more importantly provide the different pharmacy departments with sufficient information about the effect of their prescribed medications which will enable the country to avoid wastage of expensive medication. The study is a combined retrospective and prospective cohort in which a self-reported medication adherence questionnaire is administered and blood samples collected for analysis by mass spectrometry, while pharmacy records and medical test results are collected from medical electronic records retrospectively. The project is funding research by one PhD candidate (Dr Umar Yagoub Mohammed). Primary data collection for the project has been completed and the blood samples have been analysed. The data is currently being analysed and are currently undergoing analysis. The completion of the project should result in 3 journal papers, 3 conference papers and 1 PhD thesis. In 2011 the project resulted in the following outputs:

1. Umar Yagoub, Awang M Bulgiba, Didi EM, Mustafa AM, Peramalah D, Christopher Lee, Chik Z. Validation and analysis of Efavirenz in human plasma using high-performance liquid chromatographic-mass spectrometric (LC-MS-MS). *International Journal Of Natural Product and Pharmaceutical Sciences (IJNPPS)*. 2011; 2(2): 72-81.
2. Umar Yagoub, Awang M Bulgiba, Zamri Chik, Christopher Lee, Devi Peramalah. Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Patients Diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Sungai Buloh Hospital, Malaysia. *Proceedings of the 43rd Asia Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health (APACPH) Conference, 2011: Seoul, Korea: 2011. p368-9.*

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#### **Survival analysis of Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy (HAART) recipients at Sungai Buloh Hospital: 1997 - 2008**

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Investigators: Dr. Narimah Hanim Ibrahim  
 Prof. Dr. Awang Bulgiba bin Awang Mahmud  
 Funding agency: University of Malaya  
 Grant: Supported by UMRG/RG006/09HTM  
 Amount: Shared with UMRG/RG006/09HTM  
 Period: Jul 2010-Jun 2012

This study aims to ascertain the efficacy of the HAART regime for survival of HIV/AIDS patients, to determine the prognostic factors for survival, the incidence of adverse effects of HAART and the incidence of AIDS-related mortality. It is a retrospective cohort study involving all HIV/AIDS patients registered at the Infectious Disease Clinic, Sungai Buloh Hospital between 1997 and 2008. Prognostic factors of interest are predictors for better survival for example younger age group, no history of existing co-morbidities, non-smoking patients, no history of alcohol use, good social support and normal biochemical data (normal liver enzymes levels, normal creatinine level, normal cholesterol level, no Hepatitis B, no Hepatitis C). This study will produce models to predict the survival probabilities of HIV/AIDS patients on HAART. This will be very useful especially to the healthcare provider to improve the management of HIV/AIDS patients and also the Ministry of Health and other agencies which contribute to the service in terms of planning and expanding the services in future. The project will fund research by one DrPH candidate (Dr Narimah Hanim Ibrahim). The completion of the project should result in 2 journal papers and 1 DrPH thesis.

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#### **Methods of determining agreement and reliability in some medical applications**

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Investigator:	Dr Rafdzah Ahmad Zaki Prof Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud
Funding agency:	University of Malaya
Grant:	UM Postgraduate Research Grant
Reference number:	PS162/2009B
Amount:	RM15,910
Period:	June 2009 - June 2011

The purpose of this study is to compare different statistical methods of measuring agreement and reliability, and to propose a method using regression analysis for measuring agreement. This study will present a direct comparison of commonly used statistical methods to measure agreement and reliability. This study aims to make recommendations on which method is the most appropriate method to use to measure agreement and reliability. This is a cross-sectional study, where the study population comes from the UM Wellness programme and community-based health screening program. Data collection has been completed (variables: Systolic BP, Diastolic BP, Heart Rate, Glucose level, CO level, Peak Flow Rate, Weight and Temperature). The investigators are now analysing the data. This study is funding research by one DrPH candidate (Dr Rafdzah Ahmad Zaki). This study already resulted with four international conferences presentation study last year. The completion of this project should result in at least 3 journal papers, and 1 DrPH thesis. In 2011 the project resulted in the following outputs:

- Papers submitted for publication:
  1. Turkish Journal of Medical Sciences
    - a. Manuscript title: How accurate is your medical instrument?
    - b. Authors: Rafdzah Zaki, Bulgiba Awang, Roshidi Ismail and NoorAzina Ismail
  2. BMC Medical Research Methodology



- a. Manuscript title: Knowledge on analysis of method comparison study in medicine: a review of studies.
- b. Authors: Rafdzah Zaki, Bulgiba Awang, Noorhaire Nordin and NoorAzina Ismail
- 3. Journal of the Korean Medical Association.
  - a. Manuscript title: Education on method comparison study should not be neglected in medical training
  - b. Authors: Rafdzah Zaki, Bulgiba Awang, Roshidi Ismail and NoorAzina Ismail
- 4. PLoS ONE
  - a. Manuscript title: Overestimation of bias in the Bland-Altman analysis
  - b. Authors: Rafdzah Zaki, Bulgiba Awang and NoorAzina Ismail
- 5. PLoS ONE
  - a. Manuscript title: A systematic review of statistical method used to test for agreement of medical instruments measuring continuous variable in method comparison study
  - b. Authors: Rafdzah Zaki, Bulgiba Awang, Roshidi Ismail and NoorAzina Ismail

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**UMMC Health risk behaviours and needs of Mat Sikal: an exploratory study.**

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Investigators: Assoc. Prof. Dr Wong Li Ping  
 Funding agency: University of Malaya  
 Grant: UMRG  
 Reference number: RG337/11HTM  
 Amount: RM 26,800  
 Period: 2011-2012

The aim of this study is to undertake detailed investigation of the activities and needs of adolescents involved in bicycle street racing. Such study has not been reported in local published research. Specific objectives are 1) to gain in-depth understanding of street cycling culture of this cohort (Mat Sikal) and to investigate factors associated to risk behaviours. 2) to identify the needs within this cohort, and participants' viewpoints on how to address their needs 3) to assess perception and experiences of street cyclists about street cycling and racing 4) to assess demographic profile (socio-economic background) of 'Mat Sikal'/street cyclists 5) to investigate association between street cycling and associated health risk behaviors such as substance abuse (alcohol, cigarette and drug use). The study is hoped to provide explanation to this new street cycling culture. The factors that promote street cycling will be identified. The needs and viewpoints of this cohort will be determined.

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**Knowledge, beliefs, and practices (KBPs) related to dengue fever**

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Investigators: Assoc. Prof. Dr Wong Li Ping  
 Prof Dr Sazaly Bin Abu Bakar  
 Funding agency: Ministry of Higher Education  
 Grant: LRGS  
 Reference number: (LRGS) 2011 FASA 1I2O1I

Amount: RM 219,360

Period: 2011-2014

The aims of this study are to determine 1) knowledge, beliefs, practices (KBPs), experience, and perceived susceptibility and severity of dengue fever 2) to assess associations among knowledge, beliefs, practices (KBPs), experience, and perceived susceptibility and severity of dengue fever 3) to identify predictive factors for knowledge, beliefs, practices (KBPs), experience, and perceived susceptibility and severity of dengue fever. Study population are 1) lay public 2) Orang Asli. Assessment of knowledge, beliefs and practices (KAPs), and perceived susceptibility and severity of dengue fever among the general lay public, patients, and Orang Asli communities may identify its shortcomings, hence inform community-oriented programs. Identification of predictive factors may help inform interventions to target at specific segment of the populations. The results of this study can be used as guidelines for health workers in the training and promotion of community preventive behaviours in the formulation of administrative policies and programs defined at reducing incidence of dengue fever for general Malaysian public and Orang Asli populations.

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#### **Characteristics, treatment outcome and survival of TB/HIV co-infected patients in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor**

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Investigators: Dr Ismawati Ismail  
 Prof Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud

Funding Agency: University of Malaya

Grant: Postgraduate Research Fund (PPP)

Reference number: PS 230/2010A

Amount: RM 6,736

Period: April 2010 to April 2012

Worldwide, more than 38 million people are currently infected with HIV/AIDS. In high HIV prevalence countries, HIV/AIDS is the main reason for failure to meet Tuberculosis (TB) control targets and TB is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality among persons living with HIV/AIDS. This study will be able to highlight the characteristics of TB/HIV co-infected patients in Malaysia; their treatment outcomes and the predictors of survival thus providing beneficial information that can be used to improve the outcome. The study population comes from the Institute of Respiratory Medicine, Kuala Lumpur, Sungai Buloh Hospital, Kajang Hospital and Hospital Tuanku Ampuan Rahimah, Klang. The evidence from this study can be used to guide the development of appropriate strategies in addressing the TB/HIV epidemic in Malaysia. The data is currently being analysed and are currently undergoing analysis. In 2011, the project resulted in the following outputs:

1. Ismail I, Magaji BA, Bulgiba A. Systematic review – Predictors of mortality in HIV-associated tuberculosis. Proceedings of the International Health Conference IIUM 7-8 Dec 2011: Kuantan, Malaysia: 2011. p115.

2. Ismail I, Bulgiba A. Systematic review – Characteristics of Tuberculosis/HIV co-infected patients in Klang Valley, Malaysia. Proceedings of the International Health Conference IIUM 7-8 Dec 2011: Kuantan, Malaysia: 2011. p116.

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#### **Translational research in primary prevention of chronic diseases in a workplace**

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Investigators: Dr Moy Foong Ming  
 Prof Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud  
 Assoc. Prof Sanjay Rampal  
 Dr Victor Hoe Chee Wai Abdullah

Funding agency: University of Malaya

Grant: Research University Grant

Reference number: RG051/09HTM

Amount: RM 97,300 / RM60,000

Period: March 2009 - Mac 2012

Primary prevention of chronic diseases is proven to be much more cost effective than secondary and tertiary prevention. Multiple approaches at different settings are needed to combat the increase burden of these diseases. Worksite health promotion which is comprehensive with multiple approaches has been associated with a reduction in health risks and promotion of healthy lifestyles, improvements in economic and productivity factors including medical costs, compensation benefits, employee absenteeism and job satisfaction. This proposed study will try to translate evidences from clinical trials to the worksite setting through health education with behavioural change, environmental support and participation from the management of the university. This study is supporting 2 DrPH and 1 Master candidates. In 2011 the project resulted in the following outputs:

- Publications:
  1. Moy FM, Awang Bulgiba. High prevalence of vitamin D insufficiency and its association with obesity and metabolic syndrome among Malay adults in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. BMC Public Health. 2011; 11: 735.
  2. FM Moy, Vitamin D status and its associated factors of free living Malay adults in a tropical country, Malaysia, J. Photochem. Photobiol. B. Biol. 2011; doi:10.1016/j.jphotobiol.2011.05.002
- Proceedings:
  1. FM Moy. Association of vitamin D and cardiometabolic risk factors among a Malay cohort in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health. 2011: A277.
  2. Moy FM, Awang Bulgiba. Association of obesity and metabolic syndrome with vitamin D insufficiency among Malay adults in Kuala Lumpur. Proceeding MASO 2011 Scientific Conference on Obesity: 2011. p23.
  3. FM Moy, AM Bulgiba. Results of a 3-year workplace wellness program among a work cohort in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. J Epidemiology and Community Health: 2011. p A389.

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**Association of candidate genes predisposing to obesity in Malaysian subjects**

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Investigators:	Professor Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud Associate Professor Dr.Sanjay Rampal Professor Datin Dr.Zahurin Mohamed Dr. Moy Foong Ming Professor Dr. Rosmawati Mohamed Ms.Yamunah Devi Apalatomy
Funding Agency:	University Malaya
Grant:	Research University Grant
Reference number:	RG075/09HTM
Amount:	RM 200,000
Period:	April 2009 to March 2011 (Extended till 30/9/2012)

Obesity is becoming a major problem in Malaysia as it worldwide. Obesity is a multi-factorial disease that occurs due to complex interactions between genetic and environmental factors. Many studies have shown that genetic susceptibility is likely to vary among different ethnic groups. Large numbers of genes and single nucleotide polymorphisms associated with obesity have been tested in studies among various heterogenous populations worldwide. Mutations in genes involved in food intake, energy metabolism, energy expenditure, lipid and glucose metabolism and adipose tissue metabolism are found to be associated with obesity in humans. Study on the influence of genetics on obesity is still new in Malaysia and yet to be carried out. Hence, it would be great interest if we can establish a DNA profile for obesity in our population. This study is aimed to investigate association between various single nucleotide polymorphisms with obesity parameters in the Malaysian subjects. In 2011 the project resulted in the following outputs:

1. Apalatomy YD, Ming MF, Rampal S, Bulgiba A, Mohamed Z. Gender-Dependent Association of a beta2- Adrenergic Gene Variant With Obesity Parameters in Malaysian Malays. *Asia Pac J Public Health*. 2011.
2. Yamunah DA, FM Moy, S Rampal, AM Bulgiba, Z Mohamed. Association of a FTO Gene Variant with Obesity in Malaysian Malays. 2011 Scientific Conference on Obesity, 28-29 June 2011: MASO. *(Oral presentation-symposium)*
3. Apalatomy Yamunah Devi, Mohamed Zahurin, Rampal Sanjay, Bulgiba Awang, Moy Foong Ming. Melanocortin – 4 receptor gene polymorphism and association with cholesterol levels in Malaysian Malays. 4<sup>th</sup> Pan Arab Human Genetics Conference and the Human Genome Meeting, 14-17 March 2011: Dubai, UAE *(Poster)*.
4. Mohamed Zahurin, Apalatomy Yamunah Devi, Rampal Sanjay, Bulgiba Awang, Moy Foong Ming. Association of INSIG2 RS7566605 Polymorphism with Obesity-Related Parameters in Malaysian Malays. 4<sup>th</sup> Pan Arab Human Genetics Conference and the Human Genome Meeting, 14-17 March 2011: Dubai, UAE. *(Poster)*

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**The impact of applied progressive deep muscle relaxation training (APMRT) to the level of depression, anxiety, stress and quality of life among prostate cancer patients**

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Investigators: Dr Mohamad Rodi bin Isa  
 Dr Moy Foong Ming,  
 Funding Agency: University of Malaya  
 Grant: PPP  
 Reference number: PS228/2010A  
 Amount: RM 11,500  
 Period: 2010-2012

Receiving a diagnosis or treatment for prostate cancer is highly likely to be a significant distressing occasion for a substantial proportion of these men. This situation leads to an increase in anxiety, depression and sadness in patients, consequently affects in their quality of life. Consultation-liaison psychiatrists and physician need to be aware of the psychological sequelae of both prostate cancer and treatment-related side effects. It represents an important and innovative contribution to psychiatric practice is to target psychiatric services to those in need. The need for identifying psychological morbidity and patient reported outcomes along with conventional cancer treatment is well known. Progressive Muscle Relaxation (PMR) is a technique to create a state of deep relaxation and was developed by American physician, Dr. Edmund Jacobson in 1934 based on the theory that a psychobiological state called neuromuscular hypertension is basis for a variety of negative emotional states and psychosomatic diseases and based on a theory that the body's muscle tension is from anxiety-provoking thoughts and events. Progressive muscle relaxation involves alternately tensing and relaxing the muscles. Evidences had shown that relaxation therapy may improve psychological outcomes in many diseases like after coronary artery bypass graft surgery, bronchial asthma, after hysterectomy etc. The study involved two phases of study which are the cross-sectional study and quasi-experimental study. The cross-sectional study conducted to determine the prevalence of depression, anxiety and stress and its relationship to the health related quality of life (HRQOL) and quasi-experimental study conducted to determine the impact of applied progressive deep muscle relaxation training (APMRT) to the level of depression, anxiety, stress and quality of life among prostate cancer patients. Data collection for this project still not completed for the control group for the follow up study. This project is funding research by one DrPH candidate (Dr Mohamad Rodi bin Isa). It is on schedule for completion in May 2012. In 2011, the project resulted in the following outputs:

1. Mohamad Rodi Isa, Moy FM, Azad Hassan Abdul Razack, Nur Zuraida Zainal. The prevalence of depression and its associated factors among prostate cancer patients in University Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC), Kuala Lumpur. 6<sup>th</sup> Public Health Conference 11 – 13 July, 2011: Seremban, Negeri Sembilan.
2. Mohamad Rodi, I, Moy FM, Azad Hassan Abdul Razack. The General Health Related Quality of Life among Prostate Cancer Patients in University Malaya Medical Centre: A Cross-Sectional Study. 43<sup>rd</sup> Asia Pacific Academic Consortium of Public Health, 20 – 22 October 2011: Yonsei University Seoul, Republic of Korea.



3. Mohamad Rodi Isa, Moy FM, Azad Hassan Abdul Razack, Nur Zuraida Zainal, Zulkifli Md Zainuddin. The Impact of Applied Progressive Muscle Relaxation Training to the Level of Depression, Anxiety, Stress and Quality of Life of Prostate Cancer Patients – Protocol of a Quasi-Experimental Study (IRCT201103176085N1). 43<sup>rd</sup> Asia Pacific Academic Consortium of Public Health, 20 – 22 October 2011: Yonsei University Seoul, Republic of Korea.
4. Mohamad Rodi Isa, Moy FM, Azad Hassan Abdul Razack, Nur Zuraida Zainal The Prevalence of Anxiety and Its Relationship with General Health Related Quality of Life among Prostate Cancer Patients in a Tertiary Medical Centre in Kuala Lumpur. 1st International Symposium on Health Research and Development and the 3rd Western Pacific Regional Conference on Public Health 16 – 18 November 2011: Sanur Paradise, Bali, Indonesia.
5. Mohamad Rodi Isa, Moy FM, Azad Hassan Abdul Razack, Nur Zuraida Zainal. A Study of Stress Status and its Relationship with General Health Related Quality of Life among Prostate Cancer Patients in a Tertiary Centre in Kuala Lumpur. International Health Conference International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), 7 – 8 December 2011: Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia.
6. Mohamad Rodi Isa, Moy Foong Ming, Azad Hassan Abdul Razack, Nor Zuraida Zainal. The prevalence of depression and its associated factors among prostate cancer patients in University Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC), Kuala Lumpur. Malaysian Journal of Public Health Medicine 2011; 11(Suppl 4). (*Non-ISI/Non-SCOPUS Cited Publication*)

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**Pattern, predictors of survival and health related quality of life among colorectal cancer patients in UMMC**

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Investigators:	Dr Bello Arkilla Magaji Dr Moy Foong Ming Assoc Prof Law Chee Wei Assoc Prof April Camilla Roslani
Funding Agency:	University of Malaya
Grant:	Postgraduate Research Fund (PPP)
Reference number:	PS 212/2010A/PV015/2011B
Amount:	RM 8,500/ RM 29,000
Period:	April 2010 to April 2011

The aim of this research project is to determine the pattern of distribution, predictors of survival, and health related quality of life among colorectal cancer patients attending University of Malaya Medical Centre. This study is divided into three phases; phase one involves the use of the database from the Colorectal Surgery Unit to answer the questions on the pattern of distribution of the colorectal cancer and survival study. The second phase, involves the validation of colorectal cancer specific health related quality of life instruments acquired from the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer while

phase three is a fieldwork to determine the quality of life of the patients using the validated instruments. In 2011, the project resulted in the following outputs:

1. Magaji BA, Moy FM, Roslani AC, Law CW, Buckley BS. Closed versus open approach in laparoscopic colorectal surgery. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2011; 2: Art. No.: CD003547. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD003547.pub3.
2. An abstract titled Poster 459: "Demographic and Histopathological Features of Colorectal Cancers Managed at the University of Malaya Medical Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 2005-2009" was submitted and published in the book of abstract for the African Organization for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC) held in Cairo Egypt 2011.
3. Finalized the translation of instruments into the three Malaysian languages, a final draft of questionnaire has been approved by the European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer Quality of Life Group.
4. Bello Arkilla Magaji was invited by the Breast Cancer Group to present a talk on the "Validation of European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer Quality of Life Instrument (EORTC QLQ-C30)" November, 2011.

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**Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for occupational stress: An intervention study on psychological symptoms and sickness absence.**

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Investigators:	Dr Marzuki Isahak Dr Azlan Darus Dr Moy Foong Ming
Funding Agency:	University of Malaya
Grant:	PPP Grant
Reference number:	PS175/2009B
Amount:	RM 17,620

Occupational stress has becoming an important entity to be tackled by Occupational Physician as its taking its toll on human lives and organizational effectiveness. University staff reported significantly higher levels of stress relating to work relationships, control, resources and communication and significantly lower level of commitment both from and to their organization. Physiological response to a threatening or difficult aspect of work and can be measured objectively with serum cortisol level. Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a worksite-based program designed to assist work organizations in addressing productivity issues, and employee in identifying and resolving personal concerns, including, but not limited to, health, marital, family, financial, alcohol, drug, legal, emotional, stress, or other personal issues that may affect job performance. EAP for stress is specially designed to overcome occupational stress. The objective of this study is to determine the effectiveness of EAP for occupational stress in reduction psychological symptoms and sickness absence. In 2011 the project resulted in the following outputs:

1. Isahak M, Darus A, Moy FM, Retneswari M. Employee Assistance Programme for Stress: The Impact on Workers Health in a Public University. *Malaysian Journal of Public Health Medicine*. 2011; 11(2) : 33

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**Postgraduate supporting grant – combined projects**

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Funding Agency:	University Malaya
Grant:	Postgraduate Research Grant (PPP)
Reference number:	PV065/2011A
Amount:	RM 110,000 (supporting 3 projects as below)
Period:	August 2011 – June 2013

**(1) Reliability and validity of IPAQ measuring physical activity of adults in UM**

Investigators: Ms Anne Chu Hin Yee

Dr. Moy Foong Ming

The International Physical Activity Questionnaire (IPAQ) was developed to assess physical activities across countries and settings. However, the IPAQ long form was not validated in the Malay language. We aim to translate and validate a Malay version of the IPAQ long form (IPAQ-M) for the usage of Malay speaking users. A satisfying-good consistency indicates that the IPAQ-M could be used for research purposes for collecting data on the levels of total physical activity among the Malay population. The validated IPAQ-M will be used to study the association of physical activity level with the prevalence of metabolic syndrome in Malay adults. In 2011, the project resulted in the following output:

(i) Poster presentation entitled “Reliability and validity of IPAQ for measuring physical activity among Malay adults” at the 26th Scientific Conference & Annual General Meeting organized by the Nutrition Society of Malaysia on 24th – 25th of March 2011.

**(2) A community based healthy lifestyle intervention amongst high risk adults to prevent diabetes (Co-Help)**

Investigators: Dr Norliza Ibrahim

Dr. Moy Foong Ming

Despite significant advances in Medicine, Diabetes Mellitus remains a major global health problem. The increasing prevalence of type 2 diabetes is due to a combination of factors such as population growth, increasing life span, urbanization, increasing prevalence of obesity and physical inactivity. Malaysia is similarly affected due to a major shift in the lifestyles and longevity of the population. Globally, Malaysia is placed at number ten amongst countries with high diabetes prevalence. Therefore a community based healthy lifestyle intervention trial was initiated amongst high risk adults to prevent diabetes in Negeri Sembilan. The general objective of this study is to assess the effectiveness of lifestyle modification intervention as compared to usual care (conventional intervention) in reducing the modifiable risk factors of type 2 diabetes among high risk adults. Currently the study is in data collection phase.

**(3) Group support lifestyle modification (G-Slim) programme versus dietary counseling for obese adults in UM- A Randomised Controlled Trial**

Investigators: Dr. Siti Noraida Jamal  
 Dr. Moy Foong Ming  
 Dr. Mohd Nahar Azmi Mohamed  
 Dr. Hajjah Firdaus Mukhtar  
 Dr. Zulkarnain Jaafar

Overweight and obesity prevalence has increased by 154% within 10 years in Malaysia. Addressing obesity within community remains a challenge. From dietetic to lifestyle modification which integrates dietetic counselling had been the current approaches to overcome this challenge. Effect of group support as part of lifestyle modification offers a potential to improve effects of lifestyle modification in obesity management within community. This study is aimed to investigate the difference in effects between group support lifestyle modifications as compared to minimal dietetic counselling which is currently offered in among obese employees in a public university in Kuala Lumpur. The project is still in its data collection phase.

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#### **Nutritional Optimization With Specific Nutrients In Colorectal Cancer Patients Receiving Chemotherapy: A Randomised Double-Blinded Trial**

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Investigators: Dr. Babak Golkhalkhali  
 Prof. Chin Kin Fah  
 Dr. Moy Foong Ming  
 Dr. Ho Gwo Fuang  
 Dr. Wan Zamaniah

Funding Agency: University of Malaya  
 Grant: Postgraduate Research Fund (PPP)  
 Reference number: PV082 /2011A  
 Amount: RM 55,000  
 Period: Sep.2010 to Sep. 2013

The aim of this research project is to determine the effectiveness of nutritional optimization on the health quality of life, body composition and side effect of colorectal cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy. This study is a randomised controlled trial where the intervention group will receive the nutritional supplementation (fish oil and probiotics), while the other group will be on placebo. The participants will be followed up for 6 months and the above measurements will be evaluated. Currently, this study is in data collection phase.

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#### **Determinants of clinical outcomes among ACS patients following PCI in UMMC**

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Investigators: Dr. Noorhaire Sumarlie B. Nordin  
 Dr. Moy Foong Ming  
 Assoc. Prof. Imran Zainal Abidin

Funding agency: University of Malaya  
 Grant: UM Postgraduate Research Grant

Reference number: PS172/2009B & PS275/2010B

Amount: RM 5,000 & RM 3,600

Period: August 2009 – Dec 2010

The aims of this study are to identify different determinants or predictors of clinical outcomes following PCI among ACS patients in UMMC, Malaysia as well as develop a prognostic model for the risk of these outcomes following PCI. Besides that this study plans to describe the HRQOL outcome following PCI in UMMC. This study will be the first study to identify the predictors of outcomes of PCI and provide knowledge in terms of local management in Malaysia. The prognostic model can be used as a tool for stratifying patients according to the risk of outcomes and as a simple bedside scoring system. The study design is a prospective cohort study. The study population is selected from all ACS patients who are admitted to the cardiology ward and undergo PCI in the UMMC. Data collection for the study is still ongoing. The project has funded research on one DrPH candidate. The completion of the study should result in 1 DrPH thesis and 3 journal papers. In 2011 the project resulted in the following outputs:

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**Investigation of individual, social and built environment factors affecting suburban and semi-rural Malaysian adolescents' physical activity behaviour**

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Investigators: Rosalia Saimon  
 Prof Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud  
 Dr Claire Choo Wan Yuen

Funding agency: University of Malaya

Grant: UM Postgraduate Research Fund

Reference number: PS200/2009C

Amount: RM 16,000

Period: January 2010 – December 2012

As sedentary lifestyles become more inevitable, there are concerns that adolescent's PA and obesity prevalence may continue to increase rapidly. This study aimed to investigate the habitual physical activity relating to individual, social and built environment factors of Malaysian adolescents living in suburban and semi-rural in Kuching, Sarawak. A mixed method research applied a sequential transformative design. The grounded theory framework developed in qualitative phase informed the subsequent survey designed for larger samples in the quantitative phase. Ecological model guided a structural equation modelling (SEM) to examine the relationship between latent individual, social and physical environment variables affecting adolescent physical activity. The project will support one PhD student and is expected to result in 3 journal papers and 1 PhD thesis. In 2011 the project resulted in the following outputs:

1. One qualitative paper - "There is a ghost": Exploring neighbourhood barriers in adolescents' physical activity in a developing Asian country. Submitted to Ethnicity & Health Journal



2. One paper entitled – Pedometer-determined physical activity, self-reported screen time and weight status of suburban and semi-rural adolescents in Malaysia. To be submitted to the 1st Asia Pacific Clinical Epidemiology and Evidence Based Medicine Conference, 6 – 8 July 2012, Kuala Lumpur
3. One abstract for oral presentation has been submitted to the 8th Design & Health World Congress will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 27 June-1 July 2012.

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#### **Identification of determinants for progression to AIDS in HIV patients receiving anti-retroviral treatment**

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Investigators: Prof Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud  
Dr Rahayu Lubis  
Prof Adeeba Kamarulzaman  
Devi Peramalah

Funding agency: Ministry of Higher Education

Grant: Fundamental Research Grant Scheme

Reference number: FP080/2006A

Amount: RM145,000

Period: Dec 2006-Dec 2009

This project aimed at determining the predictors for progression to AIDS in HIV patients receiving anti-retroviral treatment. The study is expected to offer badly needed new knowledge and understanding of the prognosis and survival of HIV-infected patients in Malaysia. The study design is a combined retrospective and prospective cohort. The study population comes from the UMMC. The project was completed at the end of 2009 but publications are still being produced from this project. The project has funded research by one PhD candidate. In 2011 the project resulted in the following outputs:

1. Send a paper entitle “Predicting time to achieving viral load  $\leq$  50 copies/ml in HIV infected patients on antiviral therapy” to Singapore Medical Journal on 11 October 2011 with current status decision in process

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#### **Smoking cessation at the workplace: the dynamic process of relapse after administration of NRT**

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Investigators: Dr Siti Munira Yasin  
Associate Professor Dr Retneswari Masilamani  
Dr Moy Foong Ming

Funding agency: University of Malaya

Grant: UM Postgraduate Research Fund

Reference number: PS161/2009B

Amount: RM 30,000

Period: August 2009 – February 2011

Many initiatives have been implemented by the Ministry of Health in combating smoking among adults in Malaysia, nevertheless results do not appear promising. One of the areas

that are causing problems worldwide is smoking relapse. Relapse is by far the most likely event in any smoking cessation attempt. This study aim to identify risk factors for smoking relapse, sustained cessation and main behavioural factors involved in a quit attempt. This study also examines whether Trans theoretical model (TTM) measures could predict relapse at the action stage, (i.e. the first 6 months of smoking cessation) and explores whether factors associated with relapse in an early quit attempt. The study involved a prospective cohort, which was conducted among workers in two public universities in Klang Valley. Smokers were given a course of Nicotine Replacement Therapy and Behavioural Therapy during a cessation attempt and were followed up for six months. Data collection for the project has been completed; currently it is undergoing final write-up stage. This project is funding research by one DrPH candidate (Dr Siti Munira Yasin). It is on schedule for completion in February 2012. In 2011-early 2012, the project resulted in the following research outputs:

1. Yasin SM, Retneswari M, Moy FM, Koh D. Predictors of Smoking Cessation Among Staff in Public Universities in Klang Valley, Malaysia. *Asian Pacific J Cancer Prev.* 2011; 12 (3): 811-6. *(ISI-cited)*
  2. Yasin SM, Khairul Mizan T, Rafdzah Ahmad Z. Reliability and Construct Validity of the Bahasa Malaysia Version of Transtheoretical Model (TTM) Questionnaire for Smoking Cessation and Relapse among Malaysian Adult Smokers. *Asian Pacific J Cancer Prev.* 2011; 12 (6): 1439-1443. *(ISI-cited)*
  3. Yasin SM, Retneswari M, Moy FM, Koh D. Does change in perception following counseling result in improved quitting outcome among Malaysian smokers? *Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health.* 2011: DOI: 10.1177/1010539511426472. *(ISI-cited)*
  4. Yasin SM, Retneswari M, Moy FM, Koh D, Marzuki I. Smokers can quit regardless of motivation in a worksite smoking cessation programme. *Asian Pacific J Cancer Prev.* 2011; 12 (9), 2193-2198. *(ISI-cited)*
  5. Yasin SM, Retneswari M, Moy FM, Darus A, Koh D. Job stressors in relation to smoking cessation among Malaysian male employees in Worksite Smoking Cessation Programmes. (In press) Accepted by *Occupational Medicine* on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2011. *(ISI-Cited)*
  6. Yasin SM, Moy FM, Retneswari M, Isahak M, Koh D. Timing to smoking relapse and its associated risk factors among smokers attending Worksite Smoking Cessation Programme. (In press) Accepted by *The International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease* on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2012. *(ISI-Cited)*
  7. Yasin SM, Retneswari M, Moy FM, Koh D. Can perceived risk and benefits of quitting predict smoking cessation? Malaysian experience. (In press) Accepted by *Southeast Asian Journal of Tropical Medicine and Public Health* 2012) *(ISI-Cited)*
- Journal Abstract Proceedings
    1. Siti Munira Y, Retneswari M, Moy FM, Azlan D, David K. Job Stressors in Relation to Smoking Cessation among Malaysian Male Employees in Worksite Smoking Cessation

- Programme (abstract only). *Malaysian Journal of Public Health Medicine*. 2011; 11 (Suppl 2): 34-35. ISSN: 1675-0306. *(Non ISI/ Non Scopus cited)*
2. Siti Munira Y, Retneswari M, Moy FM, David K. Risk factors for smoking relapse among Malaysian smokers attending worksite smoking cessation programme (abstract only). *Malaysian Journal of Public Health Medicine*. 2011; 11 (Suppl 4): 22-23. ISSN: 1675-0306. *(Non ISI/ Non Scopus cited)*
  3. Siti Munira Y. Smokers can quit regardless of motivation in a worksite smoking cessation programme in Malaysia. (abstract only). *Malaysian Journal of Community Health (Jurnal Kesihatan Kemasyarakatan)*. 2011; 17 (Suppl 1): ISSN: 1675-1663. *(Non ISI/ Non Scopus cited)*
- Conference (Oral Presentations):
    1. Yasin SM, Masilamani R, Moy FM, Koh D. Changes in Decisional Balance After Counseling is Associated with Improved Quit Rates Among Malaysian Smokers. Asia Pacific Academic Consortium of Public Health. Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia. 24- 27 November 2010.
    2. Yasin SM, Masilamani R, Moy FM, Koh D. Predictors of Smoking Cessation Among Staff in Public Universities in Klang Valley, Malaysia. AsiaLink International Conference, Kuta, Bali. Indonesia. 27-28 November 2010. p. 20-21.
    3. Yasin SM, Masilamani R, Moy FM, Koh D. Can Perceived Risk and Benefit of Quitting Predict Smoking Cessation Outcome? ; Malaysian Experience. First Regional Health Science and Nursing Conference, SACC, Shah Alam, Malaysia. 22-24 February 2011. p. 16.
    4. Yasin SM, Retneswari M, Moy FM, Azlan D, David K. Job Stressors in Relation to Smoking Cessation among Malaysian Male Employees in Worksite Smoking Cessation Programme. 4<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference of Occupational Medicine, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. 23-25 June 2011.
    5. Yasin SM, Retneswari M, Moy FM, Koh D. Risk factors for smoking relapse among Malaysian smokers attending worksite smoking cessation programme. 6<sup>th</sup> National Public Health Conference, Klana Resort, Seremban, Malaysia, Malaysia 11-13 July 2011.
    6. Yasin SM. Smokers can quit regardless of motivation stage in a worksite smoking cessation programme in Malaysia. First International Public Health Conference & 18<sup>th</sup> National Public Health Cllouquium, Kuala Lumpur 27-28 September 2011.
  - Conference (Poster Presentations and Research Awards):
    1. Yasin SM, Masilamani R, Moy FM, Koh D. Factors contributing to quitting success, early lapses and 50% cigarette reduction in a worksite smoking cessation programme in Malaysia. Asia Pacific Conference on Tobacco or Health, Sydney, Australia. 6-9 October 2010. p. 187-188 *(Awarded Scholarship Travel Award from Global Dialogue for Effective Stop-Smoking Campaigns, US)*
    2. Yasin SM, Masilamani R, Moy FM, Koh D. Can Perception About Qutting Predict Smoking Cessation Outcome? Malaysian Experience. Cancer Research Exhibition, University Putra

- Malaysia, Malaysia 23-24 February 2011. p. 243-244 (*Awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize for Best Poster Presentation (Category: Epidemiology and Environmental research)*)
3. Yasin SM, Masilamani R, Moy FM, Koh D. Timing to smoking relapse and risk factors associated with relapse among Malaysian smokers. The 4<sup>th</sup> International Cancer Control Congress, National Cancer Center, Korea. 3-5 November 2011. (*Awarded Scholarship Travel Award from the 4<sup>th</sup> International Cancer Control Congress, Korea*)
  4. Yasin SM, Masilamani R, Moy FM, Koh D. Risk factors for smoking relapse among Malaysian smokers attending worksite smoking cessation programme. 15<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Tobacco or Health, Singapore 20-24 March 2012. (*Awarded Scholarship Travel Award from the 15<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Tobacco or Health, Singapore*)

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**Effects of stress management techniques-breathing exercise and progressive muscle relaxation technique to alleviate job stress among malaysian automotive assembly line workers**

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Investigators: Dr Bala Murali a/l Sundram (Primary Investigator)

A/P Dr Retneswari Masilamani

A/P Dr Maznah Dahlui

Funding: Self-funded by Primary Investigator

Period: January 2012- December 2012

This study explores Stress Management Training (SMT) that is designed to help employees modify their appraisal of stressful situations or to deal more effectively with the symptoms of stress or both. It examines the effects of short duration SMT at the Primary Level on stressful workers which are seriously lacking. Most employers presume that SMT are time-consuming, expensive and workers cannot spare the time to practice any coping skills. Given the high stress levels reported among automotive workers in previous studies these reasons are not sufficient to ignore the well-being of automotive assembly workers. Therefore, short duration intervention programs such as SMT are needed for automotive workers in Malaysia.

These techniques namely breathing exercise and progressive muscle relaxation can be incorporated into the Employee Assistant Programme (EAP) for alleviation of stress at the workplace. These techniques are inexpensive and easy to implement. It can also help initiate a safety health policy concerning occupational stress at the assembly line by encouraging and organizing regular workshops, seminars or talks to spread the effects of this psychosocial hazard and thus empowerment of the workers with self-administered relaxation techniques to curb stress. The ultimate goal of these stress management techniques are to enhance employee morale and motivation, improving productivity, decreasing financial costs of medical and disability claims and indirectly promotes the image of the employer for implementing such interventions as part of their safety health policy on stress at work.

This study is expected to offer new insights into alleviating occupational stress at the automotive assembly line and also set to discover the effectiveness of Deep Breathing Exercise and Progressive Muscle Relaxation techniques at the Primary Level of Prevention.

This project is self-funded by the principal investigator under the Ministry of Health with publication rights reserved by University of Malaya. Data collection for the project has commenced and the project is on schedule till date. Several SCI ISI publications are expected from this project.

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#### **Salivary cortisol and IgA as markers for psychological stress: a study of workplace stress among police officers**

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Investigators: Associate Professor Dr Retneswari Masilamani  
 Professor Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud  
 Professor David Koh- content consultant (Universiti Brunei)

Funding Agency: Ministry of Higher Education

Grant: Fundamental Research Grant Scheme

Reference number: FP022/2008C

Amount Spent: RM170,000

Period: September 2011-September 2014

Despite numerous studies done on police stress, very little has been explored relating to organisations factors causing occupational stress. Thus this study attempts to study policing stress by using an Operational and Organisational police stress questionnaire which has incorporated both components. The study will also attempt to establish the association between different levels of (biomarkers) salivary cortisol and IgA and job strain levels based on questionnaire among the study subjects. Finally, to validate the Operational and Organisational police stress questionnaire. The project is funded by the Ministry of Higher Education through an Fundamental Research Grant Scheme and is expected to cost about RM 171, 000 over 4 years. Data collection for the project has been completed and the project is on schedule for completion by September 2014. This projected has enabled me to register for a Ph.D programme and a minimum of 5 SCI ISI publications are expected as outcomes of this project.

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#### **Progressivity of health financing in Malaysia**

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Investigators: Dr. Ng Chiu Wan  
 Prof Shyamala Nagaraj  
 A/Prof Saimy Ismail  
 Dato' Dr. S. Noor Ghani  
 Dr. Maznah Dahlui

Funding agency: University of Malaya

Grant: UM Short term Grant

Reference number: FS1128/2008A

Amount: RM 75,000

Period: March 2008-March 2010

One of the stated objectives of the health system as enshrined in the MOH's Vision for Health is for the maintenance of a health system which is affordable and equitable. It has

been argued that in an equitable and fair system, the rich should pay more for health care than the poor as the latter is less likely to be in a position to afford all needed care. The financing of health care in Malaysia is derived from many sources. In 2004, a total of RM21.4 billion was spent on health care in Malaysia, of which 49.1% came from taxation. The rest were from mainly private sources such as household out-of-pocket (OOP) payments and private health insurance. Previous work on the Malaysian health financing system has shown that at least the private household OOP payments have to a certain extent been protective of the poor, in other words equitable. This study was intended to extend the equity analysis to include all sources of health financing in Malaysia. The project has funded research by one PhD candidate. In 2011 the project resulted in the following outputs:

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#### **Explorations of methods for adult health inequalities**

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Investigators: Dr. Ng Chiu Wan  
 Funding agency: International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada  
 Reference number: Grant No. 105231  
 Amount: RM 31,500 (C\$ 10,250)  
 Period: April 2009-December 2010

This study was intended to test the feasibility of using mortality data combined with census data to assess socioeconomic differentials in overall and adult mortality in Malaysia. National mortality data were used to estimate mortality rates by small areas (administrative districts), and then national census data, which contain data on living and environmental conditions, occupation and education of households in each small area, were used to rank each area by average socio-economic status, thus allowing mortality rates at the level of areas to be stratified according to the socioeconomic ranking of the areas. Rankings of areas by socioeconomic level were performed either using principle components analysis alone or in combination with econometric analysis of other sample socioeconomic surveys. This approach allowed examination of socioeconomic differentials in overall mortality as well as differentials in specific groups of diseases of interest. The results would contribute to a comparative study of the socioeconomic differentials in mortality in Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Vietnam and Hong Kong SAR, currently being undertaken by the Equity in Asia Pacific Health Systems (EQUITAP) research collaboration.

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#### **Increasing breast cancer awareness and enhancing practice of BSE among female staff of UM**

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Investigators: Dr. Maznah Dahlui  
 Dr. Ng Chiu Wan  
 A/P Nabilla Al Sadat  
 A/P Saimy Ismail  
 Funding agency: University of Malaya  
 Grant: Short Term Grant  
 Reference number: FS276/2008B



Amount: RM69, 000  
 Period: August 2008 – July 2010

This project was conducted in 3 phases. The 1<sup>st</sup> phase was to determine the level of knowledge on breast cancer and the uptake of any of the breast cancer screening program among UM staff. The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase was the intervention phase whereby seminars on breast cancer and workshops to train BSE were conducted in UM. At the same UM female staffs with breast abnormality were called for breast check up (CBE). The 3<sup>rd</sup> phase was the re-evaluation on their knowledge and measurement of the uptake of BSE after the interventions. The project resulted in presentation on the results in the phase 1 (2009) and was completed in July 2010. . In 2011 the project resulted in the following outputs:

1. Dahlui M, Ramli S, Bulgiba AM. Breast cancer prevention and control programs in malaysia. *Asian Pac J Cancer Prev.* 2011; 12(6): 1631-4.
2. Dahlui M, Ng C, Al-Sadat N, Ismail S, Bulgiba A. Is breast self examination (BSE) still relevant? A study on BSE performance among female staff of University of Malaya. *Asian Pac J Cancer Prev.* 2011; 12(2): 369-72.

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#### **UMMC costing analysis: Estimating the unit cost for outpatient, inpatient and day-care services**

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Investigators: Dr. Maznah Dahlui  
 Dr. Ng Chiu Wan  
 Prof. Dato' Dr. Patrick Tan  
 Funding agency: University of Malaya  
 Grant: UMRG  
 Reference number: RG243/10HTM  
 Amount: RM26, 200  
 Period: October 2010 – February 2012

This cost analysis study aims at determining the actual costs of outpatient and inpatient (including theatre) at University Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC). The primary rationale for this study was to address the limitations of existing approaches to cost estimation, to compensate for lack of data in the hospital, provide findings that inform policy regarding hospital performance, and ultimately to use the results on resource use and costs as a first step in estimating the cost of each treatment package by the various disciplines.

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#### **Return on investment of NSEP in Peninsular Malaysia**

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Investigators: Dr. Maznah Dahlui  
 Funding agency: World Bank  
 Grant: HIV/AIDs Program  
 Reference number:  
 Amount: RM 60, 000  
 Period: December 2011 – November 2012

The study aims to analyse the effectiveness of needle and syringe programs in preventing

transmission of HIV and hepatitis C in Malaysia since the introduction of the NSEP program in 2006 and to calculate the return on investment in NSEPs from 2006 to present. An epidemiological model developed by University of New South Wales, Sydney Australia which was designed for evaluation of needle-syringe exchange programs in Australia will be used whereby local data related to NSEP activities will be applied. The Needle Exchange Program Evaluation Model (or NEPEM) is a HIV and HCV epidemiological model that simulates the number of people in the population who become infected with HIV and/or HCV over time and the extent of disease progression in people living with these infections. In order to monitor the extent of infection in the population and calculate the expected demand for healthcare, the NEPEM categorizes the population of people living with HIV by CD4 count groupings and the population of people living with HCV by stage of liver fibrosis.

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#### **Developing Malaysia as healthcare service hub in ASEAN and South East Asia**

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Investigators: Dr. Maznah Dahlui  
 Funding agency: Economic Research Institutes of ASEAN and Asia (ERIA)  
 Grant: ERIA  
 Reference number:  
 Amount: RM 21, 000  
 Period: August 2011 – Mac 2012

This is a study which assesses the readiness of Malaysia to be the healthcare service hub in the ASEAN and ASIA regions. The final draft of the country report will be presented at Yogyakarta, 3-4<sup>th</sup> February, 2012.

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#### **MENCARE! Male Support of Breast Cancer Screening: Evaluation Research**

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Investigators: Associate Prof Wong Yut Lin  
 Funding agency: NCWO/Pfizer  
 Grant:  
 Reference number:  
 Amount: RM 50, 000  
 Period: August 2008 – Oct 2011

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#### **Review of Hospital-Based One Stop Crisis Centre Services**

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Investigators: Associate Prof Wong Yut Lin  
 Funding agency: UNFPA/WIM  
 Grant:  
 Reference number:  
 Amount: RM 50, 000  
 Period: October 2008 – October 2012

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#### **Reproductive Rights and Choice: Insights from Women on Pregnancy Termination**

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Investigators: Associate Prof Wong Yut Lin (Co-researcher)  
 Funding agency: WHO  
 Grant:  
 Reference number:  
 Amount: RM 35, 000  
 Period: December 2010 – December 2011

### Short Courses

No	Title	Date	Speaker	Participants	Organised by
1	Using EndNote Workshop	6 Jan 2011	Dr. Moy Foong Ming, Dr. Anselm Su Ting	47	Dr. Moy Foong Ming
2	Regression Analysis	1-2 Mar 2011	Assoc.Prof Dr. Karuthan Chinna	50	A.Prof. Karuthan Chinna
3	The 5th JCU M Evidence-Based Medicine Workshop	12-14 Apr 2011	Prof. Dr. Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud, Dr. Liew Su May, Dr. Moy Foong Ming, Dr. Nirmala Bhoo Pathy, Dr. Sharmini Selvarajah, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ng Chirk Jenn, Dr. Noran Naqiah	23	Prof. Dr. Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud
4	Proposal Writing Workshop - in collaboration with Malaysia Health Promotion Board	26-28 Apr 2011	Prof. Dr. Lekhraj Rampal, Assoc.Prof.Dr. Karuthan Chinna, Prof. Dr. Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud, Dr. Mas Ayu, Dr. Noran Hairi, Dr. Moy Foong Ming, Dr. Yahya Baba		Prof. Dr. Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud
5	Introduction to Survival Anlysis	14-15 Jun 2011	Assoc.Prof. Dr Karuthan Chinna	21	A.Prof. Karuthan Chinna
6	Cochrane Systematic Preview	4-8 Jul 2011	Prof. Prathap Tharyan	50	Dr. Moy Foong Ming

	Protocol Development Workshop				
7	Clinical Epidemiology - Evidence Based Medicine Research Workshop 2011	20-21 Jul 2011	Prof. Dr. Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud, Dr. Moy Foong Ming, Dr. Ng Chong Guan, Dr. Sharmini Selvarajah, Dr. Rafdzah Ahamd Zaki, Dr. Marzuki bin Isahak,	20	Dr. Moy Foong Ming
8	CRC - Workshop Forecasting Analysis Registry Data	29-30 Nov 2011	A.Prof. Karuthan Chinna	20	A.Prof. Karuthan Chinna
9	STEM Workshop (Spatio-Temporal Epidemiological Modelling)	19-23 Dec 2011	Dr. Kameshwaran Sampath (Analytics and Optimization, IBM Research - India, Bangalore	26	A.Prof. Karuthan Chinna

In 2012, JCUM is expected to mature further. JCUM was awarded a new MOHE-UM High Impact Research Grant project in 2011 called STeMM (Spatio-Temporal Modelling and Meta-analysis). This new RM2.47 million project will take 5 years to complete with at least 25 Tier 1 SCI-indexed papers expected from the project. A new addition to JCUM is the STeMM base room which is expected to house the video-conferencing facilities and work room for STEMM. JCUM is also organising the 1<sup>st</sup> Asia Pacific Clinical Epidemiology and Evidence-Based Medicine Conference (<http://apceebm.um.edu.my>) which is scheduled to take place from 6-8 July 2012 in Kuala Lumpur.

#### Miscellaneous and special projects

- Invited engagements

##### 1. Prof Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud

Date	Type	Function/place	Title
13 Jul 2011	Keynote speaker	UM-QUB Public Health Research Symposium, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Improving population health through translational research
15 Sept 2011	Invited speaker	Asian Conference of University Presidents, Jakarta, Indonesia	Intellectual social responsibility- Contributing to national development
27 Sept	Keynote	1 <sup>st</sup> International Public Health	Connecting the dots

2011	address	Conference, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	
13 Oct 2011	Plenary speaker	Australian International Education Conference in Adelaide, Australia	The global future of international education – facilitated dialogue
13 Oct 2011	Plenary speaker	Australian International Education Conference in Adelaide, Australia	Deep internationalization

## 2. Associate Prof Retneswari Masilamani

Date	Type	Function/place	Title
25-28 May 2011	Invited speaker	Society of Occupational and Environmental Medicine MMA Pre AGM Seminar	Walk Through Survey-Dicing with Hazards and Risks
23-25 Jun 2011	Invited speaker	4th Regional Conference on Occupational Health (RCOH), 23 Jun 2011 to 25 Jun 2011, SOEM-MMA	Sexual Harassment
23-25 Jun 2011	Invited speaker	4th Regional Conference on Occupational Health (RCOH), 23 Jun 2011 to 25 Jun 2011, SOEM-MMA	Latent Tuberculosis Infection Among Healthcare Workers,

### Consultancies & Special Services: (e.g. consultant, reviewer, etc):

- Consultancies

1. Prof Awang Bulgiba

- R076477SCH3022 Study: An Open-label Prospective Trial to Explore the Tolerability, Safety and Efficacy of Flexibly Dosed Paliperidone ER in Subjects With Schizophrenia. Janssen-Cilag (completed).

2. Associate Prof Retneswari Masilamani

- Policy changes related to Invalidity Pension to Social Security Organisation, December 2011
- Occupational health Advisor to Unilever Malaysia Sdn Bhd - 2011

- Board and reviewer roles

Staff	Journal	Role
Prof Awang Bulgiba	Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health	Associate Editor
Awang Mahmud	Journal of Experimental and Clinical Medicine	International Advisory Panel
	Malaysian Orthopaedic Journal	Editor
	1. Medical Journal of Malaysia	Ad hoc reviewer
	2. Journal of University of Malaya Medical Centre	
3. Journal of Health Management		
4. Medical and Health Reviews		

Dr Noran Hairi	1. Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health 2. Internet Journal of Mental Health 3. Applied Research in Quality of Life	Ad hoc reviewer
Dr Moy Foong Ming	Malaysian Journal of Nutrition	Member of editorial board
	1. Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health 2. Journal of University of Malaya Medical Centre 3. The Journal of Nutrition, Health and Aging 4. International Journal of Food Sciences & Nutrition 5. Industrial Health	Ad hoc reviewer
Assoc Professor Retneswari Masilamani	Malaysian Journal of Public Health Medicine, Malaysia Medicine	Member of editorial board
	Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health Malaysian Journal of Public Health Medicine Malaysia Medicine	Reviewer

- Other roles

1. Associate Prof Retneswari Masilamani.

- Overseas Examiner for Faculty examinations (membership examinations) of Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, May 2011
- External Examiner for the International Medical University. End of Semester 5 Examination (Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery 2011).

#### List of publications and achievements by JCUM members

- Journal publications

1. Wee LH, Shahab L, Bulgiba A, West R. Conflict about quitting predicts the decision to stop smoking gradually or abruptly: evidence from stop smoking clinics in Malaysia. *Journal of Smoking Cessation*. 2011; 6(1). doi: 10.1375/jsv.6.1. <http://www.atypon-link.com/AAP/doi/abs/10.1375/jsc.6.1.37>
2. Hairi NN, Bulgiba A, Cumming RG, Naganathan V, & Mudla I. Depressive symptoms, visual impairment, and its influence on physical disability and functional limitation. *J Am Geriatr Soc*. 2011; 59(3): 557-9.
3. Bhoo Pathy N, Yip CH, Taib NA, Hartman M, Saxena N, lau P, Bulgiba AM, Lee SC, Lim SE, Wong JE, Verkooijen HM. Breast cancer in a multi-ethnic Asian setting: Results from the Singapore-Malaysia hospital-based breast cancer registry. *Breast*. 2011. (In Press, Corrected Proof). <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21316967>
4. Dahlui M, Ng CW, Al Sadat N, Ismail S, Bulgiba AM. Is Breast Self Examination (BSE) Still Relevant? A Study on BSE Performance among Female Staff of University of Malaya. *Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention*. 2011; 12: 369-372



5. Wee BS, Poh BK, Bulgiba A, Ismail MN, Ruzita AT Hills AP. Risk of metabolic syndrome among children living in metropolitan Kuala Lumpur: A case control study. *BMC Public Health*. 2011; 11:333. doi:10.1186/1471-2458-11-333. <http://www.atypon-link.com/AAP/doi/abs/10.1375/jsc.6.1.37>
6. Munira Yasin, Retneswari Masilamani, Moy Foong Ming, David Koh. Predictors of Smoking Cessation among Staff in Public Universities in Klang Valley, Malaysia. *Asian Pacific J Cancer Prev*. 2011; 12: 1-6. (*ISI-Cited Publication*)
7. Retneswari Masilamani, Azlan Darus, Anselm Su Ting, Roslinah Ali, Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud and Koh David. Salivary Biomarkers of Stress Among Teachers in an Urban Setting. 2011. *Asia Pac J Public Health*. 1010539510393725. (published online 8 March 2011)
8. Wong LP. Socio-demographic and behavioural characteristics of illegal motorcycle street racers in Malaysia. *BMC Public Health* 2011; 11: 446. (*ISI-Cited Publication*)
9. FM Moy, Vitamin D status and its associated factors of free living Malay adults in a tropical country, Malaysia, *J. Photochem. Photobiol. B. Biol.* 2011. doi:10.1016/j.jphotobiol.2011.05.002. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21636288>. (*ISI-Cited Publication*)
10. Wong LP, George E, Tan JAMA. Public Perceptions and Attitudes toward Thalassaemia: Influencing factors in a Multi-racial Population. *BMC Public Health* 2011; 11: 193. (*ISI-Cited Publication*)
11. Wan-Yuen Choo, Michael P. Dunne, Mary J. Marret, MaryLou Fleming, Yut-Lin Wong. Victimization Experiences of Adolescents in Malaysia. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. (In Press) Available online 29 June 2011.
12. Yip CH, Pathy NB, Uiterwaal CS, Taib NA, Tan GH, Mun KS, Choo WY, Rhodes A. Factors affecting estrogen receptor status in a multiracial Asian country: an analysis of 3557 cases. *Breast*. 2011; 20(Suppl 2): S60-4.
13. S M Liew, N Bhoo, Pathy, N N Hairi, J Sinnasamy, J P Engkasan F M Moy, Y M Choo, F A Saini Jeffery, C J Ng. Access to Medical Journals in Malaysia. *Medical Journal Malaysia*. 2011; 66.
14. Yut-Lin Wong. Taking Stock of Alma-Ata Primary Health Care Health for All: Moving Toward New Directions in Global Preventive Health. *Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health*. 2011.
15. Lim CM, Aryani Md Yusof F, Selvarajah S, Lim TO. Use of ATC to describe duplicate medications in primary care prescriptions. *Eur J Clin Pharmacol*. 2011.
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2. Noran N Hairi, GH Tee, Awang Bulgiba, Izzuna Mudla. Physical Function in Older People. In Craig S Atwood editor. Geriatrics. InTech Publisher. (In press).
3. Nirmala Bhoopathy. Breast Cancer Risk Factors and Outcome: A Global Perspective. 2011. Utrecht University. ISBN 978-90-383-5664-7.
4. Wong Yut Lin. Hospital-based One-Stop Crisis Centres (OSCC): Health Sector Response to Gender-Based Violence in Peninsular Malaysia. 2011, United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA), Malaysia. ISBN 978-983-3055-07-4.

### Awards

Associate Prof Retneswari Masilamani. Fellow Of Public Health Medicine Malaysia (FPHMM), Malaysian Public Health Physicians' Association (PPPKAM), 2011

### Members

- Academic staff / internal membership

Name	Department	Membership type
Prof. Dr. Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud	SPM	Full Member
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Maznah Dahlui	SPM	Full Member
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sanjay Rampal	SPM	Full Member
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Retneswari Masilamani	SPM	Full Member
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wong Yut Lin	SPM	Full Member
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wong Li Ping	SPM	Full Member
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Noran Naqiah Mohd Hairi	SPM	Full Member
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ng Chiu Wan	SPM	Full Member
Dr. Moy Foong Ming	SPM	Full Member
Dr. Claire Choo Wan Yuen	SPM	Full Member
Dr. Mas Ayu Said	SPM	Full Member
Dr. Azlan Darus	SPM	Full Member
Dr. Anselm Su Ting	SPM	Full Member
Dr. Si Lay Khaing	O&G	Full Member
Dr. Liew Su-May	SPM	Full Member
Dr. Pathmawati Subramaniam	Nursing	Full Member
Dr. Nirmala Bhoopathy	SPM	UM Student
Dr. Rafdzah Ahmad Zaki	SPM	UM Student
Dr. Ng Chong Guan	SPM	UM Student
Dr. Sharmini Selavarajah	SPM	UM Student

Dr. Rahayu Lubis	SPM	UM Student
Dr. Noorhaire Sumarlie	SPM	UM Student
Dr. Mohamad Rodi Isa	SPM	UM Student
Dr. Bello Arkilla Magaji	SPM	UM Student
Dr. Nurhuda Ismail	SPM	UM Student
Dr. Narimah Hanim Ibrahim	SPM	UM Student
Dr. Rosalia Saimon	SPM	UM Student
Dr. Umar Yagoub Mohammed	SPM	UM Student

- External Membership

No	Name	Name of Agency
1	Prof Yolanda van der Graaf	Julius Centre, University Medical Centre, Utrecht, The Netherlands
2	Prof Diedrick Groebbe	Julius Centre, University Medical Centre, Utrecht, The Netherlands
3	Prof Arno Hoes	Julius Centre, University Medical Centre, Utrecht, The Netherlands
4	Prof Paul Glasziou	Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine, University of Oxford, United Kingdom
5	Associate Prof Cuno Uiterwaal	Julius Centre, University Medical Centre, Utrecht, The Netherlands

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## CENTRE FOR POPULATION HEALTH

### History on establishment of centre

The research Centre for Population Health (CePH) was proposed to be added into the list of centres developed by the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine (SPM) for the University of Malaya. Prior to the establishment of CePH, preconception talks was held between the Department which was then headed by Professor Awang Bulgiba and Centre of Public Health, Queen's University Belfast (QUB), Northern Ireland.

A proud moment for the Department was when the Centre for Population Health (CePH) was officially launched by the Vice Chancellor of University of Malaya on the 18th February 2009. As a result, an MOU between UM and the prestigious Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland was signed during the launching. Now, CePH falls under the umbrella of the Health and Translational Medicine Cluster headed by Professor Rais Mustafa of University Malaya.

### Aims

Through new programs of research, discussion and development, and through consciously bridging the gaps between research and practice, professional and public realms, CePH aims to contribute new evidence and insights to help in finding solutions to overcome the health problems of Malaysians. CePH will be an avenue to initiate and promote Research and Development activities in the field of population health with established collaborating centres like the World Health Organization, universities worldwide and other private and Non governmental organizations around the world. It is also envisaged that CePH will aid the Ministry of Health and other agencies in Malaysia in the prevention of diseases and improving the quality of life of the society.

CePH hopes to pave the way for Malaysia to have a modern medical database of its people and provide population health solutions in the future. It would also provide a world-class research centre for population health in the UM for the benefit of the people in Malaysia and worldwide. In line with the departments' vision to transform itself into a school of Public Health in the near future, CePH will spear head the direction of the School to become a premier institution excelling in population and global health issues and research.

CePH also aims at undertaking a broad spectrum of work, ranging from research that helps to better understand the priority diseases and their associations to lifestyles and behaviours, to discovery science with potential for longer term benefits such as therapeutics and vaccines, on health related environmental issues to health systems oriented research that directly influences health policy.



## Strengths

- Support from UM and QUB
  1. UM has given strong support in terms of financial and human resources
    - RM2.0 million in renovation of centre and RM 275,000 in start-up costs
    - New staff – 2 Post-Doctoral Fellows
  2. Strong support from Queen’s University Belfast
    - Visits from NICR funded wholly by QUB
    - QUB staff conducting workshops as part of collaboration
  3. Ready pool of DrPH students
    - 10-15 students per year
    - Some can be directed to do cancer and adolescent health research
    - Research will be of doctoral quality
  4. Collaboration
    - International
      - Queen’s University Belfast
      - University of Leeds
      - La Trobe University
      - Stanford University
    - Local
      - Monash University
      - Ministry of Health Malaysia
- Support from MOH, the department of SPM and the JCUM (Julius Centre of University Malaya)
  1. Strong linkages with the MOH and national agencies
  2. International network- sharing of expertise and technical support
  3. Full support by SPM Department headed by Associate Professor Dr Maznah Dahlui
  4. Competence in epidemiological and statistical studies – full support from the JCUM headed by Professor Awang Bulgiba
  5. Effective public relations with the press and publication

## Expertise

- Members come from various disciplines and expertise  
Public health specialists / Health Policy Analyst Social scientists / Dietitians and Clinical Nutrition Specialist/ Family Health specialists / Paediatricians / Pharmacists / clinicians/ health economic expertise / epidemiological and statistical analysis expertise

- Building on expertise in QUB (Cancer Registry and epidemiology, CVS and nutrition and epidemiology) and UM's strength and expertise in Health economics, focused areas of collaboration are:
  1. Cancer research enhancement initiative
    - To validate and publish high quality reports on the cancers in Malaysia
    - Potential of more than 40 research articles to be published (conservative estimate- 2 for the first year)
    - Breast Cancer Survival/Survivorship
    - Population Based Cancer Awareness Measurement
  2. Risk Factors for Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases among Adolescents (MyHeARTs)
    - To aid the national policy makers in the development of effective programmes in combating common chronic diseases such as Diabetes and CHD
    - Potential of more than 40 research papers to be published (conservative estimate- 2 for first year)
  3. Evidence Based Health Policy
    - To contribute data necessary for planning to improve health system performance in Malaysia and Ireland
    - Potential of more than 2 research papers per year published
    - Diseases Among Poverty – Community Based Participatory Action Research Project
    - Health equity and healthcare financing

### Research Activities

No	Project Title	Source	Recipient	Amount
1	Developed developing Countries Partnership for Chronic Disease Prevention- Global Health Child Section 12-18	CDC/ UAEU	Associate Professor Dr Nabilla Al-Sadat Abdul Mohsein	16,808.85
2	Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS)	WHO/ CDC	Associate Professor Dr Nabilla Al-Sadat Abdul Mohsein	939864.12
3	Malaysian Healthcare Programmes: Intervention, Cost and Outcomes (MHICO)	MOH	Associate Professor Dr Nabilla Al-Sadat Abdul Mohsein	100,093.06
4	Risk factor for Chronic Non- Communicable Diseases Adolescents- Malaysian Health and Adolescents Longitudinal Research Study (MyHEARTS), Principal Investigator(PI), 2011-2012	UMRG	Associate Professor Dr Nabilla Al-Sadat Abdul Mohsein	60,000.00

5	Health risk behaviors and needs of Mat Sikal: an exploratory study.	UMRG	Associate Professor Dr Wong Li Ping	26,800.00
6	Knowledge, beliefs, and practices (KBPs) related to dengue fever	LRGS	Associate Professor Dr Wong Li Ping	219,360.00
7	Understanding the root of HIV/AIDS related stigma and discrimination : Nationwide computer assisted telephone interview (CATI) survey	Science Fund	Associate Professor Dr Wong Li Ping	75,100.00
8	Knowledge, attitude and behaviour on reproductive health, sexuality and contraception among multiethnic young Malaysian women	HIR Grant	Associate Professor Dr Wong Li Ping	53,800.00
9	Study of Malaysian public responses to the onset of outbreak of the influenza A(H1N1)	PJP	Associate Professor Dr Wong Li Ping	28,700.00
10	Effectiveness of Disaster Management Programme Vis-a-vis Health and Socioeconomic Consequences for Affected Communities	UMRG	Dr Tin Tin Su	156,400.00
11	Diseases Among Poverty : A Community-Based Participatory Action Research Project	HTMC Flagship Project	Dr Tin Tin Su/Dr Hazreen Abdul Majid	250,000.00
12	UM-QUB Collaborations Budget	VC's Special Fund	Dr Tin Tin Su/Associate Professor Dr Nabilla Al-Sadat Abdul Mohsein	554,841.00
13	Cost Analysis of UMMC Services: Estimating the Unit Cost for Outpatient, Inpatient and Daycare Services	UMRG	Dr. Maznah Dahlui	26,200.00
14	Delays in Diagnosis and Treatment of Breast Cancer: Psychosocial and Cultural factors. Cancer Research Network between Leeds (UK), Middle East (ME) and Southeast Asia (SEA), Co-Investigator	Uni. of Leeds/ WUN grant	Dr. Maznah Dahlui	100000.00
15	Second Malaysian Burden of Disease and Injury Study, Co-Investigator, 2010-2012, Ministry of Health	MOH	Dr. Maznah Dahlui	60000.00
16	Economic Evaluation of Breast Cancer Treatment - CEA for Early and late stage Breast Cancer	HIR Grant	Dr. Maznah Dahlui	50000.00

17	KAP on Breast Cancer and Screening Uptake _ Pre Intervention Community Survey of MURNI project	Breast Cancer Women Assoc.	Dr. Maznah Dahlui	5000.00
18	Economic Evaluation of Thalassaemia Management in Malaysia, Principal Investigator(PI), 2008-2012, MASPO and UMRG	MASP, UMRG	Dr. Maznah Dahlui	20000.00
19	Review of Hospital Based One stop Crisis Centre Services	UNFPA	Prof. Madya Wong Yut Lin	34,700.00
20	Reproductive Rights and Choice : Medical Abortion in Peninsular Malaysia	WHO Malaysia	Prof. Madya Wong Yut Lin	35,000.00
21	MENCARE- Male Support of Breat Cancer Screening: Evaluation Research	UNCW/ Pfizer	Prof. Madya Wong Yut Lin	26,000.00
22	Validity and Reliability of 3-Minute Nutrition Screening (3-Min NS) for Identification of Hospitalised Adult Patients at Risk of Malnutrition	UMRG	Dr Hazreen Abdul Majid	28,600.00
23	Patient self management - a follow up	UMRG	Dr Loh Siew Yim	6,200.00
24	Operative Expenditure 2011	IPPP	Dr Tin Tin Su	50,000.00

### Centre Activities

#### 1. CePH New Office Handover, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2011

On the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2011, the new CePH office was handed over from the contractors to the faculty members comprising of Professor Mustafa, Deputy Dean of Development and Infrastructure, Associate Professor Dr Retneswari Masilamani, Head of the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, Associate Professor Dr Tin Tin Su, Head of the Centre for Population Health, fellow members of the of the Department of Development and Estate Maintenance and CePH. The new CePH office was ready to be used with all the members of the SPM department moving into the new office by batches.



## 2. Questionnaire Validation Workshop, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2011

The workshop on questionnaire validation was held successfully on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January 2011 at the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. The workshop which is a collaborative effort between the Centre for Population Health, University of Malaya and Help University College was aimed at helping our researchers in using the appropriate tools for designing and validating questionnaires for our upcoming projects at the centre. All researchers and collaborators involved in the Malaysian Health and Adolescents longitudinal Research Team Study (MyHeARTs) and Breast Cancer Cohort Study (MyBCC) projects participated in the workshop that was coordinated by Professor Andrew Poh Sui Hoi, Director of HELP Centre for Teaching and Learning (HCTL) of the HELP Graduate School.



## 3. Visiting Professor from Queen's University Belfast, 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2011

Professor Dr Liam Murray and Dr Marie Cantwell of Queen's University Belfast made their third trip to the Centre for Population Health from the 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2011. The main agenda for the trip was to form more research collaborations through multiple research group discussions. The visiting professors also contributed in establishing research action plans and brainstorming on future activities for the centre. They were also updated on the MyBCC and MyHeARTs project status by the respective Principal Investigators of the project.



## 4. Public Health Nutrition Workshop on Nutrition Epidemiology, 21<sup>st</sup> February 2011

A workshop on Public Health Nutrition focusing on Nutrition Epidemiology was organized by the Centre for Population Health (CePH) and held successfully on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2011. The invited speakers for the seminar included Professor Dr Liam Murray and Dr Marie Cantwell of Queens and University of Belfast. Thirty participants including dietitians,



nutritionists, medical officers, pharmacists, public health specialist, nurses, lecturers, educators and postgraduate students in lieu of the diverse departments within the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya and Ministry of Health attended the workshop. The seminar which was a collaborative effort between the Centre for Population Health, University of Malaya and Queen's University Belfast, aimed to provide participants knowledge on various aspects of nutritional epidemiology, encourage participants to improve on the area by giving hands-on experience (such as dietary pattern analysis and biomarkers). The workshop also hoped that participants would apply the knowledge and experience from the workshop for current and future research.



#### 5. CePH Lunch Talk by Prof Liam Murray, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2011

The Centre for Population Health (CePH) had its' inaugural Lunch Talk at the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2011. The topic of the talk was on Pharmacoepidemiological research in the cancer field by CePH visiting professor Professor Dr Liam Murray. The talk was attended by a number of twenty people from within the department whom had a common research interest on cancer.



#### 6. Gastro-Intestinal Nutritional Study Day, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011

The Gastro-Intestinal Nutritional Study Day was organized by the Centre for Population Health (CePH) and held successfully on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April 2011. The invited speakers for the workshop were Dr Hazreen Abdul Majid, lecturer and dietitian from the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Associate Professor Dr Ida Hilmi, consultant/gastroenterologist, Professor Chin Kin Fah, consultant/bariatric surgeon, and Pn Rafidah Othman, dietitian from the University Malaya Medical Centre. The seminar was aimed to impart knowledge on gastro-intestinal nutrition and prebiotics. Among the topics covered in the seminar were current updates in IBD treatment, prebiotics research update, nutrition support during gut failure and current practice at UMMC with lessons learnt from



a case study. Fifty participants including nutritionists, dietitians, students, academicians and health officers in lieu of the diverse department of nutrition and dietetics within the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya and other related institutions attended the seminar.

#### 7. CePH Lunch Talk by Dr Hazreen Abdul Majid, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2011

The Centre for Population Health (CePH) conducted yet another Lunch Talk on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2011 by Dr Hazreen Abdul Majid who had recently completed his PhD from King's College London shared his research findings on Prebiotics, Diarrhoea and Enteral Nutrition. The talk was attended by a number of twenty people from within the department and faculty who had common research interest on the topic.



#### 8. Theory and Practice of Qualitative Research Programme, 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> June 2011

A programme on Theory and Practice of Qualitative Research was organized by the Centre for Population Health (CePH) and held successfully from the 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2011. Dr Jennifer Lim Nyuk Wo from the University of Leeds, United Kingdom conducted the 2-day workshop. Forty participants most of which comprising of students from the qualitative research background including lecturers in lieu of the diverse departments within the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya attended the workshop. The 2-day workshop included topics on the foundation of qualitative research and grounding required to use this method and in-depth interviews and focus groups, COREQ and mixed methods research. The objectives of the workshop was to describe the assumptions, principles and claims to knowledge of qualitative research, provide understanding of the iterative nature of the qualitative research process and its' key component elements and the importance of these in preparing good research proposals and to also provide understanding of issues of validity, reliability and generalizability.



#### 9. Visiting Professor from Queen's University Belfast, 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> July 2011

Professor Liam Murray and Dr Marie Cantwell made their second visit of the year to CePH from the 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> July 2011 specially to conduct seminars and workshops under the centre and to oversee the progress of the centre. Further updates on the MyBCC and MyHeARTs projects were conveyed to the professors. Multiple discussions and research planning formed a more firm platform in conducting the research activities.



#### 10. Public Health Research Collaboration Symposium 2011, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2011

The Public Health Research Collaboration Symposium 2011 was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2011 as a joint-collaboration between the Centre for Population Health (CePH), Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya and Queen's University of Belfast (QUB). The symposium was held as part of a joint effort for the United Kingdom-Malaysia-Ireland Engineering Science Conference 2011 (UMIES 2011) where many satellite seminars were conducted simultaneously.

The symposium started off with a welcome note by the Head of Department, Prof Retneswari Masilamani, Head of the CePH, Associate Prof Dr Tin Tin Su and a keynote address by Professor Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud. There were three main themes that comprised the symposium. The first on Adolescent and Reproductive Health was chaired by Associate Prof Dr Nabilla and accompanied by three speakers whom where Professor Liam Murray, Dr Muhammad Yazid and Prof Low Wah Yun who shared very intriguing topics. The second theme on Cancer Prevention and Survivorship was chaired by Associate Prof Nur Aishah accompanied by Prof Yip Cheng Har, Dr Marie Cantwell and Dr Loh Siew Yim. The final theme was on Health Systems chaired by Associate Prof Dr Wong Yut Lin alongside yet another two speakers whom where Prof Chan Chee Khoo and Dr Azman Abu Bakar. A total number of 70 participants had their opportunity to exchange their knowledge and views amongst highly distinguished international and local speakers in their respective areas of interest. A poster competition was also held where the first five best poster awards were given to Sarah Brennan, J.A Glover, Nithiah Thangiah, Lee Shing Yee and Nor Firdaous Mohamed.



### 11. Writing Up Qualitative Research Findings

On the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2011, the Centre for Population Health (CePH) conducted yet another workshop on Writing Up Qualitative Research Findings by Dr Jennifer Nyuk Wo Lim from the University of Leeds, United Kingdom. The workshop comprised of forty participants from various research backgrounds who were keen in improving their writing especially on qualitative research. Dr Jennifer's lecture described the process of reporting qualitative research and the various tasks it involves. It began with a discussion of the main challenges that a qualitative researcher has to face in writing up research findings, and the different forms of outputs that might be considered followed by firstly, a description of the main issues to consider when preparing a written report and the main tasks involved that included a discussion of questions to consider when writing the method section, and how different forms of analytic output can be used in reporting and the levels of elucidation and illustration they require.



## 12. CePH Lunch Talk by Prof Patti Gravit

The final Lunch Talk for the year was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011 by Professor Patti Gravit of John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and Perdana University Graduate School of Medicine. The topic she discussed was on reducing cervical cancer mortality by increasing coverage of screening using self-collected samples and HPV DNA testing which caught the attention of many within the department and the faculty. A total number of twenty curious participants attended the talk and were followed by some light refreshment.



### Head of the Centre

Associate Professor Dr Tin Tin Su

### Members

1. Associate Professor Dr Maznah Dahlui
2. Dr Hazreen Abdul Majid
3. Dr Maslinor Ismail
4. Associate Professor Dr Saimy Ismail
5. Associate Professor Dr Wong Yut Lin
6. Dr Loh Siew Yim
7. Professor Yip Cheng Har
8. Associate Professor Dr Aishah Mohd Taib
9. Dr Farizah Mohd Hairi
10. Associate Professor Dr Wong Li Ping
11. Professor Liam Joseph Murray
12. Professor Chan Chee Koon
13. Associate Professor Karuthan Chinna
14. Professor Dr Samsinah binti Hussain

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- Post-Doctoral Fellow  
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## UM WELLNESS

The UM Wellness Program is into its fourth year in 2011. Besides running its routine health screening yearly, the following clinics are also functioning:

1. O&G Wellness clinic (UMMC) - screen women for Pap smear and appointments for mammogram are also being given.
2. Medical Wellness clinic (UMMC) – for staff with abnormally high health indicators who needs medical treatment
3. Diet Wellness clinic (SPM Dept, Faculty of Medicine) - for staff with marginally high health indicators who can be controlled through diet modification

A two day health exhibition entitled “Wellness for Health “ was conducted in the Dewan Tunku Canselor, University Malaya on 20 to 21 May. Departments of Social and Preventive Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Ophthalmology, Sports Medicine Unit from the Faculty of Medicine and Department of Community Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry as well as some private companies dealing with nutritional and health products also participated in this event. The exhibition was officiated by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Infrastructure), Professor Kurunathan Ratnavelu. The exhibition was well attended by UM staff, students and community from the Klang Valley.







For this year, a weight management program (GSlim) was initiated to help overweight and obese participants to lose weight through a multi-disciplinary team approach. Experts from the Department of Social & Preventive Medicine as well as Sports Medicine Unit, Faculty of Medicine and Clinical Psychologist from Universiti Putra Malaysia are involved in the GSlim program.

Besides serving the UM staff, the UM Wellness team also conducted health screening and provided counselling in the following events:

1. Health Screening Programme “ Teachers Love Life “ on 21.3.2011 @ Blok Pentadbiran, Fakulti Pendidikan, organized by Faculty of Education.
2. Ujian Kesihatan “We Serve Community “on 7.12.2011 @ Fakulti Pendidikan UM, organized by Faculty of Education.
3. “Programme Gaya Hidup Sihat “on 2 - 3.11.2011 @ Pusat Sukan UM for the GSlim Program.

## ACADEMIC STAFF PROFILE

### Associate Professor Dr Maznah Dahlui

Associate Professor Dr. Maznah Dahlui is a Public Health Specialist started her career as academician at University Malaya in 2003. In 2009, she obtained her PhD with her thesis in Health Economics and has been teaching and supervising students on health economics. 2011 was a very challenging year to her since in the first half year, as in the last 2 years she had been busy coordinating the Postgraduate Unit of the department, while in July she was appointed as the Head of Department. While performing her task as the head, she continued teaching health economics, supervising her PhD and DrPH students and conducted several research projects. Her experiences working in the Ministry of Health, Malaysia and the continued linkages with various ministries and organizations resulting in her being appointed as members of several national level committees, among which the National Pharmaco-economics Technical Committee and National Committee on Developing Guidelines for Female Circumcision in Malaysia. She had been awarded by the Economic Research Institutes of ASEAN and ASIA region (ERIA) to develop the Malaysian Report on Health Service Hub and by the World Bank to conduct the economic evaluation project; Return On Investment on Harm Reduction Program of Malaysia. Dr. Maznah has been passionate on implementing case-mix at University Malaya Medical Center (UMMC) and had initiated the plan by conducting costing analysis to determine the cost per Diem at UMMC since 2010. There are many researches that she is collaborating with either locally; Public Health Institute of Malaysia on the Study of Disease and Injury Burden, and internationally; University of Leeds, United Kingdom in evaluating the healthcare utilization and health seeking behaviors of breast cancer patients and with the Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland on economic evaluation of breast cancer treatment at UMMC. Dr. Maznah is the treasurer for the Malaysian Association of Health Economics, a life time member of Malaysian Public Health Physician Association, member of the International Pharmaco-economics Research organization (ISPOR), the Editorial Board member of Malaysian Journal of Public Health Medicine and a reviewer for Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health.



### Associate Professor Dr Retneswari Masilamani

Associate Professor Dr. Retneswari Masilamani was the Head of the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine from September 2009 till 8<sup>th</sup> July 2011. She went on sabbatical leave from 25 July till 24 December 2011 to complete the data collection for her Ph.D programme. She is presently on research leave to complete the scientific writings for the publications till end of June 2012. As an



Occupational Physician, she has kept her teaching schedules in Occupational and Environmental Health Modules in the Masters of Public Health and Masters of Medical Sciences in Public Health Programmes, and the Masters of Engineering programmes. Associate Professor Retneswari is also heading the Occupational and Environmental Health Research Group in University Malaya. Her research focus is on occupational stress using salivary biomarkers. She is the only person in Malaysia exploring salivary biomarkers in Occupational Stress research. She is an editorial board member to the Malaysian Journal of Public Health Medicine and a regular reviewer for the Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health and Malaysian Journal of Public Health Medicine.

On 7 July 2011, Associate Professor Retneswari was inducted as a fellow of Malaysian Public Health Medicine, Malaysia. Associate Professor Retneswari was the organising chairman for the 'Wellness Programme, University Malaya' held from 20-21 May 2011 held at University of Malaya. She heads the Needle Stick Injury committee in University Malaya Medical Centre, is an advisor to the Occupational Safety and Health Committee in the same institution and a member of the Canteen Management Committee in the Faculty of Medicine. She is actively involved in several occupational health affiliated societies namely; Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Social Security Organisation and Substance Abuse Committee all under the umbrella of the parent organisation, Malaysian Medical Association. She is also a member of the Fellow of Public Health Medicine Malaysia Award Committee (FPHMMAC).

She was a presenter at the 43th Asia Pacific Academic Consortium in Public health held at Seoul, South Korea between 20-23 October 2012 and an invited speaker for 2 symposiums at the 4<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference on Occupational Health (RCOH) held in Kuala Lumpur from 24-26 June 2012. She played an active role as a member of the organising and proceedings committee in the RCOH organised by the Society of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Malaysian Medical Association. Currently, she heads the publicity subcommittee for the 1<sup>st</sup> Asia Pacific Clinical Epidemiology and Evidence-Based Medicine Conference scheduled to be held in July 2012.

She is also an Occupational Health Consultant to Unilever Malaysia Sdn Bhd and was invited by Social Security organisation to provide her expertise in policy changes related to Invalidity Pension She was the external examiner for the M,B;B.S end of semester 5 final examinations held in November and December 2011 at the International Medical University, Kuala Lumpur. She was an external examiner for the Membership examinations held by the Faculty of Occupational Medicine, Royal College of Physicians, Ireland at Kuala Lumpur in May 2011.

In 2011, Retneswari has publications in 4 SCI-indexed and 1 SCOPUS-indexed journal with 3 doctorate students and 4 masters students to supervise.

### Prof Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud

The first Malaysian doctor to gain a PhD in Medical Informatics, Prof Awang Bulgiba (MBBS, MPH, MAppStat, PhD, AMM, FFPH) is Professor of Public Health (Epidemiology and Biostatistics Unit) and Director for Global Planning and Strategy for the University of Malaya, having completed his stint as Deputy Dean (Undergraduate and Diploma programmes) on 8 July 2011. He teaches clinical epidemiology and medical statistics mainly to postgraduates and he currently carries out research in infectious diseases, modifiable chronic diseases and



medical informatics. A consultant for several organisations and private companies, he completed another consultancy project for Janssen-Cilag, a pharmaceutical company in 2011. In addition, he continues to be an Associate Editor for the *Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health*, an International Advisory Board member for the *Journal of Experimental & Clinical Medicine*, *Editor of the Malaysian Orthopaedics Journal*, and continues to be an ad hoc reviewer for several health-related journals. Prof Awang Bulgiba also heads the Julius Centre University of Malaya (JCUM) and currently sits on the Research Committee of the Malaysian Health Promotion Board, Project Monitoring Team for the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, HICoE Service Thrust Committee for the Ministry of Higher Education and serves on the National Public Health Speciality Committee as well as several other committees within and outside the University of Malaya.

On 13 July 2011, Prof Awang Bulgiba gave a keynote address (*"Improving population health through translational research"*) at the UM-QUB Public Health Research Symposium in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This was followed by a presentation at the Asian Conference of University Presidents in Jakarta, Indonesia (*"Intellectual social responsibility-Contributing to national development"*) and another keynote address on 27 September 2011 (*"Connecting the dots"*) at the 1<sup>st</sup> International Public Health Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and 2 plenary sessions on 13 October 2011 (*"The global future of international education – facilitated dialogue"* and *"Deep internationalization"*) at the Australian International Education Conference in Adelaide, Australia. He was also an invited speaker at 4 workshops in 2011 and is currently the organising chairman for the 1<sup>st</sup> Asia Pacific Clinical Epidemiology and Evidence-Based Medicine Conference scheduled to be held in July 2012.

Recently Prof Awang Bulgiba and his team were awarded RM2.5 million by the Ministry of Higher Education for the STeMM (Spatio-Temporal Modelling and Meta-analysis) project which is attempting to create dynamic spatio-temporal models of infectious and cardiovascular diseases relevant to Malaysia. This new addition makes him Principal Investigator for 3 research projects in 2011. In 2011 Prof Awang Bulgiba published 12 SCI-indexed and 1 SCOPUS-indexed journal papers. Many of these papers came from his 10 PhD, 4 DrPH and 2 Masters students.



### **Associate Professor Dr Saimy Ismail**

This is the eleventh year he is working in the department after being given a one year contract from August 2011. The present position is as a Public Health Consultant. He has the MBBS degree from the University of Malaya and MPH from the University of California, Berkeley. He brings with him more than 25 years of field experience at all levels while with the Ministry of Health including training. He has studied in the University of New South Wales under the Regional Teachers Training Unit of WHO on curriculum development and the training of health field workers.



Dr Saimy teaches in both undergraduates (MBBS) and postgraduates (MPH, MPH Oral Health, MMedScPH and DrPH) programmes. For the undergraduates, he teaches subjects related to Personal & Professional Development (PPD) in Phase III A of the curriculum. He is the academic advisor to one group of assigned students. In the Post Graduate training, he lectures on subjects concerning management concepts, process and applications including the Malaysian Health Care system, Primary Health Care, Quality in Health, Disaster Management in Public Health and Human Resource Management in Health.

In Postgraduate supervision Dr Saimy has four masters and one DrPH students in 2011. He has been appointed by Malaysia Medical Council to the accreditation panel with MQA, with visits to one medical school (in Selangor) in November 2011. He also sits on the Malaysian Medical Council Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC). He hopes that 2012 will be a different year where he intends to pursue other activities different from previous years.



**Associate Professor Dr Ng Chiu Wan**

On the teaching front, Dr Ng continued to contribute to the teaching of Health Economics and Financing, both at the post-graduate and under-graduate levels as well as contributing to the teaching of other management subjects. On the research front, Dr Ng continued to deepen her examination into the pattern of equity in health and health financing in Malaysia. Her findings were presented in the paper entitled, “Financial protection for health in Malaysia in an era of increasing private sector provision” at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Health Economics held in Toronto, Canada in July.



Dr Ng was invited to present at the “Flagship Course on Equity in the Health System for Indonesia” organized jointly by the UNICEF, World Bank Institute, the Asia Network for Capacity Building in Health Systems Strengthening, the Ministry of Health Indonesia and the Institute for Health Policy, Sri Lanka which was held in Ciawi, Indonesia from 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011. The course was designed to provide policy-makers, academics and other interested stakeholders in Indonesia with an understanding of how to assess and act on equity issues in their health system. A total of 28 participants attended the course.

### **Assoc Prof Dr Nabilla Al-Sadat bt Abdul Mohsein**

The year 2011 had been a very interesting and fulfilling year for Assoc Prof Dr Nabilla. Because of her specialization in adolescent health, she was recruited to head the “Student Empowerment and Research Unit” (SERU), Student Affairs Division in charge of the enhancement of soft skills and employability of graduates of University of Malaya. As the head and administrator of SERU, she has been actively planning and implementing programs, courses and research in the area of student development directly under the



auspices of the Deputy VC of Student Affairs. Among the memorable programs are the training and setting up of the first student ambassadors program in the university, the “Love Life” road show, critical thinking courses, leadership programs, upgrade yourself seminar and the upcoming “JUTAAN” program. She was often called to give talks to faculties and colleges within the university on employability and leadership. One of the most memorable moment was when she was invited to talk at the First Residential College as an alumnus of the college together with YM Tunku Mahaleel, the ex President of Proton and a man of many skills. Among the research conducted in the unit is the rubric measurement of soft skills, mapping of soft skills, gap analysis, e-surveys towards development of e-portfolios and case studies. A portion of the research findings was presented at an international conference in Barcelona, Spain in July, 2011.

As a public health specialist in the Family Health unit, she contributes in teaching principles of family health, medical sociology and health promotion to the Masters of Public Health (MPH), Public Health Doctorate (DrPH), Masters of Psychiatry, Bachelor of Radiology and Bachelor of Bioengineering students. She supervises 9 doctorate students (2 PhDs and 7 DrPH) and is an external examiner for University of McQuarie, Australia and UKM and acts as an adjudicator for the University of Andhra Pradesh, India. On the research front, Dr Nabilla has continued to pursue her research in the areas of her interests - tobacco control and adolescent health despite her busy schedule as an administrator. She is the principal investigator of “MyHearts” (Malaysian Health of Adolescents Longitudinal Survey Research Team) which is a conjoint study between Queens University of Belfast, 5 local Universities and Ministry of Health. She is also a research team member of GATS (Global Adult Tobacco Survey) Malaysia which receives funding from WHO and CDC, USA. She is also the country researcher of an international comparison study of 3 countries, UAE, Pakistan and Malaysia. She is also a member of MyBCC (Malaysian Breast Cancer Cohort Study) and continues to contribute to CePH (Centre for Population Health) in her capacity as the immediate past head of CePH.

In addition, she holds the position as the chair of the Health and Quality of Life section in NCWO (National Coalition of Women’s Organisations), treasurer of MyWATCH (Malaysian

Women Action group on Tobacco Control and Health), sits on the National technical Committee for Adolescent Health and continually appointed as an evaluator of BFHIs (baby friendly hospitals). She continues to be *an* ad hoc reviewer for several health-related journals like Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health, Malaysian Journal of Public Health and MMJ. In a nutshell, 2011 was an exciting year for Dr Nabilla and her hope is to see the fruits of her labour will bear fruit in the upcoming year. Amin.

### Associate Professor Dr Wong Yut Lin

Associate Professor Dr. Yut-Lin Wong, DrPH (Berkeley), MPH (Berkeley), MPhil (Sussex), is immersed in teaching, research/consultancy, sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) advocacy. Administratively, she has been active as the department's Undergraduate Programme Coordinator; Phase 2 Elective Coordinator for the medical faculty; and the latter's representative to UM Library Committee. She is an Associate Editor of the Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health (ISI); member of Ethics Committee on Infant Milk Formula Products MOH; member of Steering Taskforce for National Bioethics Committee MOSTI; member of Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM); and a member of Sexual Violence Research Initiative (WHO).



Her research areas are in gender and health, gender-based violence, sexual reproductive health and rights, and gender competencies in medical education. In 2011, in addition to ongoing research on male support of women's breast cancer screening at the work place, and review of the hospital-based One Stop Crisis Centres as health sector's response to gender-based violence (funded by UNFPA, Malaysia), she also collaborated in a WHO (Malaysia) study on Reproductive Rights and Choice: Insights from Women on Pregnancy Termination. These research findings had also been presented at both international and local academic/scientific conferences as well as in publications.

Recognizing her expertise in gender & health and SRHR advocacy, Assoc Prof Wong was invited as an expert/resource person/speaker to various seminars and workshops on access to reproductive health, abortion, and gender-based violence organized by RRAAM, WHO (Malaysia), and Asia-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW).

#### Research projects:

1. MENCARE! Male Support of Breast Cancer Screening: Evaluation Research August 2008 - Oct 2011. RM 50,000 NCWO/Pfizer; Principle Investigator
2. Review of Hospital-Based One Stop Crisis Centre Services October 2008-2012. RM50,000 UNPFA/WIM; Principle Investigator
3. Reproductive Rights and Choice: Insights from Women on Pregnancy Termination December 2010-December 2011. RM35,000 WHO; Co-Researcher

#### Publications:

1. Yut-Lin Wong. Taking Stock of Alma-Ata Primary Health Care Health for All: Moving Toward New Directions in Global Preventive Health. *Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health* 2011 23(2)125-126
2. Wan-Yuen Choo, Michael P. Dunne, Mary J. Marret, Mary Lou Flemming & Yut-Lin Wong. Victimization Experiences of Adolescents in Malaysia. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. doi:10.1016/j.jadohealth.2011.04.020

3. Wong Yut Lin & Rashidah Abdullah. Unwanted pregnancies and women's access to contraception and legal safe abortion in Malaysia: role of health providers. *Malaysian Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology* 2011 Vol. 8 No. 21 (Supplementary): 135.
4. Wong Yut Lin. Hospital-based One-Stop Crisis Centres (OSCC): Health Sector Response to Gender-Based Violence in Peninsular Malaysia. 2011, United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA), Malaysia. ISBN 978-983-3055-07-4

**Associate Professor Dr Wong Li Ping**

Dr Wong Li Ping, received her Ph.D. in medical science (Epidemiology) from the University of Malaya in 2004. She takes part in the Faculty's research methodology and biostatistical teaching both at the undergraduate and graduate levels.



Dr. Wong's research has centered almost exclusively on social and behavioral medicine. Her current research activity focuses on role of race, culture, and ethnicity on health. She has diverse research interests, all in the field of social and behavioral medicine, include: [1] research on risk behaviors (HIV/AIDS Surveillance; youth risk behavior surveillance), [2] research on preventive behaviors (Cervical cancer screening; HPV vaccination; 2009 influenza H1N1 vaccine; dengue fever), [3] Community responses (Behavioral responses to emerging infectious diseases, 2009 influenza H1N1 and influenza vaccination; HPV vaccines; deceased organ and tissue donation; knowledge and attitudes towards thalassemia), [4] sexual reproductive health research (dysmenorrheal and PMS of young female; hysterectomy and detrimental effect on women psychosocial well-being and sexual functioning; midlife crisis; impact of aging on sexual function in women). Recognizing the importance of behavioral component in medicine, Dr Wong wishes to continue working for the advancement in the area of behavioral health in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya by engagingly actively in research and teaching.

In the year of 2011, Dr. Wong served as chief and/or sole author of 14 papers published in journals that are ISI-indexed. She has served as a reviewer for peer-reviewed for Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health, The Southeast Asian Journal of Tropical Medicine and Public Health, Women & Health, Culture, Health and Sexuality, International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics, International Journal of Women's Health and Vaccine.



### **Professor Chan Chee Khoon**

Chan Chee Khoon is a consultant and health policy analyst at the Department of Social & Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya. He has a doctorate in epidemiology (Harvard University), and was a Nippon Foundation API senior fellow in 2004-2005.



His research publications in health systems and healthpolicy, public health ethics, cancer epidemiology, and internationalpolitical economy have appeared in peer-reviewed journals such as Cancer Causes & Control, International Journal of Health Services, Development in Practice, International Journal of Political Economy, Global Social Policy, The Japanese Economy, Journal of Contemporary Asia, Asian Bioethics Review, and Global Health Promotion.

He has served as consultant and technical adviser to theWorld Bank, European Commission, World Health Organisation, United Nations Economic and Social Commission forAsia & Pacific, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, Ministry of Health (Malaysia), Socioeconomic & Environmental Research Institute (Penang), Malaysian Medical Association, and the Department of Environment (Malaysia).

He was a founding member of the Penang Cancer Registry and serves onits technical advisory board. Elected to a two-year term on the inaugural Executive Board of the International Society for Equity inHealth, he also serves on the editorial advisory boards of the International Journal for Equity in Health, Global Health Promotion and Global Social Policy (2003-2005). His current research interests include emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, ethical and policy issues in science and technology, environment and development, and health systems in transition.

### **Associate Professor Tin Tin Su**

Associate Professor Dr Tin Tin Su is a Public Health Specialist and Health Economics. She is an Associate Professor in the Health Policy and Management Unit. She teaches Health Economics, Quality in Health Care and Law and Health to postgraduate (MPH, MMedSc.PH, and DrPH) courses. She gives some lectures in Personal and Professional Development (PPD) module for undergraduate MBBS students. She is also a field supervisor for Community Residency Programme (CRP) and Organization and Management of Health Services (OMHS) and a facilitator of Problem Based Learning (PBL) session for undergraduate students.



Dr Tin Tin Su's research interest includes Demand and expenditure for health care, Economic evaluation, Health care financing and insurance, Health systems research, Quality in Health Care and evidence based health policy. Dr Tin Tin Su involves in several research projects. She has been the principle investigator for the research project "Socio-economic consequence of tsunami affected communities in Malaysia" since 2009. Her proposal on "Diseases among Poverty" was selected as Health & Translational Medicine Cluster Flagship project and Associate Prof. Dr Tin Tin Su and her team was awarded RM 250,000 for the year 2011.

She was appointed as Head of the research center, Centre for Population Health (CePH) since March 2011. During her headship, she established "Centre for Population Health Resource Centre". The resource centre will serve the platform for sharing resources (software, books and equipments) among the members of the CePH. Dr Tin Tin Su secured RM 554,841 from the Vice Chancellor of University of Malaya for the UM-QUB public health research collaboration project. She was the organizing chairman for the UM-QUB Public Health Research Symposium in July, 2011. She also organized a number of short courses, seminars, lunch talk series and workshops under CePH. She is currently the chief secretary and scientific committee member for the 1<sup>st</sup> Asia Pacific Clinical Epidemiology and Evidence-based Medicine Conference scheduled to be held in July 2012.

She is a member of the Malaysian Medical Association and Myanmar Medical Association. Dr Tin Tin Su reviews journal articles for BMC Public Health, Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health and Malaysian Journal of Public Health Medicine.

In 2011, Dr Tin Tin Su published 3 SCI-indexed journal papers and presented the research findings in several national and international conferences. One student successfully completed the PhD under her supervision. She has supervised a total of 7 master students in public health and is currently the supervisor of 2 PhD, 7 DrPH and 4 Master students.

**Associate Professor Dr Noran Naqiah Hairi**

Noran is an Associate Professor in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine. She graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) from the University of Malaya in 1996. Upon graduation, she served in the Ministry of Health in various capacities. Immediately after compulsory service she commenced her Master of Public Health and Master of Public Health (Epidemiology) and was awarded with distinction for both masters degree from the University of Malaya in 2003 and 2004. Noran recently completed her PhD from the School of Public Health, University of Sydney, Australia in 2011. Her field of specialisation are Epidemiology and Medical Statistics, Preventive Medicine and Geriatrics and Gerontology.



Currently, she teaches epidemiology, medical statistics, and research methodology to both the undergraduates and postgraduates students. She is supervising three DrPH and three Masters Students. Noran is also the internal examiner for the Masters of Clinical Oncology (University Malaya), Statistics Module, Masters of Paediatrics and Masters of Nursing. Administratively, Noran is the Co-ordinator of the DrPH Programme, SPM Department.

Noran's research interest are in the epidemiology of aging and aging related diseases particularly in issues such physical disability and functional limitation, elderly abuse and neglect, visual impairment, age-related eye diseases, sarcopenia and chronic pain among older people. Her PhD thesis centred on the epidemiology of physical function among older people in Malaysia and Australia. The broad aim of her PhD was to contribute to a better understanding of poor physical function among older people. Her PhD findings have been published in four SCI-indexed journal (Preventive Medicine, two papers in the Journal of the American Geriatric Society and BMC Public Health) and selected for presentation at various international conferences – 19<sup>th</sup> International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) World Congress, Paris France, 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> Asia Pacific Consortium of Public Health Conference (APACPH), Kuala Lumpur and Taiwan, the 1<sup>st</sup> Malaysia-Australia Medical Research Colloquium and the International Conference on Sarcopenia Research, Toulouse, France.

Noran has also been involved in various research activities between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Defence. Her recent collaboration was with Malaysia's National Health Morbidity Survey 2011. She is currently part of Professor Awang Bulgiba's research team that was awarded RM2.5 million by the Ministry of Higher Education for the STeMM (Spatio-Temporal Modelling and Meta-analysis) project. This project aims to create dynamic spatio-temporal models of infectious and cardiovascular diseases relevant to Malaysia.

In 2011, Noran has three publications, two in SCI-indexed journal (Preventive Medicine Journal and Journal of the American Geriatric Society) and one SCOPUS-Indexed Journal (Medical Journal of Malaysia) and two book chapters accepted for publication. In addition Noran was also one of the recipients for best poster award for the 9<sup>th</sup> Ministry of Health Malaysia, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia Scientific Meeting 2011. Noran is also an ad-hoc reviewer for the Social Science and Medicine Journal, Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health, Journal of Community Medicine and Health and the Internet Journal of Mental Health. Noran also conducted several workshops and courses such as Research Methodology and Evidence Based Medicine under Julius Centre University Malaya as well as Clinical Research Centre Seberang Perai, Penang.

### **Dr Moy Foong Ming**

Dr Moy is the Unit Head and Senior Lecturer in the Epidemiology & Biostatistics Unit. She teaches Research Methodology, Biostatistics, and Clinical Epidemiology & Evidence Based Medicine to both undergraduate and postgraduate candidates. Her research interest includes Translational Research / Trials in prevention of non-communicable diseases, Workplace Wellness and Nutritional Epidemiology.



Dr Moy is a member of the editorial board of Nutrition Journal of Malaysia. She also reviews journal articles for the Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health, The Journal of Nutrition, Journal of University Malaya Medical Centre (JUMMEC) and Nutrition Journal of Malaysia. She is member of International Epidemiology Association, Malaysian Diabetes Association, Malaysian Association Study of Obesity, Nutrition Society of Malaysian and Malaysian Dieticians' Association.

Dr Moy is the internal examiner for Master of Clinical Oncology (University Malaya) for the Statistics module. She is also the coordinator for the MBBS Phase IIIB elective program since 2008 as well as the committee member of the MBBS Curriculum Review Board. Besides that, she also coordinated the Community Residency Program (CRP) for the MBBS program. She is also the coordinator of the UM Wellness Program which conducts annual health screening for all UM staff age 35 years and above.

In the year 2011, Dr. Moy has eleven ISI publications which she was the first author for three ISI publications. She also presented her research findings in both international and national conferences. Currently, Dr Moy has four on-going research grants amounting to more than RM500,000. She is also the supervisors of ten doctoral candidates (7 DrPHs and 3 PhDs), one MMedSc (Research) candidate and two MMedScPH candidates. Besides teaching and research, Dr Moy conducted workshops/ courses such as Introduction to SPSS, workshop on "Train the trainers for CE-EBM", workshop on "Evidence Based Medicine", and EndNote Workshop. Overall, year 2011 was a fruitful year for Dr Moy.

### Dr. Azlan Darus

Dr. Azlan Darus is currently the Head of the Occupational and Environmental Health Unit. He is involved in teaching of occupational health, environmental health and industrial health at the postgraduate and undergraduate levels in the Faculty of Medicine, and postgraduate level at the Faculty of Engineering.



Dr. Azlan's research interest includes burden of occupational disease, fitness for work and occupational stress. He is currently involved in the following research projects:

1. Direct, Indirect and Intangible cost of Occupational Disease in Malaysia (UMRG grant)
2. Salivary Cortisol and IGA as markers for psychological stress: A study of workplace stress among police personnel(UMRG grant)
3. Indoor Air Quality in an office environment using UFS ventilation system

In the year 2011, Dr. Azlan published and presented the following :

1. Salivary Biomarkers of Stress Among Teachers in an Urban Setting.  
Retneswari Masilamani, Azlan Darus, Anselm Su Ting, Roslinah Ali, Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud Koh David. *Asia Pac J Public Health* published online 8 March 2011 (ISI cited)
2. Work related determinants of breastfeeding discontinuation among employed mothers in Malaysia  
Rahmah M Amin, Zakiah M Said, Rosnah Sutan, Shamsul A Shah, Azlan Darus, Khadijah Shamsuddin. *International Breastfeeding Journal* 2011, 6:4 (SCOPUS/PubMed cited)
3. Indoor Air Quality Utilising UFS System and Employee's Health in an Office Environment in Kuala Lumpur.  
Azlan Darus, Fatin Syakira Abdul Manab. Presented at the International Symposium of Safety and Health at Work 2011, Incheon, Korea
4. Symptoms of Sick Building Syndrome , Occupational Impact and Quality of Indoor Air in an Office Environment in Kuala Lumpur.  
Azlan Darus, Fatin Syakira Abdul Manab presented at the Aisa Pacific Conference of Public Health 2011, Seoul, Korea.

Dr. Azlan is a reviewer for the Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health. He is also an occupational health advisor for the international company Unilever (M) Holdings, since 2008. This year, he also provided consultation to the Malaysia Airlines for their Fatigue Risk Management System. This year, he had also appeared in the media discussing workplace safety and hygiene.

Dr. Azlan is also active in community and academic work outside the faculty. He is currently the honorary secretary of the Society of Occupational and Environmental Medicine,



Malaysian Medical Association. He is also a member of the subcommittee on Occupational Health at the National Council of Occupational Safety and Health. At the community level he is an auditor of his local Resident's Association.

### **Dr. Farizah Mohd Hairi**

Farizah Mohd Hairi obtained her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, and Master of Public Health from University of Malaya, Master of Science in Health Care Management from University of Wales, and Doctor of Science in Public Health from The Netherlands Institute for Health Sciences. She is a Public Health Specialist specialising in Health Services Management. She is also a Senior Lecturer in the Health Policy and Management Unit at the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur.



Currently Farizah heads the post-graduate unit of the department. She is a member of the Faculty's Post-Graduate Committee. Her main administrative tasks includes coordinating the Master of Public Health and Master of Medical Science in Public Health programmes, coordinating the MQA (Malaysian Qualifications Agency) requirements for the respective courses offered in Public Health post-graduate programmes (for both the masters and doctorate level) and also acts as a coordinator-cum-secretariat for the Public Health Conjoint Committee as our Head of Department, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Maznah Dahlui is the chairperson for the Public Health Conjoint Committee which comprises of Heads of Public Health/Community Medicine/Community Health/Social and Preventive Medicine Departments from Universiti Malaya, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Univesiti Malaysia Sarawak, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Mara, President College of Public Health Medicine from Academy of Medicine Malaysia, and representative from Ministry of Health Malaysia.

Farizah teaches the undergraduate medical students, modules within the strands of The Doctor, Patient, Health and Society (DPHS), and Personal and Professional Development (PPD). For the post-graduate programme, Farizah coordinates the Management in Health course and involves in the teaching of Quality in Health and Human Resource Planning and Management. In 2011, Farizah supervises 6 master candidates (5 locals and 1 foreigner) and 1 local doctorate candidate.

Besides reviewing manuscripts for the Malaysian Medical Journal (MMJ), in 2011, Farizah also reviews books and other academic publications. Farizah's research interest includes Care of the Elderly, Disability, and Socio-economic Inequalities in Health; Dengue Prevention and Smoking among young adults. In addition, Farizah is also affiliated to the Centre for Population Health (CePH) and involves in the Health and Translational Medicine Cluster (HTMC) Flagship Project on a Community Based Action Research. Last but not least, Farizah is also involved in the updating of the 2003 CPG (Clinical Practice Guideline) on Management of Tobacco use and Dependence.

### **Dr Anselm Su Ting**

Dr Anselm Su Ting (MBBS, MPH, MPH (Occupational Health), MFOM (Ireland)) is an Occupational Physician and Senior Lecturer in Occupational and Environmental Health Unit. He is the first Malaysian to obtain Dean's Medal Award from the Faculty of Occupational Medicine, Royal College of Physicians Ireland in year 2009. He teaches occupational medicine to the undergraduates and postgraduates students. Dr Anselm is actively involved in promoting and using e-learning activities for teaching in this faculty.



Besides teaching, Dr Anselm also runs Occupational Medicine Clinic twice a week in University of Malaya Medical Centre and provides consultancy to governmental and non-governmental organizations on ad-hoc basis whenever there is a request.

Dr Anselm has a special interest in vibration disease in tropical countries and he is currently heading a research project in collaboration with Wakayama Medical University, Japan and Kinki University, Japan looking at hand-arm vibration syndrome among forestry workers in Sarawak. His previous work on vibration problems among the construction workers in Malaysia has been presented in International Conference on Occupational Health and published in Occupational and Environmental Medicine. Besides vibration disease, he is also involved in other occupational health related research projects such as occupational stress, commuting accidents, work ability and noise induced hearing loss; and non-occupational health related clinical trials and cochrane reviews in the field of haematology in collaboration with Ministry of Health.

### **Dr Hazreen Abdul Majid**

Dr Hazreen Abdul Majid is a senior lecturer in the Family Health Unit. He teaches medical nutrition therapy, sports nutrition and public health nutrition to both postgraduate and undergraduate students.



His research interest includes functional foods, prebiotics and probiotics in enteral nutrition and public health nutrition. Hazreen is also active in community work. He is a member for several associations including Dietitians' Association of Australia, British Dietetic Association and others. He is currently the Vice President of Malaysian Dietitians Association (2011-2013). He is also an associate member for The Higher Education Academy, UK.

Functional foods (e.g. prebiotics/ probiotics) have always been Hazreen's research interest. Analytical methods to quantify microbiota such as using fluorescent *in-situ* hybridization technique and quantifying short-chain fatty acids using gas liquid chromatography are among his expertise. He conducted the first randomised controlled trial to determine the effect of additional fructo-oligosaccharides on colonic microbiota, faecal short-chain fatty acids and immune status among intensive care unit patients receiving enteral nutrition. He was awarded Nutricia Research Grant to conduct this clinical nutrition trial. Currently, he is involved in several researches such as validity and reliability of 3 minute nutrition screening (3 minNS) for identification of hospitalised adult patients at risk of malnutrition where he is the principal investigator, diseases among poverty – a community based project (as co - principal investigator, Malaysian Breast Cancer Survivorship Cohort (as lead investigator for nutrition component) and others.

In addition, he is also a qualified dietitian that has worked both locally and internationally. He also provides dietary consultation services at the sports medicine clinic since 2003. He was one of the reviewers for the recommended nutrient intakes for Malaysia 2005 nutritional guidelines. He also had received fellowship to attend the South East Asia Nutrition Leadership Program 2011 by The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Center for Food and Nutrition, University of Indonesia. He had also received education fund from Malaysian Association for the Study of Obesity to present his research work at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Asia Pacific Conference of Public Health in Seoul, Korea. He is also in the committee in developing the National Clinical Practice Guidelines for psoriasis patients.

In 2011, Dr Hazreen was invited to speak at a national conference in the domain of prebiotics and clinical nutrition. He has also conducted several courses for example nutritional epidemiology and gastrointestinal and nutrition. He has published 2 ISI- indexed

journal articles and 1 research highlights in the Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition Society of Malaysia newsletter. He is currently supervising 2 doctorate students in Public Health in 2011. He has also appeared on Bernama TV addressing 'Importance of water for health during dry season', 'Healthy option when eating out' on radio channel BFM 89.9, and 'Importance of breakfast in schoolchildren' on NTV7.

### **Dr Victor Hoe Chee Wai**

Dr Victor Hoe is a Senior Lecturer and Occupational Health Physician. His Occupational Medicine Practice is situated within the University Malaya Medical Centre where he conducts the referral clinics on every Monday and Thursday.



He has obtained his Master of Public Health and Master of Public Health specialising in Occupational Health from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya in 2001. Beside that he has a degree in Master in Engineering (Safety, Health and Environment) from the Faculty of Engineering, University of Malaya. He undertook the Masters in Engineering (Safety, Health and Environment) from 2006-08 as a part-time student while juggling his responsibilities as a lecturer and occupational physician. He is also a Certified Medical Impairment Assessor and holds the International Diving Medical Officer certificate.

Dr Hoe has just completed his PhD training in Occupational Health from Monash University, Melbourne, Australia in 2011. He was under the supervision of Prof Malcolm Sim. He managed the rare distinction of being able to submit his thesis within 3 years. The title of his PhD thesis is "Work related musculoskeletal disorders of the neck and upper limb".

In 2011, Dr Hoe has managed to publish the paper "Risk factors for musculoskeletal symptoms of the neck or shoulder alone or neck and shoulder among hospital nurses" in Occupational and Environmental Medicine journal. He also presented his PhD research findings in the 20th Asian Conference on Occupational Health (ACOH), Bangkok, Thailand and 22nd International Conference on Epidemiology in Occupational Health (EPICOH 2011) in the historic city of Oxford in United Kingdom. He also assisted the Medical Journal of Malaysia in reviewing 16 manuscripts. While in Monash University, Dr Hoe tutored in Evidence Based Clinical Practice, Community Based Practice Program, and Biomedical Science and Society for M.B., B.S., and Introduction to Epidemiology and Environmental Influences on Health for the Master of Public Health Course. Dr Hoe also presented a section for the module Introduction to Occupational Health and Safety.

Dr Hoe's research interest includes Worksite wellness, Musculoskeletal Disorders, Ergonomics, Evidence-Based Medicine and Systematic Reviews.



**Dr Maslinor binti Ismail**

She attained her degree of Master of Public Health in 2006 and then completed her degree of Master of Public Health (Family Health) in 2009. She teaches family health and nutrition to undergraduates and postgraduates in the Faculty of Medicine. Her passion for research is mainly within the scope of sexual and reproductive health. She has been very active in giving consultancy service for Tunas Bakti Sungai Besi Approved School since year 2008. She has also been the Technical Advisor for ISO implementation and surveillance audit for Tropicana Medical Centre, Sunway Medical Centre and LPPKN (National Population and Family Development Board).



### **Dr Claire Choo Wan Yuen**

Claire is a senior lecturer in the Epidemiology and Biostatistics Unit. Currently, she teaches mainly biostatistics and research methodology to both undergraduates and postgraduates. She supervises 8 doctorate and 1 master students.



Claire has focused considerable energy on violence, reproductive and sexual health research. Her research interests include the international public health burden of violence; the linkages between violence against children/adolescents and mental health; the development and evaluation of interventions to address violence; research focusing on vulnerable populations such as impact of HIV/AIDS on children and their families; and application of mixed methodology in public health research.

Her current projects include exploring the awareness and communication practice of parents on primary school children on sexual abuse, mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect among Malaysian teachers, estimate the magnitude of abuse among primary school children, determine the exposure to risk and victimisation using information and communication audio-visual technology among adolescents, examine the association between domestic violence association with psychiatric morbidity and victims' readiness to leave. She was also involved in an international multi-country study assessing Malaysia's current policies and programme of child maltreatment under the World Health Organization. Claire is actively conducting two Cochrane Systematic Reviews on interventions for preventing elder abuse and interventions to support the decision making process for individuals with spinal cord injuries. She is appointed as a member of the Research and Development Committee under The Coordinating Council for the Protection of Children; Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development.

Claire also conducted several workshops/courses such as Research Methodology, Introduction to SPSS, Train the trainers for CE-EBM, and Evidence Based Medicine. She has been an ad-hoc reviewer for several journals such as Child Abuse Review, Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health, and Malaysian Family Physician. She previously published ISI journals such as Journal of Adolescent Health and Child Abuse and Neglect and produced book chapters.