



## Happy New Year 2014



★ Grand Opening Ceremony of the SCC @TropMed on Wednesday 4 December 2013



★ World AIDS Day with Ambassador Kristie A. Kenney on Tuesday 3 December 2013  
At the residence of the U.S. ambassador of Thailand, Bangkok



★ Meet the Dean 5<sup>th</sup> event on Monday 14 October 2013





## Silom Community Clinic @TropMed officially opens; designated part of an NIH Clinical Trial Unit award

### Grand Opening Ceremony of the SCC @TropMed:

On December 4, 2013, Prof. Rajata Rajatanavin, The President of Mahidol University, U.S. Ambassador Kristie A. Kenney, and Dr. Sapon Mekton, Director General, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health presided over the official opening ceremony of Silom Community Clinic @TropMed (SCC @TropMed), the new clinical research site facility (aka "Silom Clinic") at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases. Silom Clinic had been previously located at the Bangkok Christian Hospital since 2005.

The new clinic represents a research and service partnership between the Thailand Ministry of Public Health, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and now Mahidol University. The key focus of this collaboration will be to focus on HIV risk among men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender (TG). These populations represent the highest HIV risk groups in Thailand, where the epidemic is being progressively concentrated.

There were more than 70 invited guests attending a formal introduction of the new physical clinical research facility to partnering HIV agencies in Bangkok, stakeholders in HIV prevention among MSM and TG, and community leaders and representatives of the populations that they serve. The official ribbon cutting was followed by a tour of the laboratory and clinic, brightly painted in lavender after consultation with the MSM and TG community. Ongoing clinical trials, such as HPTN-067, have resumed operation at the site.

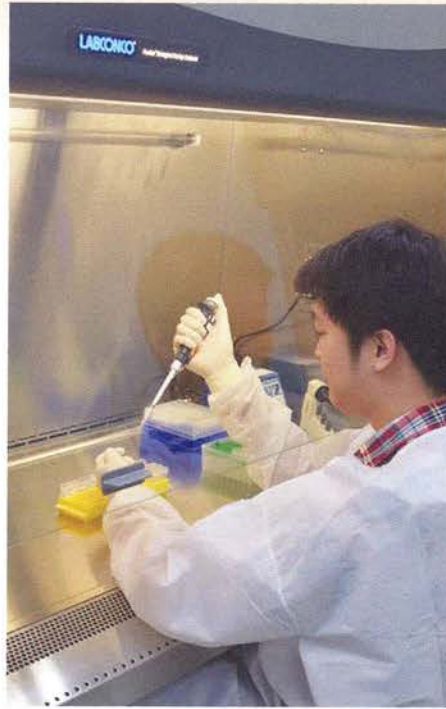




## SCC @TropMed designated part of an NIH Clinical Trial Unit award:

# ADAPT HPTN 067 WE CAN CHANGE

Several weeks later on December 17, 2013, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced the selection of the Emory University-CDC HIV/AIDS Clinical Trial Unit as one of 37 clinical trial units (CTUs) responsible for implementing the scientific agenda of the NIH international HIV/AIDS clinical research network.



The Emory-CDC HIV/AIDS CTU will conduct clinical trials within three networks sponsored by the NIH:

- the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG),
- HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN), and
- HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN).

The seven-year designation, with expected core funding of more than \$12.5 million and significant additional protocol-specific funding, includes Emory and CDC with two clinical research sites in Atlanta, Georgia, USA (the Ponce de Leon Center linked to ACTG and HPTN, and the Hope Clinic of the Emory Vaccine Center linked to HPTN and HVTN) and one CRS each in Kisumu, Kenya (Kenya Medical Research Institute, linked to ACTG) and Bangkok, Thailand (SCC @ TropMed linked to HPTN).

## Contact information:

The SCC @TropMed is open for service on the 12th floor of the Hospital for Tropical Diseases every Tuesday to Saturday from 4pm – 9 pm. For further information, please visit our website at [www.silomclinic.in.th](http://www.silomclinic.in.th) or call 085-123-8738.







A Malaria Consortium symposium highlighting current efforts to combat drug resistance in Asia was held during the Joint International Tropical Medicine Meeting in Bangkok last month.

The Symposium, entitled *'Taking the Resistance out of Elimination'* highlighted current efforts to combat drug resistance in Asia and focused on the impact of artemisinin resistance in the region, barriers in reaching migrant populations and improving surveillance and information systems.

The emergence of resistance to artemisinin – currently recommended as the best treatment for malaria in combination with other drugs – has created obstacles in the effort to reduce the incidence of malaria. Despite sustained political will and support for malaria elimination, drug resistance is increasing in Asia and will pose a serious challenge to elimination efforts. There is also a danger that the drug resistant parasite could

spread to Africa, exacerbating mortality and morbidity in the region.

Keynote presentations were given by Dr. Sylvia Meek, Malaria Consortium Technical Director and Dr. John R. MacArthur, Chief, Program Implementation Unit, Malaria Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In addition Malaria Consortium also discussed its surveillance activities in Cambodia, behaviour change through positive deviance in Myanmar, and the current status of drug resistance and preparations toward its containment in the Greater Mekong sub-regional countries.

All presentations from the Symposium are now available to view online: [http://www.malariaconsortium.org/pages/joint\\_international\\_tropical\\_medicine\\_meeting\\_bangkok\\_december\\_2013.htm](http://www.malariaconsortium.org/pages/joint_international_tropical_medicine_meeting_bangkok_december_2013.htm)

**John R. MacArthur MD, MPH,** Chief, Program Implementation Unit, Malaria Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Malaria Elimination – Hype or Hope*

**Dr. Sylvia Meek,** Malaria Consortium Technical Director *Containment of drug resistance and the pathway to elimination for Asia*

**Dr. Arantxa Roca-Feltrer,** Epidemiologist and Country Technical Coordinator, Malaria Consortium *Surveillance in Cambodia*

**Muhammad Shafique,** Behaviour Change Communication Specialist, Malaria Consortium *Positive Deviance: An Innovative Approach to Improve Malaria Outcomes in Myanmar*

**Dr. Apinya Niramitsantipong,** Medical Officer, Bureau of Vector-Borne Diseases, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand, *Current status and preparations of the Greater Mekong Sub-region countries towards the containment of drug resistance and elimination.*





JITMM 2013 was jointly organised by: Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, SEAMEO TROPMED Network, SEAMEO TROPMED Thailand, TROPMED Alumni Association, the Parasitology and Tropical Medicine Association of Thailand, Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU), and Malaria Consortium. The theme, *Towards Global Health: an Asian Paradigm of Tropical Medicine*, addressed issues relating to malaria, dengue and other diseases, and brought together leading global health experts.

## Malaria Consortium new Learning Papers

New Learning Paper, December 2013



### Moving towards malaria elimination: developing innovative tools for malaria surveillance in Cambodia

Malaria Consortium's new learning paper presents the development and implementation of a diverse set of tools

to improve malaria surveillance in Cambodia. A mix of reporting systems using eHealth and mobile phone-based (mHealth) solutions were developed to address the routine and real-time data requirements of Cambodia's national malaria programme. These solutions aim to help the country achieve its goal to eliminate malaria by 2025.

Read the full paper: [www.malariaconsortium.org/resources/publications/257](http://www.malariaconsortium.org/resources/publications/257)



Scan the QR code with your smart phone or tablet to download this paper

### Upcoming Learning Paper, February 2014

#### A positive deviance approach for malaria prevention

There is growing evidence of the emergence of artemisinin resistance along the Cambodia-Thailand border area, where many migrant workers come to work during planting or harvesting season.

Malaria Consortium's upcoming Learning Paper will explore the implementation of a positive deviance strategy to help contain the impact of malaria on these mobile and migrant populations. The paper focuses on a project in which Malaria Consortium piloted the approach for malaria prevention and control, and explores the challenges and lessons for future or similar work.

Available to download from February 2014: [www.malariaconsortium.org/learningpapers](http://www.malariaconsortium.org/learningpapers)



Scan the QR code with your smart phone or tablet to download this paper

Read about the positive deviance project: <http://www.malariaconsortium.org/resources/publications/261/positive-deviance-pilot>

Read about Malaria Consortium's work in Asia: [www.malariaconsortium.org/where-we-work/asia-mainpage.htm](http://www.malariaconsortium.org/where-we-work/asia-mainpage.htm)





**Dr. Meng Ling Moi**

Department of Virology 1,  
National Institute of Infectious Diseases,  
Tokyo, JAPAN

In this issue of BIKEN, we are very pleased to bring you the new visitor. “Dr. Meng Ling Moi” or “Sherry”, a name she would prefer to be called, who is currently working at Department of Virology 1, National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Tokyo, JAPAN. For a part of collaboration activity, she stayed at BIKEN Endowed Department of Dengue Vaccine Development, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Thailand during 25th-27th November 2013.

A Moment with Sherry, she is Malaysian citizens, but also able to communicate fluently in English, Japanese, Chinese and Indonesian. Sherry could not speak Thai but she said that one day soon she will be....

Sherry is interested in antibody-dependent enhancement (ADE) of infection, an important hypothetic mechanism of dengue pathogenesis.



She has published a number of papers describing about a new antibody assay system to measure the total of neutralizing and enhancing activities in serum samples. The total is important, because previously established “conventional” assay systems only reported either neutralizing or enhancing activity, but the event actually occurring in patient blood would be a complex of both activities.

Our collaboration with Sherry will be focused on a cellular level analysis of the ADE phenomenon. The main mechanism of ADE is an increased number of infected cells in an Fcγreceptor-mediated

manner. However, pieces of evidence have demonstrated that intracellular signal transduction is also involved in this phenomenon, which is called intrinsic ADE (iADE), but Sherry does not like to use this term. Our department has generated several monoclonal antibodies (MAbs) that can show a variety of neutralizing and/or enhancing activities. Utilizing these MAbs, she will try to elucidate a specific signaling pathway relevant to the enhancing activity.

Our laboratory has already provided MAbs to Sherry’s laboratory in National Institute of Infectious Diseases. We look forward to elucidation of a new mechanism behind ADE, which may be uncovered by using our specific MAbs.



### Faculty Board Meeting in December

Just one day after the Christmas celebration (26th December), there was a Faculty Board Meeting in the meeting room on the 5th floor in the Chalermprakiat building, where Professor Konishi introduced our department to the Board members. He talked about the history and background of the Research Institute for Microbial Diseases, Osaka University, to which we belong, as well as the Research Foundation for Microbial Diseases of Osaka University, which is



a sponsor of our department. He then explained a story in which our department was established. He also talked about the roles and mission of the department and their major activities including academic collaborations with the Faculty of Tropical Medicine.

Academic collaborations with the Faculty Committee include a successful isolation of Cell Fusing Agent Virus (CFAV) with Dr. Supatra, Associate Professor of Department of Medical Entomology, and also Deputy Dean. This was the first isolation in Thailand and the paper was published in an international journal "Infection, Genetics and Evolution" in this year. Another collaborative research work is ongoing with Dr. Pongrama, Associate Professor, Director of Center of Excellence for Antibody Research (CEAR), on antibody-expressing vaccines.

In addition, our laboratory is in part involved in J-GRID (Japan Initiative for Global Research Network on Infectious Diseases). We established an international triangle research collaboration on infectious diseases consisting of Thailand, Indonesia and Japan. Study subjects on dengue and HIV/AIDS have started with many collaborators in this Faculty.

We always thank all the Faculty members for their continuous hospitality to us and our studies.  
(Documented by Secretary Varaporn Pongjaroen)



### The Joint International Tropical Medicine Meeting (JITMM) on 11-13 December 2013



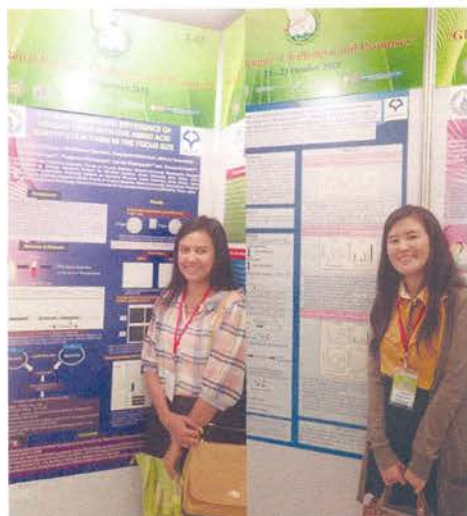
Dr. Yamanaka presented a paper entitled "Preliminary evaluation of a novel DNA vaccine candidate expressing dengue neutralizing antibody" on 12th December 2013 in JITMM held in Centara Grand & Bangkok Convention Center. In this study, he tried to evaluate an antibody-expressing dengue vaccine by using a mouse model. This type of vaccine is ideal for dengue, because this strategy can theoretically avoid a concern of potential disease enhancement induced by vaccine. However, expression of an enough amount of neutralizing antibody in a host seems a big challenge. To the end, he could demonstrate neutralizing activity in vaccinated mice but of a very limited number. Further study will be needed to improve the vaccine.



**TV Conference: Thailand-Japan Research Seminar on Global Health and Infectious Diseases Cooperation and Collaboration Programs with ASEAN universities**  
18<sup>th</sup> October 2013, 4508 conference room, 5<sup>th</sup> Fl., Chamlong Harinasuta Building,  
Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University



■ **Global Dengue: Challenges and Promises**



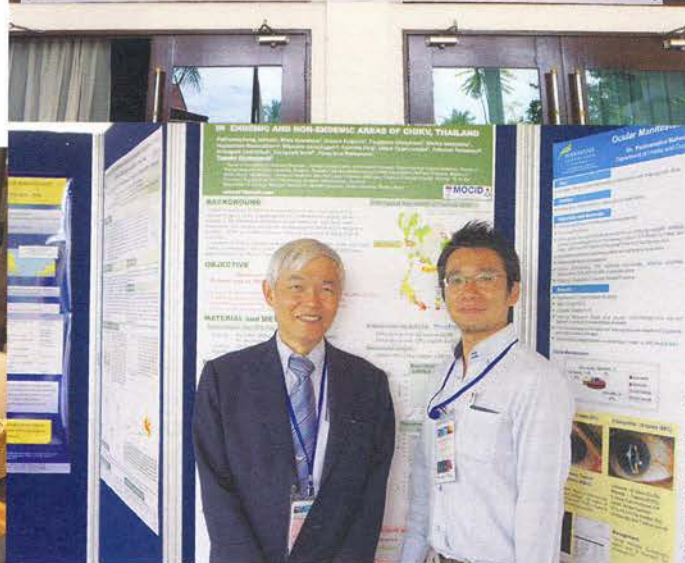
On 21-23 October 2013 at the Imperial Queen's Park Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand, our MOCID members; Dr. Tamaki Okabayashi, Dr. Orapim Puiprom, Dr. Miwa Kuwahara, Dr. Mikiko Sasayama and Ms. Panjaporn Chaichana had join the Third International Conference on Dengue and Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever 2013. Dr. Orapim Puiprom, Ms. Panjaporn Chaichana and Dr. Tamaki Okabayashi had presented "A clear phenotypic difference of dengue virus with one amino acid substitution Y36H in the focus size", "Sequence variation of dengue virus 2 pre-membrane and envelope derived from patient plasma shows significantly different biological characteristic in human K562 cells" and "The evolution of dengue virus serotype 2 in Thailand: an explanation for the lack of efficacy during dengue vaccine development", respectively in this conference.



■ Dr. Tamaki Okabayashi from Mahidol Osaka Center for Infectious Diseases (MOCID) had joined the CHIKUNGUNYA 2013 in Langkawi, Malaysia between 28-30 October, 2013. Poster title is "Prevalence of antibody against CHIKV in endemic and non-endemic areas of CHIKV, Thailand".

Left: Dinner with Dr. Lim CK and Dr. Moi ML from NIID, Japan and Dr. A. Tanaka from RCC, Thailand.

Right: In front of poster presentation, with Dr. Yong P from Chulalongkorn University.



■ MOCID is pleased to welcome Ms. Nantarat Chantawat (new researcher assistance) and Ms. Thanita Ritpinyo (new MOCID secretary).

■ On November 18, 2013, it is our pleasure to welcome

Dr. Takayuki Miyazawa, Institute of Virology, Kyoto University, Japan

Dr. Takeshi Kobayashi, Research Institute for Microbial Disease, Osaka University, Japan

Dr. Takasuke Fukuhara, Research Institute for Microbial Disease, Osaka University, Japan

Dr. Atushi Tanaka, Thailand-Japan Research Collaboration Center on Emerging and Re-emerging Infections, Thailand

They also made a courtesy visit to Dean and Deputy Dean of FTM, MU.

On the same day, Dr. Miyazawa introduced his topics of the Lunch Talk "Exogenous and endogenous Betaretrovirus; Implications in the evolution of mammals" and explained the necessity for collaboration research with Southeast Asia countries to resolve the Pathogenicity of betaretrovirus to

monkeys.

Dr. Witthawat Wiriyarat, Deputy Dean for Research and Innovation and Acting Director for Monitoring and Surveillance Center for Zoonotic Diseases in Wildlife and Exotic Animals, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Mahidol University gave a talk on "Viral infection in non-human primates of Thailand".

Dr. Kobayashi also introduced the newly Reovirus isolation from bats and clarified the transmission cycle of this new virus between human and wild animals.

Dean agreed to resolve these issues and introduced the "Enteric research group of FTM" who has been collecting wild/ domestic animals and human samples. It may be possible to collaborate via MOCID.



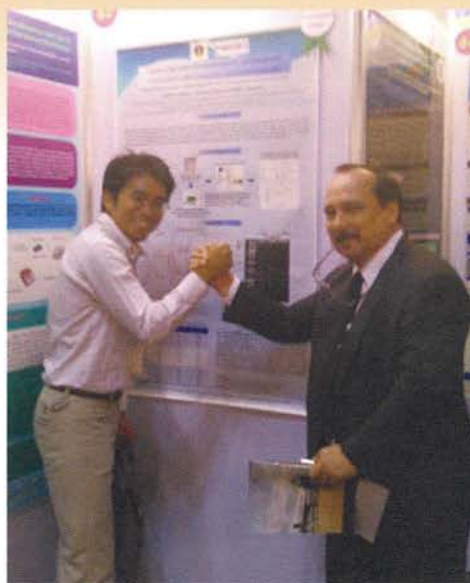




■ Joint International Tropical Medicine Meeting 2013, (JITMM 11-13 December 2013) at Centara Grand & Bangkok Convention Centre at Central World, Bangkok, Thailand  
MOCID session "Therapeutic and Diagnostic Antibodies against Viral Diseases",

**Chairperson and invited speaker; Dr. Tamaki Okabayashi from MOCID**

"Development of rapid immune chromatography test kit to detect the Chikungunya"



Dr. Ronald Enrique Morales Vargas from Department of Medical Entomology presented our collaboration research "Characterization of the salivary gland proteins of the *Aedes aegypti*, *Aedes albopictus* and *Aedes scutellaris*" at JITMM 2013. His presentation got a consolation prize at poster session of this conference.



#### Invited speakers

Dr. Tadahiyo Sasaki from Department of Virology, Research Institute for Microbial Diseases, Osaka University, "Human monoclonal antibodies showing broad cross-reactive neutralization against group 1 Influenza virus inducing H5N1".

Dr. Atushi Yamanaka from BIKEN Endowed Department of Dengue Vaccine Development, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, "Preliminary evaluation of a novel DNA vaccine candidate expressing dengue neutralizing antibody"

Dr. Takeshi Kurosu from Department of Virology, Research Institute for Microbial Diseases, Osaka University, "Development of a new murine model of dengue virus infection".



Faculty Board Meeting with BIKEN Endowed Department of Dengue Vaccine Development on 26 December 2013 at the meeting room on the 5th Fl., Chalermprakiat Building

Dr. Tamaki Okabayashi introduced MOCID to the Board members. He talked about the history, background, roles and mission; major activities and academic collaborations with the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University.





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MORU

WELLCOME TRUST - MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY - OXFORD  
TROPICAL MEDICINE RESEARCH PROGRAMME



## Wellcome Trust Visitors

On October 28, 2013, Dr. Jimmy Whitworth, Head of International Activities, Wellcome Trust, Prof. Nicholas White, Chairman of the Wellcome Trust South-East Asian Tropical Medicine Research Program, Prof. Nicholas Day, Director of the Mahidol-Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU), Mr. Jonathan Truslow, Chief Operating Officer together with Dr. Lara Bethke, Science Portfolio Advisor, Wellcome Trust visited Assoc. Prof. Yaowalark Sukthana, Dean of Faculty of Tropical Medicine and the Administrative Board to provide updates on



current MORU activities and discuss possible collaborations. The group also visited new lab facilities at the FTM and met Assoc. Prof. Sureeporn Punpuing, Director, Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University and her team discuss research collaboration.

## MARCMOD

Modelling the Containment of Artemisinin Resistance in Myanmar



Home

Background

Project outline

Project partners

Economic-epidemiological Models

The MARC Framework

### MARCMOD launched: Will fight artemisinin resistance in Myanmar

Over 60% of Myanmar's 50 million people live in malaria endemic areas. In 2010, over 1.5 million estimated malaria cases – two thirds of them attributed to *P. falciparum* – caused over 3,000 deaths. Thanks to gradually increasing access to diagnosis and effective treatment this burden has declined recently. However, this progress risks being undermined by the spread of resistance to artemisinin – the current cornerstone of malaria therapy.

The MARCMOD project aims to develop economic-epidemiological models that can help identify the best strategies to contain artemisinin resistance and ultimately eliminate malaria in Myanmar. The project will begin November 2013 for a duration of two years.

MARCMOD's first objective is to establish a range of datasets describing malaria epidemiology, control, population movement and other demographic data. These data will be used in the models to provide predictions on the impact of different combinations of interventions on malaria transmission and the spread of artemisinin resistance.

As part of its efforts, MARCMOD recently launched its website, <http://marcmmod.tdmod.net>, to share models, news and results.

Besides MORU, MARCMOD partners will include the 3MDG Fund, the Ministry of Health Myanmar, TDMODNet, the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, and UNOPS.

### Long-time friends now full-time colleagues

We're pleased to report that we all be seeing a lot more of Bob Taylor and Lorenz von Seidlein, two long-standing colleagues and collaborators becoming fulltime Oxford employees.

Beginning 1 October, Bob took up new duties as IMPROV project manager, based in Bangkok. Largely funded by the Medical Research Council (UK), IMPROV is a joint project with Ric Price and Menzies University (Australia).



Bob Taylor



Lorenz von Seidlein

IMPROV is a multi-center randomized, double-blind, placebo controlled non-inferiority trial in G6PD normal patients with uncomplicated vivax malaria. It will be conducted in five study sites located in Indonesia, Vietnam, Pakistan and Afghanistan. IMPROV's aim is to determine whether a 7-day primaquine regimen is safe and not inferior to the standard 14-day regimen.

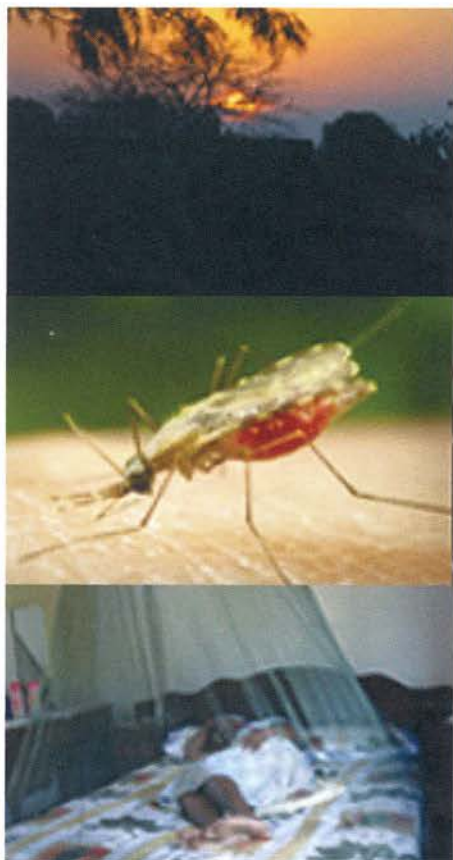
IMPROV will hold training 5-7 Nov in Bangkok for researchers from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Vietnam and Indonesia.

Lorenz von Seidlein starts 1 January 2014, as Targeted Malaria Elimination (TME) project manager. Funded by grants from the Wellcome Trust and the Gates Foundation, the TME study aims to



evaluate a whole village treatment strategy for elimination of Malaria. Study sites in Cambodia (Pailin), Myanmar, Vietnam and SMRU will each enroll 2,000 subjects.

#### TRAC clinical results presented at MIM



At the 6<sup>th</sup> Multilateral Initiative on Malaria (MIM) Pan-African Conference held 6-11 October in Durban, South Africa, several MORU collaborators and colleagues reported on clinical findings from Phase 1 of TRAC (Tracking Resistance to Artemisinins Collaboration).

Nick White and Arjen Dondorp gave plenaries at MIM and Arjen also spoke at a TRAC symposium. Rupam Tripura presented TRAC clinical results. Shunmay Yeung and Philippe Guyant from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) presented TRAC demand factors research results followed by Cally Roper and then Ambrose Talisuna reflecting on how artemisinin resistance might spread into Africa and what could be done.

Started in 2011 in response to the threat posed by the emergence of artemisinin-resistant malaria on the Cambodia-Thailand border, TRAC is a unique multi-centre, multinational collaboration led by MORU and funded by DFID and others to describe the epidemiology and spread of artemisinin-resistant falciparum malaria in South-East Asia and beyond.

TRAC also provides a unique platform for basic research into the biology and molecular mechanisms underlying artemisinin resistance.

Besides MORU and the Mahidol Faculty of Tropical Medicine, TRAC contributors include some of the world's leading research institutions, such as LOMWRU, OUCRU-VN, LHSTM, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Singapore's Nanyang Technological Institute, WWARN, University of Maryland, and the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute.

#### IMPROV meetings



Over 30 malaria researchers and investigators from Afghanistan, Indonesia, Pakistan and Vietnam attended the IMPROV (Improving the Radical Cure of Vivax Malaria) training held 5-7 Nov at MORU Bangkok. Largely funded by the Medical Research Council (UK), IMPROV is a joint project between MORU and Australia's Menzies School of Health Research. The three-day training session was organized by IMPROV project manager Bob Taylor and his team, with support from Ric Price and Menzies.

IMPROV is a multi-center randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled non-inferiority trial in G6PD normal patients with uncomplicated vivax malaria. It will be conducted in five study sites located in Indonesia, Vietnam, Pakistan and Afghanistan. IMPROV's aim is to determine whether a 7-day primaquine regimen is safe and not inferior to the standard 14-day regimen.

#### MaeMOD moves into new digs



On Friday 8 November, MORU's Mathematical and Economic MODelling Group (MAEMOD) put on a much appreciated open house to officially launch their move into the new office space they now share with WWARN on the 11th floor of the Chamlong Building.



## A Star in Global Health

Congratulations to Yoel Lubbel, MORU Health Economist, who last week won a Grand Challenges Canada seed grant of C\$ 100,000 for his project, *Would combined procalcitonin and malaria rapid tests optimize management of fever in the tropics?*

Yoel's project was one of 83 inventive new ideas for addressing health problems in resource-poor countries chosen by the Grand Challenges Canada "Stars in Global Health" program, which seeks breakthrough and affordable innovations that could transform the way disease is treated in the developing world.

Each day over 12,000 deaths in the tropics follow a fever due to bacterial or malaria infection. Whether to treat these with antimalarials or antibiotics is a life or death decision, but health workers' inability to distinguish between these and between self-limiting viral illness leads to unnecessary use of antimicrobials, thereby driving the spread of drug resistance.

Implemented in Cambodia, Congo, Laos, Nigeria, Rwanda and Tanzania, the project aims to develop simple, affordable, diagnostic approaches that inform health workers whether antibiotics or antimalarials are needed. This will allow health workers to differentiate between malaria and bacterial diseases and guide treatment by using a combined rapid test based on two validated markers of bacterial and malaria infection.

### Automated external defibrillators (AED)

MORU recently purchased several Philips Heartstart HS-1 Automated external defibrillators (AEDs). An AED is a portable device that checks the heart rhythm and, if needed, sends an electric shock to the heart to try to restore a normal rhythm. AEDs are used to treat sudden cardiac arrest, a condition where the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating. When this happens, blood stops flowing to the brain and other vital organs. Sudden cardiac arrest usually causes death if it's not treated within minutes. Using an AED on a person who is having a sudden cardiac arrest may save the person's life.

The AEDs are located at MORU (front desk behind Khun Jiab), Pharmacology, SMRU, COMRU and LOMWRU.



The AED looks like this from the outside (left) and the actual unit looks like this (right). They are simple to use.

Some staff have already received specific training (see following story). In the near future we will demonstrate their use via DVD for all staff.

If you wish to take an AED to an offsite meeting, please contact [stuart@tropmedres.ac](mailto:stuart@tropmedres.ac).

### Defibrillator training



On Friday 15 Nov, Steven Spruce, Emergency First Response Primary/Secondary Care and Care Children Instructor – with the help of three dummies – trained a dozen MORU colleagues on using AB-CABS and in defibrillator use, and reviewed basic life support steps using Australian and New Zealand Red Cross guidelines. Contact [stuart@tropmedres.ac](mailto:stuart@tropmedres.ac) if you're interested in first response and defibrillator training.

## Good clinical practice training in Myanmar



Pryayoon Yuentrakul (pictured far left), of Clinical Trials Support Group (CTSG), conducted good clinical practice training for our TRAC study sites in Myanmar the week of Nov 11. The training was held in the Department of Medical Research Upper Myanmar (DMRUM) in Pyin Oo Lwin, two hours drive north of Mandalay township. About 25 participants attended, most of them TRAC site physicians along with interested DMRUM staff.



Narisara Chantratita presented her work for the UK Government's Science and Innovation Network seminar, *Tackling Infectious Diseases and Zoonoses* at the Yangon University of Public Health 20-22 Nov. Narisara's presentation was titled, *Bacteria and Host Interaction in Melioidosis*.

Attended by 60 Myanmar public health workers, academics and researchers, the seminar aimed to develop best practice and improved approaches to managing infectious diseases by sharing information from different parts of the world. The seminar was organized by the Science and Innovation team at the British High Commission Singapore.



Organized by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in collaboration with MORU, the *Regional Laboratory Network Training of the Trainers (ToT) Workshop on Biosafety Management*, was held 9-20 Dec, at MORU Bangkok. The workshop is part of the FAO's Regional Biosafety Program, which aims to strengthen biosafety management skills, occupational health and safety, and facility maintenance at national veterinary laboratories in South and Southeast Asia.

The 15 senior veterinarians who attended are all biosafety officers from national veterinary labs in Asia. The workshop included on-going training, auditing of lab facilities, regional biosafety guidelines and resources, training and certification of IATA infectious goods shipping, and a Training of Trainer (ToT) module.

The international biosafety guidelines used at MORU make us a recognised biosafety leader in the region. We hope that this is the first of many such trainings sponsored by international organisations. Any questions, please contact [stuart@tropmedres.ac](mailto:stuart@tropmedres.ac).

#### Natthida Sriboonvorakul earns her PhD



We're delighted to announce that Natthida Sriboonvorakul (Toto) passed her PhD defense examination with an excellent grade on Thursday 12 December at Chulalongkorn University. Toto has worked at MORU's Clinical Pharmacology lab since 2009 on her PhD research, *"Pattern recognition and method development for qualitative and quantitative assessment of small organic acids in human biological fluids"*. Her supervisors included MORU's Prof. Nick White, Prof. Arjen Dondorp, Prof. Niklas Lindegardh and Dr. Joel Tarning and Prof. Natchanun Leepipatpiboon from Chulalongkorn University. Toto asked to use this space to say, "Thank you, MORU, for this opportunity of my life."



On Friday Dec the 13<sup>th</sup>, MORU's festive spirits took over the British Club Bangkok. Ghouls, Thai ghosts, lost farang spirits, zombie rockers, witchy ladies, enchanting waifs, wannabee Thai pop and 60's rock stars, tattooed kids and ladies, and a host of more sedate life forms turned out to celebrate MORU's Scary Christmas. Activities included a costume contest (with individual and team prizes), games like Walk Together, and of course entertainment by the MORU band led, as usual, by Charlie Woodrow and powered by ZB's bass and Nick White's harp.





## Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Tropical Medicine and Public Health Network (SEAMEO TROPMED)

★ Prof. Manuel B. Agulto, Chancellor and distinguished delegation from University of the Philippines Manila visited SEAMEO TROPMED Regional Centre for Tropical Medicine at the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University on 25 November 2013.

The visit was officially welcomed by Assoc. Prof. Pratap Singhasivanon, Secretary General/ Coordinator, SEAMEO TROPMED Network, Assoc. Prof. Yaowalark Sukthana, Centre Director, SEAMEO TROPMED/ Thailand and Dean of the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University and Faculty Committee at Pratap Singhasivanon Conference Room, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor, Hospital for Tropical Diseases. They had discussed on education, research, possible programs for staff and student exchanges and Faculty staff capacity building and strengthening.



Prof. Manuel B. Agulto, MD, Chancellor, University of the Philippines Manila and UP Manila Delegation visited SEAMEO TROPMED Network Bangkok Thailand 25 November 2013



Informal consultation on operational research to support accelerating malaria elimination in the context of artemisinin resistant falciparum malaria in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region  
9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2013



★ SEAMEO TROPMED Network was the local organizer of a joint World Health Organization and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's informal consultation at Centara Grand Hotel, Bangkok during 9-10 December 2013.

The informal consultation aimed to facilitate the role of operational research towards prevention and spread of artemisinin resistance and elimination of falciparum malaria. The consultation was participated by malaria program managers from selected countries in the Western

Pacific and Southeast Asia Regions; national and international research institutions and regional partners.

Dr. Pratap Singhasivanon, Secretary General/ Coordinator of SEAMEO TROPMED Network was elected as Chairperson of the informal consultation. Dr. Chea Nguon, Vice-Director, National Center for Parasitology, Entomology and Malaria Control Program of Cambodia and Dr. Wichai Satimai, Senior Expert of the Ministry of Public Health, Thailand were the Vice-chairpersons.

7<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Emergency and Disaster Nursing Network (APEDNN) Meeting  
18-20 September 2013, Bangkok, Thailand



★ Prof. Dr. Ma. Sandra B. Tempongko, Deputy Coordinator SEAMEO TROPMED Network, facilitated a workshop on "Developing a checklist on role of nurse-midwives in building community resilience in disasters". The checklist is one of the key outputs of the meeting.



## Consultation on Strengthening Infrastructure to Promote Health throughout the life course and prevent Disease

30 September-2 October 2013  
Manila, Philippines



★ The consultation was organized by World Health Organization Western Pacific Regional Office to review and share experiences related to current infrastructure for health promotion and NCD prevention in the context of emerging health challenges as well as to agree on priority actions and next steps for Member States to strengthen infrastructure for promoting health throughout the life course and preventing NCDs. Dr. Tempongko represented the SEAMEO TROPED Network in this consultation.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Teodoro V. Tiglao Memorial Lecture 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013, Manila, Philippines



★ SEAMEO TROPED network participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Teodoro V. Tiglao Memorial Lecture organized by TROPED Philippines, College of Public Health, University of the Philippines, Manila. The theme of the memorial lecture was "VicHealth and its Role in Workers' Health" with Ms. Jerell Rechter, CEO, VicHealth Foundation, Victoria, Australia as the memorial lecturer.

## WHO Bi-regional Meeting on Healthy Borders in Greater Mekong Sub-region,

5-7 August 2013, Bangkok, Thailand



★ SEAMEO TROPED Network participated in the bi-regional meeting on healthy borders in the GMS organized by WHO last August 2013. SEAMEO TROPED Network also prepared the background paper on malaria entitled "Development, Health Systems and Malaria in the GMS: The case for multi-sectoral actions".

### Fellowships:

★ SEAMEO TROPED Network has recently provided fellowships to participants from Thailand and from the TROPED Centres and member countries to attend the following training courses and conferences.

- Regional Advance Epidemiology Course (7-18 October 2013)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Training Course on School Health and Nutrition Programmes in Asia (3-11 December 2013)
- Joint International Tropical Medicine Meeting 2013 (JITMM 11-13 December 2013)

## UNESCO and UNEP Launch UNertia – A Sustainability Campaign and Competition for Youth in Asia-Pacific

This project is aimed to promote green practices among the region's youth. UNertia encourages young people and schools to engage in sustainable actions that will yield positive environmental benefits to their communities.

Four themes in particular relevant to problems at the local level will be highlighted as part of UNertia: energy, waste, water and green spaces. The initiative aims to strengthen school and community engagement in sustainable development, empower young people as agents of change, translate awareness into action and ultimately bring about individual and collective changes in behavior.

UNertia will run from 24 October 2013, UN Day, until the end of June 2014.

**Individuals** can partake in the campaign by submitting a photo and description of a sustainable action related to one of the main campaign themes to the UNertia website. Visitors to the website will be able to vote for their favorite sustainable actions and every two months UNESCO and the UNEP will give away two Nikon cameras to those who have the most votes. Our aim is to reach 10,000 actions by the end of June 2014. The deadline is 31 June 2014. For more information, please visit [www.joinunertia.org](http://www.joinunertia.org) or contact [esd.bgk@unesco.org](mailto:esd.bgk@unesco.org).

**\*UNESCO and UNEP reserve the right to alter the registration deadline depending on the amount of submissions received.**

**UNertia**  
together we can make a difference  
join us

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