



★ Special Talk: Research Vision from Expert for FTM's 15 Year-Research Strategic Plan #5

On May 29, 2015, Dean Yaowalark Sukthana chaired a special talk "Research Vision from Expert for FTM's 15 Year-Research Strategic Plan #5" titled "The Changing Paradigm of Tropical Medicine: The Role of TropMed Mahidol" by inviting speaker, Prof. Dr. Yongyuth Yuthavong, Deputy Prime Minister, Royal Thai Government at Pratap Singhasivanon Conference Hall, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University.



★ Visit of His Excellency Admiral Narong Pipatanasai, Minister of Education, Thailand and President of SEAMEO Council to SEAMEO TROPMED Network and SEAMEO TROPMED/Thailand on 14 August 2015



★ 10th Anniversary Ceremony of Silom Community Clinic @TropMed during June LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) Pride Month Celebrations

On June 25, 2015, Acting Deputy Chief of Mission/ US Embassy Kristina Kvien, along with CDC Thailand leadership and partners, celebrated 10 years of the Silom Community Clinic @TropMed. The Silom Community Clinic @Tropical Medicine (aka “Silom Clinic”) is a CDC partnership with Thailand Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), and provides HIV testing and STD diagnostic and treatment services to gay and bisexual men and transgender women in Bangkok, Thailand. Silom Community Clinic @TropMed is an LGBT-friendly clinic where MSM and transgender women can have confidential counseling and testing services, and participate in research to advance our knowledge and tools to prevent HIV. The Silom Community Clinic is a model for the integration of HIV prevention research and services for MSM and transgender women.

Silom Community Clinic was founded and opened in 2005. For the first 8 years, the clinic was located on Silom Road, and it was recently relocated to the Hospital for Tropical Diseases at Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University. This represents a partnership with CDC, the Thailand Ministry of Public Health, Mahidol University and the community.



★ MOU Signing Ceremony between Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University and Korea Foundation for International Healthcare July 16, 2015

★ During May 31–June 27, 2015, FTM supportive staff; Somporn Ngamsirisomsakul, Sumeth Suebtrakul and Jittapim Na Bangchang paid a study visit to the Centre for Tropical Medicine, Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford, UK under the FTM Staff Mobility Program with a support from our Alliance, MORU. This was a great opportunity for FTM staff to share experiences and knowledge in the areas of grants administration, financial management, education policy, student support, international engagement and public engagement with colleagues at the University of Oxford.



News:

Malaria Consortium conducting Myanmar's first Malaria Indicator Survey

In partnership with the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP), and with funding support from the President's Malaria Initiative, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Three Millennium Development Goal Fund (3MDG), Malaria Consortium will be leading the first national baseline survey for malaria in Myanmar later this year. The results of this survey will improve prioritisation of services to high burden areas, provide baseline data for evaluating the impact of all malaria-related activities nationwide and help to inform future strategic planning.

For more information, visit: <http://bit.ly/1EnzDVe>



Events:

Malaria Consortium representatives joined the MOU signing on ASEAN Dengue Day

On 15th June, Henry Braun, Malaria Consortium Asia Programme Director and Wanweena Tangsathianraphap, External Relations Officer, attended a ceremony for the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on dengue at the Ministry of Public Health, Thailand. The ceremony was organised as part of ASEAN Dengue day. The MoU sets out the principles of cooperation between the Ministry of Public Health, a further six ministries and one administration unit; which are by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment; Ministry of Interior; Ministry of Education; Bangkok Metropolitan Administration; Ministry of Tourism and Sports; Ministry of Culture; Ministry of Industrial; and Ministry of Public Health, to achieve dengue prevention goals in Thailand.

For more information on ASEAN day, visit: <http://bit.ly/1emSawh>

For more information of our work on dengue, visit: <http://bit.ly/1GpkmaS>

Malaria Consortium calls for action on World Malaria Day



World Malaria Day, commemorated on 25th April every year, is an international event that unites countries, communities and civil society in the fight against malaria. Malaria Consortium organised a number of events worldwide to raise awareness of the burden of malaria.

In Pailin province, Cambodia, around 300 participants, including village malaria workers, students, citizens, village chiefs and hospital staff took part in a parade to raise awareness. H.E. Mey Meek, Deputy Governor of Pailin province presided over the World Malaria Day ceremony and released balloons to mark the occasion and to recognise all the key partners' efforts in working towards malaria elimination goals.

For more information and pictures, visit: <http://bit.ly/1LN05Oc>

The Synergist and Malaria Consortium engaged in collaborative partnership on Break Dengue initiative

Malaria Consortium formed a partnership with Break Dengue, an initiative from The Synergist which seeks to bring together stakeholders to combat dengue. Our new partnership has led to participation in the Dengue Lab and in the editorial committee. Malaria Consortium's Jeffrey Hii, Senior Vector Control Specialist, is now a member of the editorial committee, contributing his expertise in the field to help set an agenda and strategic direction for editorial content. In addition, Malaria Consortium's Prudence Hamade, Senior Technical Advisor, and John Hustedt, Senior Technical Officer, also joined the Scientific Committee in order to provide technical guidance on dengue control activities.

Together, we aim to build a coalition that can fight dengue, a disease which causes an estimated 390 million infections each year.



Films:

Malaria Consortium launched the first in a new series of animations: The threat of drug resistant malaria

Malaria Consortium launched the first in a new series of short advocacy animations on drug resistant malaria. As the spread of drug resistant strains of the malaria parasite in the Greater Mekong Subregion of Southeast Asia is a growing global issue which threatens to undermine the great progress made in tackling the disease over the last decade, this short animation explores the problem of growing drug resistance, the solutions available to us, and the international action needed to counter this threat.



To view animation, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1FxHWTI>

Publication:

Malaria Consortium helped develop remote community far from malaria

Malaria Consortium's work on positive deviance in Thailand was published in the April 15 Prachachart Turakij newspaper, issue 27-29, pages 39-40. The activities were funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and focus on using resources within the community to drive changes in behavior for the prevention of disease. In March, the project was successfully handed over to the community in Ratchaburi province, Thailand. Since its launch in April 2014, more than 20 community health volunteers have been recruited and trained.



World Malaria Day: positive deviance in the fight against malaria

A case study on how positive deviance volunteers can help bridge the gap between communities and health authorities was published in the European Year for Development blog. The publication of the story marked World Malaria Day (25th April) and the European Year for Development.



For more information, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1HvFPSb>



Ms. Nantarat Chantawat (left) and Dr. Tamaki Okabayashi (right)

Farewell to Dr. Tamaki Okabayashi and Ms. Nantarat Chantawat

Dr. Tamaki Okabayashi was promoted as an Associate Professor in Laboratory of Veterinary Microbiology, Department of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Miyazaki. Also, Ms. Nantarat Chantawat (Amp) was adopted as a Scientist working with Dr. Pornsawan Leangwutiwong at Tropical Medicine Diagnostic Reference Laboratory, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University.

Dr. Okabayashi succeeded in developing a rapid immunochromatography test kit detecting Chikungunya virus by using a mouse monoclonal antibody against Chikungunya virus envelope proteins (J Clin Microbiol. 2015; 53(2): 382-8). This kit is highly sensitive to Chikungunya viruses circulating in Thailand.



Mr. Aekkachai Tuekprakhon (left) and Dr. Pornsawan Leangwutiwong (right)

Recipient of DEAN/MOCID/BIKEN Academic Scholarship 2015

Mr. Aekkachai Tuekprakhon started his study in MOCID as a recipient of DEAN/MOCID/BIKEN Academic Scholarship 2015 under the supervision of his advisor, Dr. Pornsawan Leangwutiwong. His study theme is "Trial to develop a diagnostic kit for Dengue and Chikungunya virus distinction."



Dr. Supranee Phanthanawiboon, Dr. Orapim Puiprom, Dr. Tatsuo Shioda and Dr. Emi E. Nakayama (from the left to the right)

Welcome new members of MOCID

Prof. Tatsuo Shioda from Research Institute of Microbial Diseases, Osaka University, was appointed as a new MOCID director. Prof. Shioda has been performing several collaborations on HIV/AIDS research with Thailand researchers since 1999. His collaborators are Dr. Suda Louisiriratchanakul and Prof. Chantapong Wasi in Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University (J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr. 2002; 29:314-5, AIDS Res Hum Retroviruses. 2007; 23:1605-8), Ms. Sirirat Likanonsakul and Dr. Summonmal Uttayamakul in Bamrasnaradura Infectious Diseases Institute (AIDS Res Ther. 2009, 6:22, AIDS Res Hum Retroviruses. 2013, 29:142-50), Dr. Nuanjun Wichukchinda in National Institute of Health (AIDS. 2006, 20:189-96, AIDS. 2010, 24:1625-31), and Prof. Srisin Khusmith in Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University (AIDS Res Ther. 2010, 7:8, AIDS Res Hum Retroviruses. 2015 Jun 15. [Epub ahead of print]).

Dr. Supranee Phanthanawiboon graduated from Master course of Mahidol University and PhD course of Graduate School of Medicine Osaka University under the supervision of Dr. Kazuyoshi Ikuta. The title of her thesis is "Isolation and propagation of Dengue virus in Vero and BHK-21 cells expressing human DC-SIGN stably" (J Virol Methods. 2014, 209:55-61). She will continue to work on dengue virus research in MOCID.

Visitors from Japan

Visit by Ms. Rikako Tsuji, Kyoto University

Ms. Rikako Tsuji is a 6th grade student at Faculty of Medicine, Kyoto University, Japan. Last year, Ms. Nanayo Yada visited us, which was reported in the past issue. As described in that issue, the Faculty of Medicine, Kyoto University, has a unique education program at 4th grade called 'My Course', in which students can make a research/training plan by themselves: the research/training can be done even at foreign laboratories/hospitals. From the same aspect, students can receive a clinical training at 6th grade in foreign countries. During the period of 7th–10th April 2015, she gained a crucial prospective in tropical medicine through understanding medical approaches in Thailand at Hospital for Tropical Diseases, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University.

Ms. Tsuji was accepted in Hospital for Tropical Diseases, with thanks of Deputy Dean Emsri Pongponratn, Dr. Watcharapong Piyaphanee and many other related persons who took care of her. She really enjoyed everything in the Hospital. At this time, she also visited our Department for receiving lectures on dengue and related laboratory works (Photo1). After the class, we invited her for dinner with Thai food at Bann Ajan Restaurant (Photo2).



Photo1. Ms. Rikako Tsuji with Dr. Eiji Konishi in our laboratory



Photo2. Welcome party for Ms. Rikako Tsuji at Bann Ajan Thai Restaurant

Visit by Dr. Norihito Kawashita, Osaka University

Dr. Norihito Kawashita visited our Department during 28th-29th April 2015 (Photo3). He is an Assistant Professor at Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Osaka University and also appointed as an Assistant Professor, Research Institute for Microbial Diseases, Osaka University. His major is bioinformatics. We have been collaborating with him for analyzing antigen epitopes on the dengue virus envelope protein.

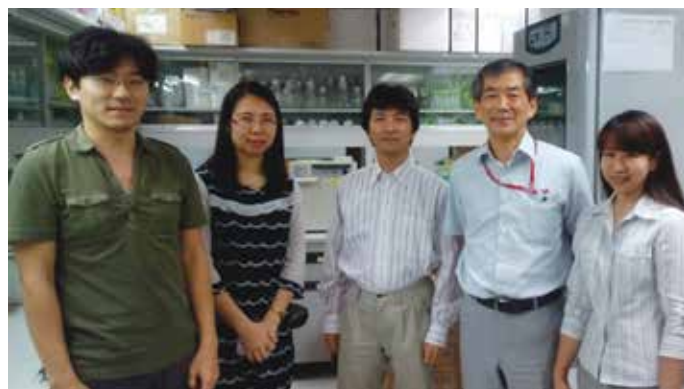


Photo3. Dr. Kawashita (center) in our laboratory with Dr. Konishi and Ms. Varaporn (right), Dr. Yamanaka and Ms. Duangjai (left)

Academic Scholarship

Dr. Hisham received the Best Student Presentation Award on the topic: "Clinical Presentation of Influenza on Hospitalized Adults at Bangkok Hospital for Tropical Diseases", at the 2014, Joint International Tropical Medicine Meeting and Food borne Parasites and Zoonoses 8 (JITMM 2014 & FBPZ8) during December 2nd-4th 2014 at Centara Grand, Central World, Bangkok under the theme "3D Perspectives on Tropical Medicine: Drivers, Diversity, and Determination." (Photo4)



Photo4. Dr. Hisham received an award from Dean Yaowalark Sukthana

Dean of the Faculty of Tropical Medicine (FTM), Mahidol-Osaka Center for Infectious Diseases (MOCID) and BIKEN Endowed Department of Dengue Vaccine Development (BIKEN) provided the scholarship for two outstanding full-time students from FTM for the year 2015. It was named “DEAN/MOCID/BIKEN Academic Scholarship 2015”.

Dr. Hisham Ahmed Imad, a medical doctor, was awarded and started working on 1st May 2015 in BIKEN (Photo5). He is interested in pathogenesis of dengue disease, development of diagnostic kits for dengue disease, and dengue vaccine development. Currently, he is a Ph.D. candidate in Clinical Tropical Medicine with Asst. Prof. Weerapong Phumratanaprapin (Head of the Department of Clinical Tropical Medicine) as the advisor, and Prof. Srisin Khusmith, Prof. Terapong Tantawichien, Prof. Tatsuo Shioda, Prof. Eiji Konishi, Assoc. Prof. Benjaluck Phonrat and Assoc. Prof. Kesinee Chotivanich as Co-advisors.

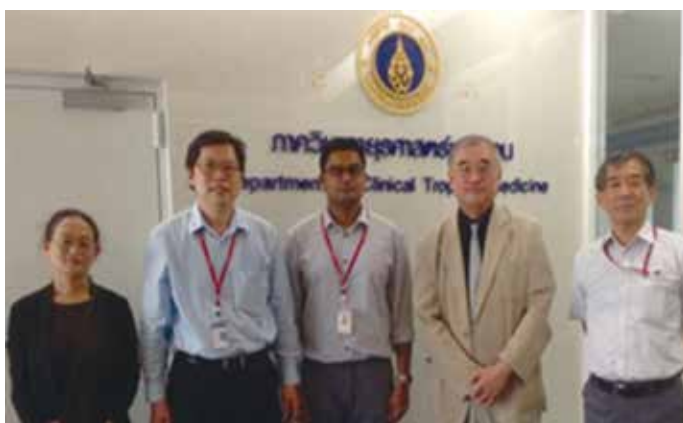


Photo5. Dr. Hisham (center) with Drs. Shioda and Konishi (right), Drs. Nakayama and Weerapong (left)

Academic Research

BIKEN Endowed Department of Dengue Vaccine Development (BIKEN), Faculty of Graduate Studies and Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University have been collaborating in academic research project with 2 Master students; Ms. Chayada Khamsawad and First Lieutenant (Lt1.) Paweena Manmee (Major in Infectious Diseases and Epidemiology) concerning dengue disease. Assoc. Prof. Charnchudhi Chanyasanha from the Faculty of Public Health is their major advisor.

Ms. Chayada Khamsawad is a Medical Science Technician, Experienced level at Biology and Ecology Section, Medical Entomology Group, National Institute of Health, Department of Medical Sciences, Ministry of Public Health.



Lt1. Paweena Manmee is one of the Royal Thai Army Nurses at Pharmongkutklao Hospital.

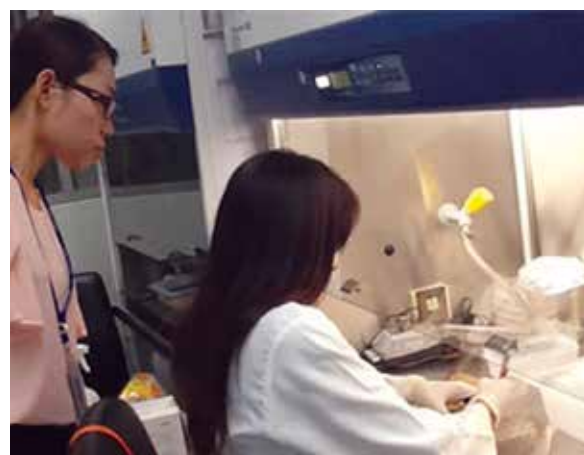
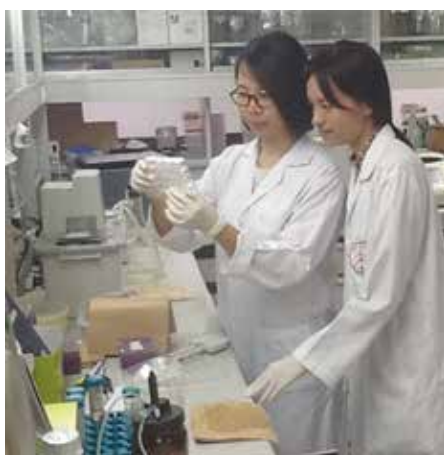


Photo6. Students learned laboratory works from our researchers

Status Update - BIKEN Team: 3 Researchers, 1 Secretary with 2 Master and 1 Ph.D. Students

IMPROV study initiation in Sumatra



Clockwise from top left: An IMPROV study initiation visit meeting in South Sumatra; statues seen from the road; the IMPROV team in South Sumatra; Traveling from Medan City to Tanjong Leidong takes about 8-9 hours, with the last 3 hours on muddy and bumpy road; IMPROV training in North Sumatra; and group shot at Tanjong Leidong Health Center in North Sumatra.

A MORU team held study initiation visit (SIV) training at two Improving the Radical Cure of Vivax Malaria (IMPROV) sites in Indonesia. The first training, 17-18 March, was conducted by IMPROV project manager Bob Taylor, Prayoon Yuentrakul and Naw Htee Khu at the Hanura Health Center, in Banda Lampung, South Sumatra. Cholrawee Promnarate joined Bob, Prayoon and Htee Khu at the Tanjong Leidong Health Center in North Sumatra for the second visit 31 March-2 April. The two trainings complemented the pre-SIV training held last October in Jakarta with core IMPROV staff from both sites attending along with Eijkman-Oxford Clinical Research Unit (EOCRU) staff based there.

IMPROV is a MORU collaboration with Ric Price of the Menzies School of Health Research. IMPROV will compare standard dose primaquine for 14 days against high dose

primaquine for 7 days at seven sites in five countries, including Indonesia. The two visits were to check the sites' readiness before IMPROV recruitment begins.

The team reviewed and inspected IMPROV study procedures and the site facilities. In addition, Prayoon gave good clinical practice (GCP) training to nine field study staff at Tanjong Leidong.

IMPROV will soon ship the study drugs to the sites, with recruitment to begin in early May. Both sites are expected to greatly contribute to the recruitment rate once they are up and running.

- Text and photos courtesy of Prayoon Yuentrakul and Kyaw Myo Tun

Targeted malaria elimination holds ethnography training



Dr. Christopher Pell from the Centre for Social Science and Global Health, University of Amsterdam led a week-long workshop on focused ethnography. Held from 6-10 April, the workshop discussed methods and finalised tools for the qualitative studies in the targeted malaria elimination (TME) sites in Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos. MORU's TME study is a project co-funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Wellcome Trust.

Happily, Klay Sue (Myanmar) and Lim Dara (Cambodia), shown inset, newly recruited field anthropologists, were able to join. They will conduct research interviews and focus group discussions with participants, key informants and TME study site staff to understand local perceptions and attitudes about mass drug administration for malaria and community engagement. This is an important part of the TME work as its success largely depends on community participation and coverage.

Oxford honorary appointments

Congratulations to these MORU colleagues for their recent Oxford University appointments: Joel Tarning, Associate Professorship; Yoel Lubell, University Research Lectureship; and Phaik Yeong Cheah, University Research Lectureship.



Final monitoring for Myanmar's 3Vs5 ACT study



After 18 months, the 3vs5 ACT (Effectiveness and safety of a 3-day versus 5-day course of artemether-lumefantrine for the treatment of uncomplicated falciparum malaria in Myanmar) study was officially closed when Prayoon Yuentrakul, of MORU's Clinical Trials Support Group (CTSG) did final study monitoring 20-22 April at Myanmar Oxford Clinical Research Unit (MOCRU), Yangon. Shown here are 3vs5 ACT study team members outside the Three Pagodas Pass clinic, one of the study sites.

Begun Nov 2013, with Frank Smithuis as principal investigator, the study recruited 155 patients in Kyaik Don and Three Pagodas Pass, Kyainseikgyi Township, Kayin State. An open-label randomized controlled trial, the study evaluated the effectiveness and safety of a 3-day versus 5-day course of artemether-lumefantrine for the treatment of uncomplicated falciparum malaria in Myanmar by comparing parasitocidal efficacy using sensitive molecular detection methods on days 5, 6 and 7.

Funded by the Three Millennium Development Goal Fund, the study expects to publish results by the end of 2015.

Welcome, Karen Valentine, MORU's new COO

Currently Head of Operations in the Offices of the Nuffield Professor of Medicine at the Nuffield Department of Medicine (NDM), Karen trained as a chef in college and university, and moved in to the world of hospitality finance, before taking a career break to have her children.

Returning to work at the University of Oxford in 2002, Karen was accounts manager in the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics, then became part of the NDM Strategic team in 2006, where she's been Head of Operations at NDM since 2010. Her current role covers audit and compliance, change management for the University's systems and managing the NDM strategic functional leads, which includes the web development team, graduate studies, outreach and public engagement, and working closely with business managers on day-to-day operations within each of NDM's units. Karen has also been involved in the new initiative of collaborative activity in China, the CTI. Karen will start full time Mon 3 Aug.



Farewell to Jonathan Truslow



On Tues 12 May, Operations (Finance, IT, HR & Safety, and Purchasing) hosted a seafood supper party for outgoing MORU COO Jonathan Truslow at the Baan Klang Nam restaurant beside the Chao Phraya. The heat of the day subsided and the party was blessed with cool breezes from the riverside and a glorious evening light. Jonathan "enjoyed" a roasting from several speakers and laughs there were aplenty on this atmospheric and memorable occasion.

Jonathan's new job is Head of Operations for the Kennedy Institute, a part of NDORMS focused on inflammation science research, right next door to the NDM Building on the Old Road Campus in Oxford, UK.

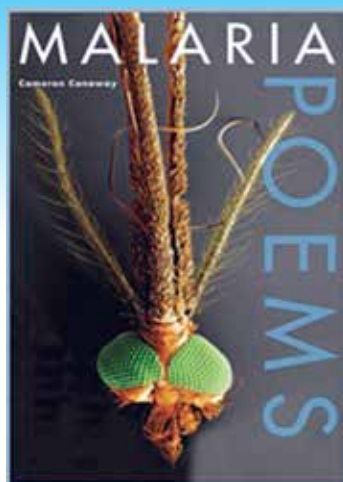
Meet Zoë Doran, new head of CTSG

We are pleased to welcome Zoë Doran as the new Head of MORU's Clinical Trials Support Group, replacing Phaik Yeong Cheah who is now Community Engagement and Ethics Coordinator. Zoë has worked in various academic units and the pharmaceutical Industry, conducting both local, national and international trials. Over the course of her career, Zoë has gained hands-on experience of most aspects of clinical trial conduct, from protocol development to executing trials in the clinic, data management, monitoring and audit. Zoë has previously led the Operational teams at NYU's Cancer Centre, the European Group for Blood and Marrow Transplantation, and most recently at the Diabetes Trials Unit in Oxford.



Bioethics and Engagement Dept now up and running

On 1 May 2015, MORU opened a new department, Bioethics and Engagement. Headed by Dr. Phaik Yeong Cheah, the department will provide ethics support to clinical research throughout the MORU network. This will include ethics training, addressing ethical problems and conducting ethics research through philosophical analysis and qualitative studies. The initial focus will be on ethical issues arising from working with vulnerable populations such as children, pregnant women, migrants, the disadvantaged and other hard-to-reach groups.



The department's remit also includes developing, overseeing and managing community and public engagement work. This work can be programme-wide (e.g. poet-in-residence programme, as with Malaria Poems), location-specific (e.g. establishing and running community advisory boards (CAB), like the CAB shown left meeting in Mae Sot) or study specific (e.g. community engagement in the TME study). This includes both supporting the engagement work and conducting research on how best to practice engagement in our work.

MORU Chiangrai research site begins scrub typhus study



At the end of May 2015, MORU's Chiangrai study team held the study initiation meeting for the NIRPS study to discuss issues related to research, logistics, and ethical aspects prior to the beginning of patient recruitment.

Dr. Tri Wangrangsamakul (2nd left, back row), the main site investigator, headed the meeting and training with colleagues and staff attending from MORU, Prachanukroh hospital, MORU's Clinical Trials Support Group, (CTSG) and the Chiangrai laboratory team. Lively interactive discussions and talks addressed the study details and clarified the supporting roles and responsibilities of all study participants, both in the hospital setting and in the mountainous highlands. The visit was fun and a success – the NIRPS study is funded by Li Ka Shing Foundation and will investigate over the next two years the natural immune response in approximately 150 Chiangrai children and adults with acute scrub typhus or exposure to scrub typhus.

Tropical rickettsial illnesses are very common in northern Thailand and reports on possible drug resistance in scrub typhus from Chiangrai render this area of high interest and relevance for this research theme.

Clinical studies relating to diagnostics, treatment, immune responses and pathophysiology are being set up and coordinated by MORU Senior Researcher Daniel Paris (centre back row) and his team, who have established a laboratory and office building at the Prachanukroh Hospital as the basis for a new MORU-affiliated research unit in Chiangrai.

MORU research physicians Dr. Tri Wangrangsamakul and his wife Dr. Rachel Greer (front centre) – visiting doctors from Oxford, UK – have recently moved to Chiangrai, where they have been very active in establishing and expanding the Chiangrai clinical research site. Tri, an infectious disease clinician, is developing his PhD research project in tropical rickettsial illnesses and has been contributing to a series of clinical studies with a focus on rickettsial and febrile illnesses. Rachel has built local relationships with epidemiologists and the local health care network, and was recently appointed visiting lecturer for Family Medicine at the Prachanukroh Hospital.

The Prachanukroh Hospital has been a collaborative MORU study site for many years, where we have previously performed a prospective causes-of-fever study and recently participated in the multi-centre Sepsis study (SEACAIRN). The local study team consists of two study nurses Suthathip Kaewta (Im) and Nidanuch Tasak (Pui) and laboratory technician Areerat Thaiprakong (Zulin), who have been working hard to establish and expand the excellent clinical study framework which is paving the way for future clinical research.

Did you know?

In June, MORU's Dave Gandy wrote a report for the EU on SMRU's work in the migrant clinics. One statistic that came out of this was the number of patient consultations that SMRU's migrant clinics have conducted during the calendar years 2011-2014 (4 years). Can you guess the total number? It is rather huge!

Answer: SMRU's migrant clinics have done an eye-popping 254,973 patient consultations in four years, from 2011-2014. Congratulations François and SMRU colleagues!



Migrant worker patients at SMRU's Wang Pa clinic outside Mae Sot, Thailand.

Joel Tarning awarded Giorgio Segré Prize for pharmaceutical research



Joel Tarning (back row, 3rd from left) and the MORU Pharmacology team at an outing in Sattahip, Thailand in 2013.

The European Federation for Pharmaceutical Sciences (EUFEPS) will today award the Giorgio Segré Prize to MORU Head of Pharmacology Dr. Joel Tarning for his scientific research work on the pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic properties of antimalarial drugs in vulnerable populations, such as pregnant women and young children.

Based at MORU Bangkok, Joel leads a diverse team of 30 scientists whose responsibilities include pharmacometric data analysis, bioanalytical method development, drug quantification of clinical samples and omics-based research. Joel is also the Head of the Pharmacometric Modelling Group at the Worldwide Antimalarial Resistance Network (WWARN).

The main focus of Joel's research is antimalarial dose-optimisation in vulnerable populations at risk of treatment failure and resistance development, such as children and pregnant women. He has built a group that develops and uses integrated models for disease transmission, parasite dynamics, drug action, resistance development, pharmacokinetics and patient population characteristics.

"Dr. Tarning has demonstrated that he can integrate trial design, data collection and data analysis to respond to a trial aim and also contribute to defining this aim, knowledgeably and efficiently" noted the EUFEPS in its award statement. "His work on population pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic modelling of oral dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine in children with uncomplicated malaria, and intramuscular artesunate in children with severe malaria, started the debate on new dose recommendations in young children which has informed revised WHO guidelines for the treatment of malaria."

Based in Järfälla, Sweden, EUFEPS serves and advances excellence in the pharmaceutical sciences and innovative drug research in Europe. Founded in 1991, EUFEPS publishes European Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences, its monthly official scientific journal. The Giorgio Segré Prize is awarded by EUFEPS on a biennial basis to young researchers who have made significant contributions to the pharmacologic discipline of pharmacokinetics-pharmacodynamics, which studies the effects in patients of administered drug doses over time.

Department of Disease Control visits MORU BSL3 lab

On 4 June, staff from Thailand's Department of Disease Control led by Bamrasnaradura Infectious Diseases Institute (BIMI) visited MORU to examine BSL3 laboratory building and maintenance issues. Led by Dr. Sirirat Likanonsakul (shown receiving gift from MORU Unit Safety Officer Dr Stuart Blacksell), the five-person team included representatives from BIMI and the Budget Ministry. BSL3 manager Premjit (Kung) Amornchai (2nd left) and Biosafety administrator Soiratchanee Korn (Tal) Ruanchaiman (2nd right) joined Stuart in receiving the visitors.





During June 11-12, 2015, Silom Community Clinic @TropMed staff led by Dr. Timothy H. Holtz visited two Clinical Research Sites (CRSs) of the Emory University-CDC HIV/AIDS Clinical Trial Unit (Emory-CDC CTU) in Atlanta, Georgia, USA to learn Clinical Quality Management on Quality Control, Quality assurance and regulatory management, and review tools for QA/QC such as the quality management report. The visits were organized at the Hope Clinic and Ponce de Leon Center.

The Emory-CDC CTU is one of 37 CTUs responsible for implementing the scientific agenda of the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) international HIV/AIDS clinical research network.

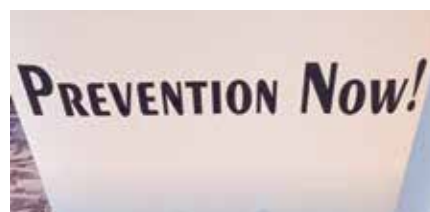
This CTU is led by Emory University and conducted in collaboration with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Emory-CDC CTU, which began operations in December 2013, integrates four well-established and highly productive HIV/AIDS clinical research sites: two Atlanta, Georgia, USA sites led by Emory (the Ponce de Leon Center and the Hope Clinic of the Emory Vaccine Center) and two international (Silom Community Clinic @TropMed in Bangkok, Thailand and Kenya Medical Research Institute in Kisumu, Kenya) sites led by CDC.

This CTU has conducted clinical trials within three networks sponsored by the U.S. NIH: the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG), the HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN), and the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN).

The Hope Clinic of the Emory Vaccine Center links to HPTN and HVTN. It was established in 2002 to perform HIV vaccine and biomedical or behavioral prevention efficacy trials in HIV-uninfected at risk populations and early phase prevention trials in lower-risk HIV-negative populations.

The Ponce de Leon Center links to ACTG and HPTN. It was established in 1991 and currently is one of the largest, most comprehensive facilities dedicated to the treatment of advanced HIV/AIDS in the United States. The site joined ACTG in 1996 and joined HPTN in 2009.

During June 12-18, 2015, our clinic staff attended the 2015 HPTN Annual Meeting in Arlington, VA, USA. The HPTN Annual Meeting brought together hundreds of researchers, collaborators, community representatives and government health officials from around the world to participate in important discussions regarding the network's clinical trials, scientific agenda and current and planned studies.



The HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) is a worldwide collaborative clinical trials network that develops and tests the safety and efficacy of interventions designed to prevent the transmission of HIV. Silom Community Clinic @TropMed is a clinical research site which conducted the HPTN 067 study under the network.

HPTN 067, also known as The ADAPT (Alternative Dosing to Augment Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Pill Taking) Study, is a unique study looking at the use of non-daily pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). PrEP is a new HIV prevention method in which people who are HIV-negative take HIV treatment drugs (antiretrovirals – ARVs) daily to reduce their risk of becoming HIV-infected. The study is designed to identify PrEP pill-taking schedules that participants are more likely to follow and determine if these schedules influence healthier sexual practices. HPTN 067/ ADAPT study planned to enroll 540 HIV-negative volunteers. The Silom Community Clinic @TropMed in Bangkok, Thailand and the Harlem Prevention Center in New York each planned to enroll 180 men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women (TGW). The Emavundleni Centre in Cape Town, South Africa planned to enroll 180 women who have sex with men (WSM).

The HPTN 067/ ADAPT Cape Town: A Comparison of Daily and Nondaily PrEP Dosing in African Women was presented at the 2015 Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2015) in Seattle, Washington in February this year.

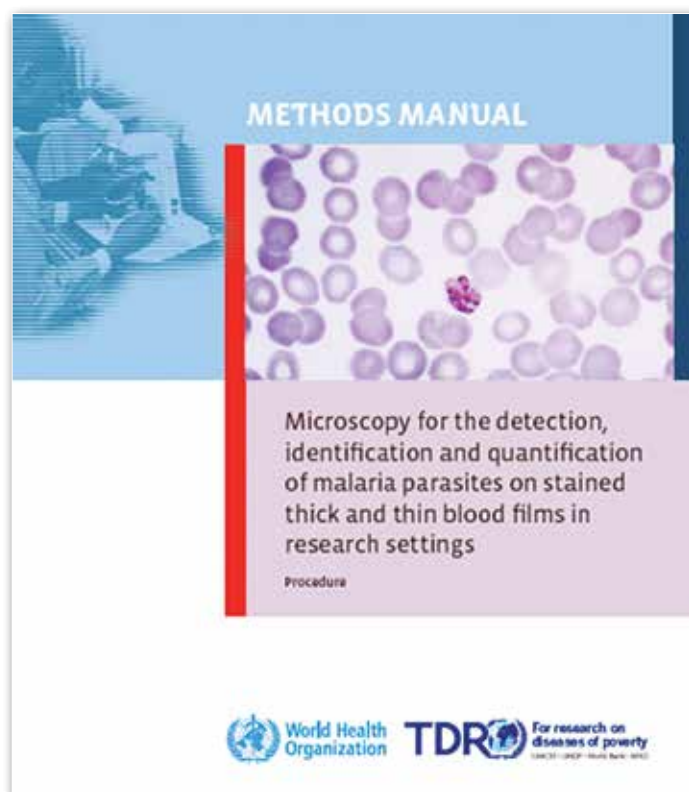
The HPTN 067/ ADAPT study result of PrEP among HIV-uninfected MSM/TGW from Bangkok and Harlem sites will be presented at the 8th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention (IAS 2015) at Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada in this July.

WWARN contributes to WHO/TDR-led efforts for quality assurance of microscopy for malaria parasite detection, identification, and quantification.

Assessments of the efficacy of antimalarial drugs and vaccines and of the performance of diagnostic devices all require sensitive, accurate and precise measurement of the numbers and species of malaria parasites. Microscopic examination of stained blood films continues to be a major reference standard for the detection, identification and quantification of malaria parasites in the context of clinical and operational research. The consistency and reliability of results from microscopy depend on numerous factors, beginning with the quality of the materials and equipment used, and the protocols applied for specimen processing, analysis, and quality assurance. WWARN researchers have worked together with groups of experts convened by WHO/TDR to promote consistency in malaria parasite detection, identification, and quantification for research using microscopy.

Through a collaborative effort led by the UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (WHO/TDR), WWARN has contributed to the development of a manual for microscopy for the detection, identification and quantification of malaria parasites on stained thick and thin blood films in research settings. This manual was recently published and is available for download from the WHO/TDR website and from the Procedures section on the WWARN website. A Microsoft Excel-based tool for entering, comparing and reporting results from microscopy will also be made available soon – please contact Dr. Mehul Dhorda, Head of WWARN's EQA programme for further information (mehul.dhorda@wwarn.org).

The contribution from WWARN described above is a part of its global efforts to generate resources to promote harmonisation in malaria research leading to reliable evidence to inform the malaria community on the factors affecting the efficacy of antimalarial medicines. Such standardisation of methods facilitates powerful pooled analyses which can better inform drug dosing and treatment strategies and is fundamental to coordinating efforts to track the emergence and spread of antimalarial resistance.



Available from:

<http://www.wwarn.org/tools-resources/procedures>

http://www.who.int/tdr/publications/microscopy_detec_ident_quantif/en/



▲ On 24 May 2015, Dean Yaowalark Sukthana together with Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, Thailand's 27th Prime Minister and honored guests chaired the opening ceremony of the charity walk event at Lumpini Park, Bangkok to celebrate Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's fifth cycle. This event also aims to raise funds for the mammogram screening campaign of 600 cases. FTM administrative team members, senior leaders, lecturers and staff members joined a 2.5km charity walk. Other activities included registration for joining mammogram screening campaign of 600 cases and consultation and information-giving concerning breast self-checking hosted by Bangkok Hospital for Tropical Diseases.



▲ On 3 August 2015, delegations from Institut Ilmu Kesehatan, Indonesia visited Hospital for Tropical Diseases, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University.



▲ On 12 June 2015, Energy and Environment Committee, Faculty of Tropical Medicine hosted the 2nd Annual Environmental Day (TM Green) event under the theme "Think Us, Think Earth, Consume with Care" at Quinine Square, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University. Various green activities included walking campaign for green environment and energy saving, Green Talk titled "Reduce Waste from Consumption, Save Earth, Save Environment" with guest speakers Assoc. Prof. Kraichat Tantrakarnapa and Asst. Prof. Teera Kusolsuk, Green Market with many products that promote energy conservation and greener world, Green Exhibition, waste redemption activity and mini concert from Thai celebrity, Sunny U4.



▲ Elective Program in Tropical Medicine for 2 medical doctors and 8 medical students from Japan, Indonesia, Austria and USA during 3-28 August 2015



The 80th Anniversary of Professor Emeritus Santasiri Sornmani

On 18 June 2015, Dean Yaowalark Sukthana chaired the special events “the 80th Anniversary of Professor Emeritus Santasiri Sornmani” to express affection and gratitude to the 2nd Dean of the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University and “the Opening Ceremony of Santasiri Sornmani Building.”

Consultant: Dr. Yaowalark Sukthana, Dean, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University

Editors: Dr. Emsri Pongponratn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs and Jittapim Na Bangchang

Coordinators: Peerawat Maipanich, Rattanawadee Nanlar, Siriprang Chotchaimongkol and Chayutshot Lertkriangkraisorn

Information Support: Malaria Consortium Asia, MOCID-BIKEN, MORU, SEAMEO, Silom Community Clinic @TropMed and WWARN

Graphic Design & Layout: Ronnachai Rarerng

Produced by: Office of International Cooperation (OIC)

Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, 420/6 Ratchawithi Road, Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400, Thailand

Tel: 66 (0) 2306-9118, 66 (0) 2354-9100-4, 66 (0) 2306-9100-9, Fax: 66 (0) 2354-9141 Email: tmirunit@diamond.mahidol.ac.th