



Congratulations Party 2015

On September 2, 2015, Dean Yaowalark Sukthana chaired the Congratulation Party for our six honorees; Prof. Dr. Nicholas Philip John Day from Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU) for receiving a Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Tropical Medicine, Honoris Causa, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pratap Singhasivanon for receiving Mahidol University Award for an Excellent Teacher, Prof. Dr. Sasithon Pukrittayakamee for receiving Mahidol University Award for an Outstanding Research, Mrs. Pornpimon Adams for receiving Mahidol University Award for Excellent Services and Prof. Dr. Rungsunn Tungtrongchitr and Prof. Dr. Songsak Petmitr for receiving the Knight Grand Cordon (Special Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant.

TROPMED Student's International Night

On September 11, 2015, Dean Yaowalark Sukthana together with FTM Senior Leaders, personnel and students welcomed Clinical Professor Udom Kachintorn, President of Mahidol University and representatives from Embassies of Cambodia, Malaysia and the Philippines to the TROPMED Student's International Night event at the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University. Activities included cultural performances and food demonstration by the Royal Embassy of Cambodia to Thailand and FTM students, singing by President Udom Kachintorn, prize drawing, and then closing the night with Thai classical dance and singing together the ASEAN song named 'The ASEAN Way'.



News:

First Malaria Indicator Survey in Myanmar kicks off in Yangon

The first nationwide malaria survey in Myanmar kicked off in early August. After an initial launching ceremony, Malaria Consortium held a one-week, interactive training course involving more than 130 field workers and stakeholders. Upon completion of the training, the field workers were deployed across the country to collect data for the nationwide survey. This work will be completed by mid-October, with a final report expected by early 2016.

The survey will provide data on the overall malaria burden and measure coverage of malaria control interventions throughout the country, enabling prioritisation of services to areas where they are needed and informing future strategic planning.



For more information, visit: <http://bit.ly/1N9A10U>

Events:

Malaria Consortium joins the Dengue Tribes campaign

Malaria Consortium has joined the Dengue Tribe campaign, a global campaign initiated by Break Dengue to give communities a platform to collectively highlight the threat of dengue and mobilise key stakeholders to address issues surrounding this disease.

The campaign was launched on 15th June to coincide with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Dengue Day. It aims to put a human face to the disease, highlighting stories of affected individuals and communities, and reaches out to national and international leaders to urge them to make dengue a public health priority.



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

Blog:

Empowering village malaria workers in Cambodia: Prevention and control of malaria

Malaria Consortium has been working closely with the Cambodian National Malaria Control Program (CNM) and the Provincial Health Department to carry out malaria control activities with a specific focus on people at risk in Pailin province on the Thailand-Cambodia border, where high levels of resistance to antimalarial drugs have been identified by the CNM and the World Health Organization. Community health networks in 68 villages in the province will be strengthened and village malaria workers (VMW) will be trained to provide early diagnosis and treatment for malaria.



To read more, visit: <http://bit.ly/1UNPhnK>

Publication:

Malaria and the mobile and migrant population in Cambodia: a population movement framework to inform strategies for malaria control and elimination

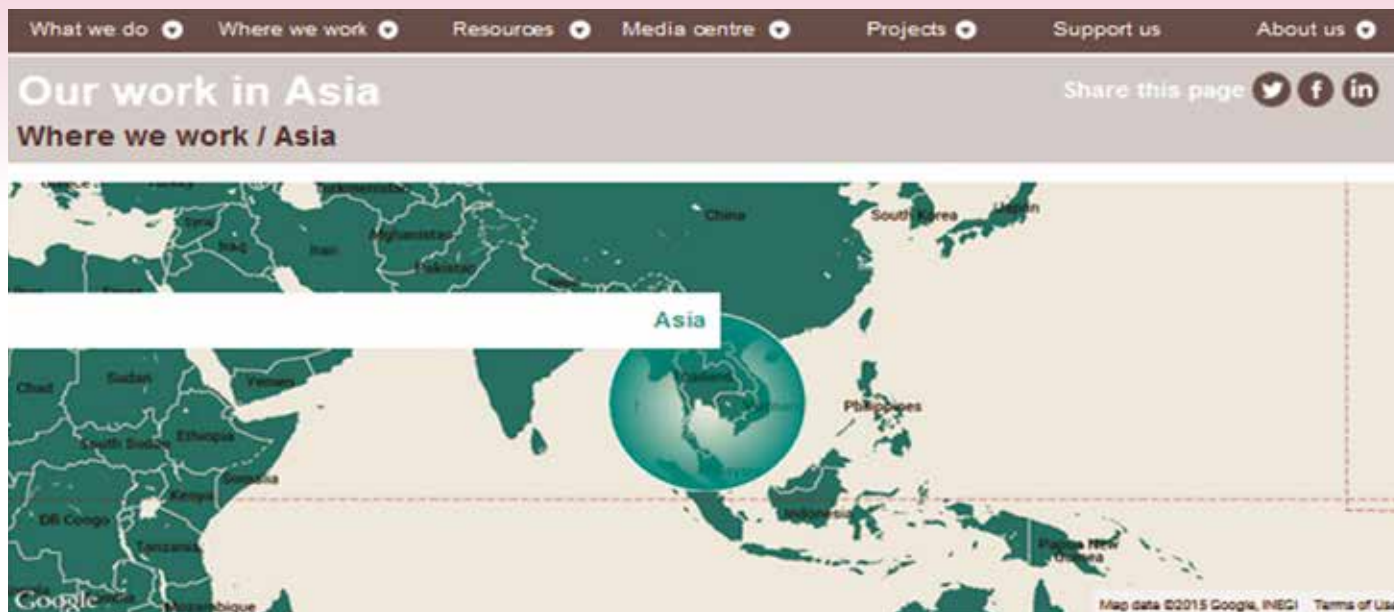
The relationships between human population movement and health are a concern at global level and in the case of malaria, the overlap between the two is crucial in relation to the spread of drug resistant parasites and to the elimination of malaria in the Greater Mekong Subregion and beyond. The mobile and migrant populations (MMP) who are involved in forest-related activities are at high risk of being infected with malaria and also of receiving late and sub-standard treatment due to poor access to health services. In Cambodia, in 2012, the National Malaria Control Programme identified the development of a specific strategy for MMPs as a key objective. A population movement framework for malaria was developed and operationalised in order to contribute to this strategy.

This paper describes the process of defining MMPs in Cambodia and identifying the different activities and related risks to appropriately target and tailor interventions to the highest risk groups. The framework has been used to develop more targeted behaviour change and outreach interventions for MMPs in Cambodia.

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

Website:

Malaria Consortium launches new Asia pages on its website



Three new country pages highlighting our work in Asia have been launched on Malaria Consortium's website. These pages include information on our activities and priority areas in each country, and provide project information and resources. In addition to the new country pages, there is also a new Asia regional section, which describes Malaria Consortium's regional activities.

To read more about our works in Asia, visit: <http://bit.ly/KxXQUl>

Thailand country page: <http://bit.ly/1MfULXi>

Cambodia Country page: <http://bit.ly/1OhDyFE>

Myanmar Country page: <http://bit.ly/1NloyfL>

New Asia Technical Director of Malaria Consortium:



On 25 August 2015, Mr. Henry Friedel Braun, Asia Programmes Director of Malaria Consortium introduced Dr. Siddhi Aryal, Asia Technical Director of Malaria Consortium to Dean Yaowalark Sukthana and Administrative Board members at the Administrative Board meeting to discuss on possible academic and research collaborations between the two institutions.



Dr. Dumrongkiet Arthan, Mr. Dusit Promruk, Prof. Tatsuo Shioda, Dr. Supranee Phanthanawiboon, Dr. Orapim Puiprom and Mr. Aekkachai Tuekprakhon (from the left to the right)

Farewell to Dr. Supranee Phanthanawiboon

Dr. Supranee Phanthanawiboon was promoted as a lecturer of Khon Kaen University. She will keep in touch with MOCID and continue to work on collaborative study of dengue virus infection.



Dr. Takasaki's lecture

Lecture on "Dengue epidemics and dengue research in Japan: past and present" by Dr. Tomohiko Takasaki from National Institute for Infectious Diseases (NIID), Japan

Dr. Takasaki is a Head of the Laboratory 2, Department of Virology 1 of NIID, Japan. On 17 August 2015, he visited MOCID and gave a lecture on "Dengue epidemics and dengue research in Japan: past and present." His talk started from the very beginning of dengue virus isolation in Japan in 1943 and covered details of the recent outbreak of dengue infection in Tokyo in 2014.

A total of 160 autochthonous dengue cases transmitted by *Aedes albopictus* were reported from August to October 2014 in Tokyo Metropolis, Japan. Most of the cases had visited the same park named Yoyogi Park located in the center of Tokyo and had fever and visited hospitals not only in Tokyo but also all over the country. The serotype of isolated dengue virus was type 1. This is the first epidemic of dengue fever in Japan since 1945, but it was successfully controlled when the park was closed to exterminate the mosquitoes. In this year, the outbreak of dengue virus infection in Taiwan is a serious problem. Dr. Takasaki suggested that the vector, *Aedes aegypti*, could survive in the winter season, since the mosquito lives in houses. This characteristic of the vector might have made the situation worse in Taiwan than in Tokyo.



Dr. Tamaki Okabayashi (left), Dr. Ronald Enrique Morales Vargas (right) and the audiences



Dr. Tamaki Okabayashi, Ms. Goto, a post graduate student of the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University and Dr. Hirotake Mori from Yoichi Hospital, Hokkaido, Japan (from the left to the right)

Dr. Tamaki Okabayashi's Visit

Dr. Tamaki Okabayashi, a former Vice Director of MOCID and currently an Associate Professor of Miyazaki University, came back to the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University and gave a lecture on "virus isolation" at the Department of Medical Entomology.



Dr. Takeshi Kurosu (left) and Dr. Kriengsak Limkittikul (right)



Dr. Supranee Phanthanawiboon (left) and Dr. Takeshi Kurosu (right)

Dr. Takeshi Kurosu's Visit

Dr. Takeshi Kurosu from National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Japan visited MOCID. He is collaborating with Dr. Pongrama Ramasoota and Dr. Kriengsak Limkittikul on dengue research.



Mr. Aekkachai Tuekprakhon, Dr. Orapim Puiprom, Dr. Tadahi Sasaki and Dr. Supranee Phanthanawiboon (from the left to the right)

Dr. Tadahi Sasaki's Visit

Dr. Tadahi Sasaki from Arkray Company visited MOCID to know the availability of clinical specimens for evaluation of rapid test kits for dengue and Chikungunya infection that Dr. Sasaki is now developing.



Dr. Emi E. Nakayama, Dr. Jetsumon Prachumsri and Prof. Tatsuo Shioda (from the left to the right)

Dr. Jetsumon Prachumsri's Visit

On 24 September 2015, Dr. Jetsumon Prachumsri, Deputy Dean for Research, and Mrs. Pornpimon Adams, Assistant to the Dean for Research, visited MOCID to greet Prof. Tatsuo Shioda and Dr. Emi E. Nakayama and discuss common research interests. Research at MOCID focuses on drug treatments for dengue and chikungunya, in collaboration with Dr. Weerapong Phumratanaprapin, Head of the Department of Clinical Tropical Medicine.

Farewell Party for Ms. Duangjai Oddgun

On 30 June 2015, our department had organized a farewell party for Ms. Duangjai Oddgun (Meaw) at Marugame Seimen Thailand (Japan's UDON restaurant). Unfortunately, Dr. Hisham could not join us because of Ramadhan period (the ninth month of the Islamic calendar).



Ms. Duangjai, Ms. Chayada, Dr. Yamanaka, Dr. Konishi, Ms. Varaporn and Lt1. Paweena (from the left to the right) taken at Marugame Seimen Thailand

Ms. Duangjai joined us as a research assistant on 1 May 2014 (previously described in our TROPED Inter News, July 2014). She was our good colleague: she focused on her duty, learned several things and got along well with everyone. By the way, Meaw still is a member of South Korean Dramas and Television Series Fan Club. Now, she enjoys her free time watching cute Korean triplets, Daehan, Minguk and Manse starring in a South Korean reality-variety show called, "The Return of Superman".



Taken at BIKEN Laboratory



Finally, a memory with Meaw is expressed in our warm messages shown below.

"It was a precious time with you. Nothing is as precious as friendship. We will never forget the moment and also hope to meet and have a chance to work with you in the future. No matter where you are, we are friends." From BIKEN Department

"It's very nice to meet you all. I would like to thank you Prof. Konishi and Dr. Yamanaka for giving me the great experience in Dengue research. Thanks Note-san for your help and being a good sister. ^^ Thanks P'Chayada, Jack and Hisham for a good friendship although a short period, I wish you all success in your experiments and thesis. Thank you and hope to see you again ^^," Meaw said.

Status of Graduate Students' Academic Research

Hisham Ahmed Imad M.D., was studying PhD in Clinical Tropical Medicine, Host and Viral Factors for Prediction of Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever amongst hospitalized adult patients at Bangkok Hospital for Tropical Diseases.



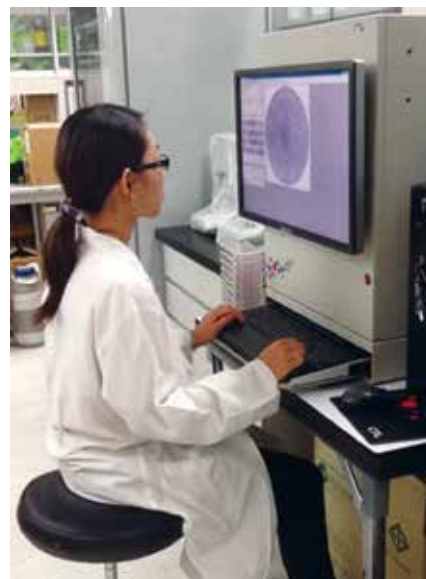
Dr. Hisham Ahmed Imad

For the past five months at BIKEN laboratory, he has undergone training necessary for virus isolation and assays for enhancement and neutralization. With having received the certification of approval from the Ethical Committee of the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, case enrollment will commence on 1 October 2015 and specimen collection and analysis will proceed simultaneously.

Ms.Chayada Khamsawad and First Lieutenant (Lt1.) Paweena Manmee, 2 Master students (Major in Infectious Diseases and Epidemiology) from the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, are also working on dengue research and currently collecting samples to isolate viruses.



Ms.Chayada Khamsawad



Lt1.Paweena Manmee

Wellcome Trust confirms MORU core funding for 2015-2020

A message from Nick Day, 14 Sept 2015

They've arrived! Thank you again to everyone for the support and joint efforts during the renewal process. I am pleased to confirm we have the letters from The Wellcome Trust confirming our core funding for the next five years. Further details will be distributed at the next Management Committee meeting.



Pharmacometric research at MORU to expand thanks to Gates Foundation grant

The week of 24 August the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation approved a three-year grant that will lead to an expansion of the pharmacometric research group within MORU's Department of Clinical Pharmacology.

Joel Tarning, Head of Pharmacology at MORU, will be principal investigator for the grant, Model-based drug development platforms for antimalarials.

Malaria is still the most important parasitic disease of humans, killing almost 2,000 people each day, mainly young children under the age of five in tropical areas. The increasing prevalence of artemisinin-resistant falciparum malaria in Southeast Asia is now threatening our ability to control and eliminate malaria in the region and elsewhere and jeopardizing aspirations to eliminate malaria. ACT partner drug resistance is following so there is an urgent need now for novel, safe and effective antimalarial combination treatments with different mechanism of actions. However, drug development is slow and costly and in need of optimization to accelerate the delivery of novel antimalarial drugs and combinations in the market.

The overall goal of the proposed research, which will be done at MORU Pharmacology, is to develop a novel model-based platform for antimalarial drug development and optimize the use of existing antimalarial drugs. This could accelerate the development of new antimalarial drugs substantially, reduce costs and de-risk the process of bringing new antimalarial drug combinations to clinical care.

-Congratulations, Joel and Pharmacology team!



Joel Tarning (rear) with PhD students at MORU's Department of Clinical Pharmacology

Mass drug administration underway in Myanmar villages



31 Aug 2015 - SMRU's Malaria Elimination Task Force has been undertaking mass drug administration (MDA) campaigns in western Karen State, Myanmar in areas with a high submicroscopic PF parasite prevalence.

SMRU qPCR surveys detected 29 high prevalence hotspots, many of them hard to access. So far, 19 of these have undergone or are receiving MDA. One village was reluctant to participate but, thanks to an intense community engagement effort, finally agreed to undergo MDA.

- Thank you, Suphak Nosten, for text and photos

E-Library webpage launched in Laos

28 Sept 2015 - The University of Health Sciences (UHS), in collaboration with the Lao-Oxford-Mahosot Hospital-Wellcome Trust Research Unit (LOMWRU) at Mahosot Hospital, launched an E-Library webpage at the UHS website, <http://www.uhs.edu.la>.

A labour of love long in the works, the E-Library is a major achievement for LOMWRU. An accessible repository of health information about Laos, the E-Library offers links to useful global scientific and medical information and data websites, and includes a news section where you can publicise meetings (please email elibrary@uhs.edu.la with meeting details).

To browse the E-Library, access the UHS website, then click E-Library. LOMWRU have uploaded their open access papers to the system, and you can, too. Just email PDFs you'd like uploaded to elibrary@uhs.edu.la so they can be easily shared.

The site is open to Open Access 'grey literature' as well as Open Access scientific peer reviewed publications.

A word of caution: So the website does not break copyright law, non Open Access papers cannot be uploaded. Please check that your paper can be freely distributed to all before you send it to be uploaded. For more information, see <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/>.

Please share news of the Laos E-Library! Kindly email Paul Newton and Mayfong Mayxay with suggestions to improve the site, they'd be much appreciated.

- Congratulations to Paul Newton and Mayfong Mayxay on this significant achievement – and thank you for text



SMRU border meeting

Shoklo Malaria Research Unit 'SMRU' organized its XXVth 'Border Health Malaria and Infectious Diseases Forum' border meeting on 23 Sept in Mae Sot. Since 1990 the meeting has benefited health care providers and the population in the border area at Thai-Myanmar border by sharing research knowledge and experience on infectious diseases. SMRU thank the Global Fund for making possible this meeting, which was attended by 110 participants, 52 of them from SMRU and the rest were from partner organizations.

Presentations made by SMRU staff during the day included: updates on P.falciparum and P.vivax malaria; TB in refugee camps; the spread of multi-drug resistant TB (MDR TB); preconceptional folate prevention of neural tube defects; the malaria elimination project; the targeted malaria elimination (TME) study; Primaquine and G6PD; update on family planning; management of neonatal jaundice; reactive malaria detection; non malaria causes of fevers; Micro-filariasis; and an update from the microbiology lab.

In addition, partners made presentations on malaria in refugee camps and dengue. Attending partners included: PU – AMI (Première Urgence-Aide Médicale Internationale); International Organization Of Migration (IOM); Malteser International; Solidarities International; KDHW (Karen Department of Health and Welfare); BMA (Burma Medical Association); MTC (Mae Tao Clinic); BPHWT (Back Pack Health Worker Team); CPI (Community Partners International); Suwannimit Foundation; Mae Sot hospital; Mae Ra Mad hospital and the Tak PHO (Tak Public Health Office).

- Thank you Suphak Nosten for text and photos



TME Pailin prepares for final treatment round



Left, district authorities join hands to show support for malaria elimination and the TME study (photo courtesy of Chea Nguon). Right, Dr Rupam Tripuram and Dr Chea supervise participants receiving malaria treatment from a village malaria worker during TME Round 2 (photo courtesy of Dara Lim).



14 Sept 2015 - Meetings were held recently to mobilize local leaders in preparation for the Targeted Malaria Elimination (TME) study's third and final round of treatment in Battambang, western Cambodia.

The meetings were led by Dr Chea Nguon, Vice Director of the Cambodian National Malaria Control Programme, Dr Chan Davoeung the head of malaria at the Provincial Health

Department, and Ms Nou Sanann and Ms Pich Kunthea from MORU's Community Engagement team.

Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation with some core funding from the Wellcome Trust, TME Cambodia operates in three intervention villages under the supervision of Lorenz von Seidlein. The object of this two year cross-over study is to interrupt local malaria transmission.

Nick Day awarded honorary Mahidol degree



Mon 7 Sept 2015 will long be remembered by many at MORU. With HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn presiding, Mahidol University awarded an Honorary Doctorate to MORU's Director Nick Day and three other Faculty members. In his acceptance speech, Nick, above with colleagues and Faculty of Tropical Medicine Dean Dr Yaowalark Sukthana (left), said that "the Faculty is the very best place in the world to be based and to research tropical medicine."

- Thank you, Karen Valentine for text
and Wirongrong (Kae) Chierakul and Sawanya (Aeh) Anumas
for photos

COMRU and AHC staff visit orphanage to give career advice

On Tues 1 Sept 2015, staff from COMRU and the Angkor Hospital for Children (AHC) visited the David Centre in Anlong Veng, a remote and poor town in northern Cambodia, near the Thai border. The David Centre is an NGO run orphanage that has a programme for high school students to prepare them for leaving the orphanage and finding fulltime employment.

Seven AHC and COMRU staff were chosen to represent a variety of different career and job options – doctor, nurse, office manager, communications officer, administrative officer, pharmacist and researcher.



The visit aimed to give students educational and careers advice and introduce them to different occupations. The AHC and COMRU staff talked about their life experiences, including the successes and struggles they'd faced and had enabled them to become who they are today. The students were very interested and receptive to the presentations. Overall, the trip was enjoyable for all: the children and orphanage staff were very friendly and importantly we had very nice food!

-Text and photos courtesy of Claudia Turner

Identifying vectors at SMRU



As part of its on-going anti-malaria efforts, SMRU spends countless hours catching mosquitoes in remote hotspot villages in Karen State, Myanmar before and after each round of Mass Drug Administration (MDA). The aim is to identify malaria vectors and gauge the numbers infected with malaria parasites. Identifying thousands of anopheles is fun but very time consuming – and only possible with teamwork from many SMRU lab colleagues.

These include mosquito catching teams, a cow (malaria vectors feed on animals other than humans), a team of porters to bring the mosquitoes to the SMRU lab in Mae Sot, and, finally, a group effort to identify the various species, with help from Kasetsart University colleagues who analyse the mosquitoes by qPCR.

Chiara harvests sporozoites



Chiara Andolina, manager of the Insectary at SMRU, is caught dissecting salivary glands to harvest precious P. vivax sporozoites to study the hypnozoites in liver cells. Chiara is also shown right with Dr. Wenn-Chyau Lee, a collaborator from Singapore Immunology Network (SiGN): Agency for Science, Technology, and Research (A*STAR), Singapore who is expert in parasitological diseases.

SMRU holds restructuring workshop



In August, the SMRU team organized a workshop in Mae Sot to discuss how to restructure this growing organization, which now has over 1,000 staff. The workshop was led by former SMRU administrator Mr Tip, top right, who retired 1 July after years of remarkable achievement.

FTM Dean visits SMRU



SMRU were very honoured to host Professor Dr Yaowalark Sukthana, Dean of the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University (left, with François Nosten). The Dean was accompanied by Prof Dr Sasithon Pukrittayakamee, Ajarn Jetsumon (Sattabongkot) Prachumsri, and Ms Pornpimon Adams as they visited SMRU sites and clinics at MawKerThai, WangPha, and Maela 27-28 Aug.

SMRU's Kerry Moore wins prestigious ASTMH award



Kerry Moore, an SMRU PhD student from Melbourne University and the Burnet Institute co-supervised by former MORU statistician Julie Simpson, Freya Fowkes and Rose McGready has received the highly competitive ASTMH 2015 Annual Meeting Travel Award.

Supported in part by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Travel Award is one of the Society's premier awards. A demonstration of the Society's focus on professional development and career advancement, the Award facilitates the participation of a limited number of tropical medicine researchers and trainees from around the world at the ASTMH's Annual Meeting 2015, which will be held 25-29 Oct in Philadelphia.

Kerry will present data on malaria in pregnancy collected at SMRU from more than 7,000 infected women who were followed from their first trimester of pregnancy. Please join us in congratulating Kerry on her accomplishment.

- Thank you, Rose McGready, for sharing this wonderful news!

Midwives graduate at SMRU



On Sat 22 Aug 2015, 25 new midwives were honoured at a graduation ceremony at SMRU's Mawker Thai clinic after completing their midwifery training under the supervision of Dr. Thaw.

Midwives are essential staff at SMRU as they ensure safe deliveries for pregnant women, day and night, 7 days a week. Their hard work and dedication have resulted in dramatic improvements in mother and babies survival over the years at the Maternal & Child Health Department, which is supervised by Prof. Rose McGready. Congratulations to all the new trainees!

- Text and photo courtesy of Suphak Nosten

MAEMOD completes Bangkok modelling workshop

MORU's Mathematical and Economic Modelling Group (MAEMOD) held a two-week modelling workshop, Introduction to Epidemiological and Economic Modelling of Infectious Diseases, from 13-24 July 2015, at the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University. Over 30 participants from Thailand, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Cambodia, the UK and the Philippines attended.

The organizers wish to thank all the MAEMOD team members who worked so hard to make the Modelling workshop a success. A special thanks goes to Graham Medley of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. During his two-week visit Prof. Medley greatly contributed to many group activities including the journal club, a modelling fitting exercise, and giving the 27 July MORU Weekly Scientific seminar, Modelling of Visceral Leishmaniasis.

- Text and photos courtesy of Wirichada (Pan) Pan-ngum





SEAMEO TROPED Network



✳ 54th Governing Board Meeting 2015, SEAMEO TROPED Network, Vientiane, Lao PDR



✳ Centre Directors Meeting 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

✳ Visit of SEAMEO Council President, H.E. Admiral Narong Pipatanasai, Minister of Education to SEAMEO TROPED Network and SEAMEO TROPED Thailand



✳ Mid-Term Review of SEAMEO Strategic Plan 2011-2020, Bangkok



✳ Experts Meeting: Capacity of Emergency Systems to Address Injury and Violence in Low and Middle Income Countries (8 countries with WHO, WPRO), Diamond Hotel, Manila, Philippines



✳ In-House Meeting of SEAMEO TROPED Network, Bangkok, Thailand



✳ Expert Meeting: Capacity Development for Violence and Injury Prevention in the Western Pacific Region organized in collaboration with WHO WPRO, WHO Office Manila



✳ Research Forum: "Health Promotion: The Next Health Agenda"



✳ ASEAN-EU STI Health Strategy and Policy Dialogue, Paris, France



✳ Post-Incident Evaluation: Papal Visit, Manila, Philippines



✳ Thailand One Health University Network Meeting, Bangkok



✳ Global Forum on Innovation and Health 2015, Manila, Philippines



✳ Sexuality Education for Children with Special Needs, SEAMEO SEN, Malaysia

Dr. Timothy Holtz speaking at the PrEP symposium panel at IAS 2015 (Photo by Liz Highleyman, hivandhepatitis.com)



On 20 July, Dr. Timothy Holtz, Ms. Tareerat Chemnasiri and the investigators from the HIV Prevention Trial Network (HPTN) reported results from HPTN 067, a phase II, randomized, open-label study in a symposium session and a late breaker session of the 8th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention (IAS 2015) in Vancouver, Canada.

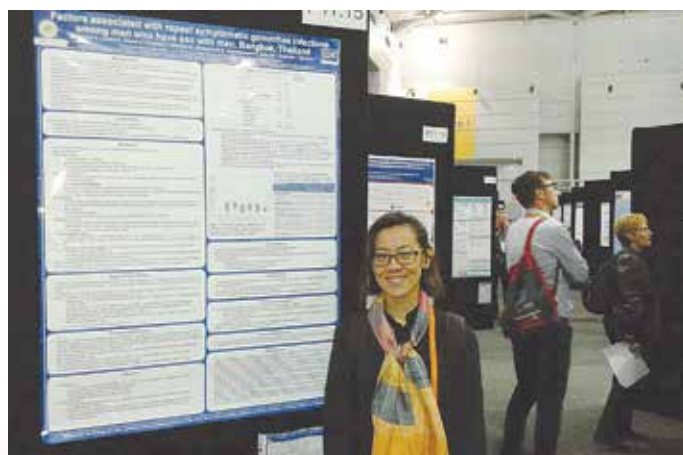
HPTN 067, also known as the ADAPT Study, was designed to evaluate the feasibility of non-daily pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) regimens. The study evaluated acceptability and use of three different oral PrEP regimens: daily, twice weekly with a dose after sex, and one dose before and another after sex. The study was not designed to assess the efficacy of the different regimens in preventing HIV. The study of more than 500 participants included women in Cape Town, South Africa, and men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women (TGW) in Bangkok, Thailand, and Harlem (New York).

Results from each group of participants were analyzed separately. Thai MSM in Bangkok had the highest levels of coverage to the daily and time-driven dosing regimens when compared to the event-driven arm (85%, 84%, and 75%, respectively). HPTN 067 showed that people are most likely to take PrEP as directed and maintain significantly higher levels of preventive medication in their blood when prescribed a daily dose. The findings also indicate that some MSM and TGW can adhere to these non-daily PrEP regimens, which may lower number of pills needed for coverage, if these non-daily regimens are ever proven to be effective. Although some MSM can stick to a non-daily PrEP regimen, there are challenges, and we don't yet know if these regimens work to prevent HIV infection. CDC continues to recommend daily dosing for individuals at substantial risk for HIV who choose to use PrEP.

During the conference, Dr. Timothy and Ms. Tareerat also gave another oral presentation and displayed 7 posters.

Prevention (CDC) and Emily Weston, Surveillance and Data Management Technical Expert from DSTDP, US CDC, Atlanta, Georgia conducted Laboratory Training for the Enhanced Gonococcal Antimicrobial Surveillance Programme (EGASP) at Bangrak Hospital, and facilitated the drafting of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for EGASP. Attending the training were Mr. Somchai Lokpichat (Chief, Laboratory, Bangrak STIs Center), Ms. Chatnapa Duangdee (Laboratory Director, Hospital for Tropical Diseases), Mr. Jaray Tongtoyai (SCC Lab), Ms. Wannee Chonwattana (TUC Lab) and other laboratory staff of the two reference laboratories for EGASP – Thailand. Dr. Papp also gave a presentation on laboratory assessment of antimicrobial resistant gonorrhea at the Thailand Ministry of Public Health – United States (U.S.) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Collaboration (TUC) on 21 August.

The EGASP – Thailand is a collaboration between: The Thailand MOPH; TUC; the World Health Organization (WHO); and the U.S. CDC Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP). The WHO Gonococcal Antimicrobial Surveillance Programme (GASP) is a worldwide laboratory network that is coordinated by focal points and regional coordinating centres, and has been collecting gonococcal antimicrobial susceptibility data since 1992. The Enhanced GASP (EGASP) project aims to strengthen sentinel surveillance for gonococcal antimicrobial resistance in selected countries by including key demographic and clinical features of persons with gonorrhea and providing timely surveillance. EGASP – Thailand aims to monitor trends in antimicrobial susceptibilities in *N. gonorrhoeae* using standardized sampling and laboratory protocols and to characterize symptomatic men with gonorrhea at selected sentinel sites, particularly those infected with *N. gonorrhoeae* not susceptible to recommended antimicrobials. EGASP – Thailand includes two sentinel clinics (Bangrak Sexually Transmitted Diseases Center and Silom Community Clinic @TropMed) and two reference laboratories (Bangrak Hospital Laboratory and Hospital for Tropical Diseases Microbiology Laboratory).



From 13-16 September, Dr. Eileen Dunne, Dr. Chaiwat Ungsedhapand, and Dr. Sarika Pattanasin attended the World STI & HIV Congress 2015 held by the International Society for STD Research (ISSTDR) at Brisbane, Australia to present two posters on factors associated with repeat symptomatic gonorrhea infections and syphilis incidence and associated risk factors among men who have sex with men, in Bangkok, Thailand.



From 24-28 August, Dr. John Papp, Team Lead, Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Reference and Research Team, Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP), US Centers for Disease Control and

The Congress aims to promote and attract up-and-coming new and outstanding international researchers to witness the best science in the field of STI's, HIV and sexual health. Emerging themes include challenges and opportunities for STI control programs, antimicrobial resistance, multipurpose technologies, rapid diagnostics, STIs and maternal health, cancer, infection, vaccination and research translation into policy and practice.



On 22 September 2015, Prof. Chris Beyrer, Professor of Epidemiology, International Health, and Health, Behavior and Society at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH) and current President of the International AIDS Society, and Assoc. Prof. Michele Decker in the Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health, JHSPH, visited Dean Prof. Dr. Yaowalark Sukthana during their site visit to Silom Community Clinic @TropMed. The JHSPH team also had meetings and discussions with study partners, investigators, community members and collaborators on the new research study “Effectiveness of Combination HIV Preventive Intervention for Young Thai MSM – COPE4YMSM”.

The COPE4YMSM is an R01 grant sponsored by the National Institute of Allergy and Infection Diseases (NIAID) of the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) from year 2015-2020. Our partners consist of JHSPH, Department of Disease Control at Thailand MOPH, Silom Community Clinic @TropMed, Thailand MOPH-US CDC Collaboration (TUC), Emory University, Mahidol University (Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kamolnetr Okanurak, Department of Social and Environmental Medicine, Faculty of Tropical Medicine), SWING and Rainbow Sky Association of Thailand.

The main purpose of this study is to develop and assess the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of a combination intervention with and without daily oral Truvada (PrEP) for prevention of HIV infection among HIV-uninfected at-risk young (18-26 years old) men who have sex with men (YMSM) in Bangkok, Thailand and with current or recent (in the past 12 months) history of selling or trading sex to other men.

The combination intervention will include but not be limited to regular HIV testing, risk reduction counseling, condom and condom compatible lubricant distribution, STI screening and treatment, a community awareness and mobilization intervention, and an open label offer of daily oral tenofovir/emtricitabine (Truvada®) pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) with mobile phone-based SMS adherence support.

This study will be conducted in 3 phases: (1) a Formative Phase, which includes qualitative research and formative work for the community engagement and mobilization component (2) a Brief Intervention Pilot Phase and (3) an Intervention Phase. The team aims to start the Formative Phase work in early 2016, after submission to all respective ethical research committees.



WORLDWIDE ANTIMALARIAL
RESISTANCE NETWORK (WWARN)
ASIA REGIONAL CENTRE @TropMed

WWARN shortlisted by Times (UK)

The WorldWide Antimalarial Resistance Network (WWARN) has been shortlisted for the 2015 Times (UK) Higher Education Award for the ‘International Collaboration of the Year’.



This was for research, coordinated by MORU and led by Dr. Kyaw Myo Tun of the Defence Services Medical Research Centre, Napytaw, Myanmar, that was published in *Lancet Infectious Diseases* in February 2015 in the paper, *Spread of artemisinin-resistant Plasmodium falciparum in Myanmar: a cross-sectional survey of the K13 molecular marker*.

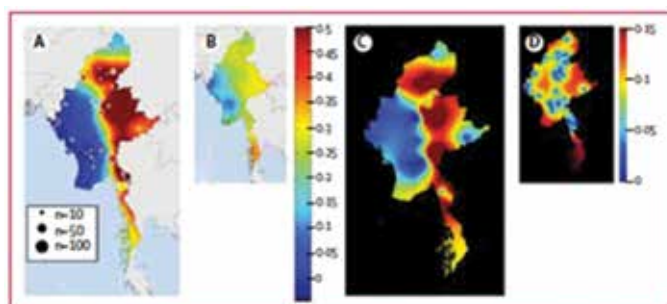


Figure 4: Geographical extent of predicted artemisinin resistance as determined by the prevalence of K13 propeller mutations (>440 aminoacids) visualised by approaches using a Bayesian model (A, with uncertainty shown in B) and kriging interpolation (C, with uncertainty shown in D). In the main prevalence maps, colour shows total prevalence of relevant K13 mutations (median in A and mean in C). In the uncertainty maps, orange and red areas show the greatest uncertainty in Shan State (in the east) and the southern peninsula. In A the colour of the circles is proportional to the recorded K13- mutation prevalence at a particular site and the radius of the circle is proportional to the sample size of the study.

The study found that resistance to the antimalarial drug artemisinin is established in Myanmar and has reached within 25km of the Indian border. Noting that artemisinin resistance threatens to follow the same historical trajectory from Southeast Asia to the Indian subcontinent as seen in the past with other antimalarial medicines, the paper warned that the spread of malaria parasites that are resistant to the drug artemisinin – the frontline treatment against malaria infection – into neighbouring India would pose a serious threat to the global control and eradication of malaria. If drug resistance spreads from Asia to the African sub-continent, or emerges in Africa independently as we have seen several times before, millions of lives will be at risk.

Congratulations to WWARN and to all involved in the research! See <http://www.wwarn.org/news/press-releases/award-nomination-recognises-exceptional-international-collaboration> to read more about WWARN's Award nomination.



Opening Ceremony for PhD (Trop Med), PhD (Clin Trop Med), MSc (Trop Med), MSc (BHI), MSc (School Health) and DBHI Courses for Academic Year 2015

On August 10, 2015, Dean Yaowalark Sukthana chaired the opening ceremony for six academic courses; Doctor of Philosophy in Tropical Medicine [PhD (Trop Med)], Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Tropical Medicine [PhD (Clin Trop Med)], Master of Science in Tropical Medicine [MSc (Trop Med)], Master of Science in Biomedical and Health Informatics [MSc (BHI)], Master of Science in School Health [MSc (School Health)] and Diploma in Biomedical and Health Informatics (DBHI) for academic year 2015.



Wai Khru and Bai Sri Su Kwun Ceremony for Academic Year 2015

On August 20, 2015, Dean Yaowalark Sukthana chaired 'Wai Khru' ceremony for academic year 2015. This ceremony gives students a good opportunity to show the gratitude to their teachers. Then followed by 'Bai Sri Su Kwun' ceremony, this is to warmly welcome all students into TropMed family.



13th International Training Course on Management of Malaria

Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University on behalf of WHO Collaborating Centre for Clinical Management of Malaria in collaboration with the World Health Organization Regional Office for South East Asia (WHO SEARO) organized the 13th International Training Course on Management of Malaria for 29 distinguished physicians, scientists and health experts from 12 respective countries; Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, and Thailand during 24-28 August 2015 at the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University. The training aims to provide and update the participants about malaria current situation, diagnosis, treatment, management, prevention and control as well as sharing experiences among respective countries.



The 2015 Retirement Party for twelve FTM personnel on September 24, 2015

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

Editors: Dr. Emsri Pongponratn and Jittapim Na Bangchang

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

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

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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