



BERITA TESMA

Tissue Engineering Society of Malaysia (TESMA)
Official newsletter for TESMA
(FOR MEMBERS ONLY)
Issue No.1 July-December 2005

TESMA
Department of Physiology,
Medical Faculty, UKM,
Jalan Raja Muda Abdul Aziz,
50300 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Tel: 603-91702449/603-40405428
Fax: 603-26939687
e-mail: ruszy@medic.ukm.my

President's Note

The Tissue Engineering Society of Malaysia (TESMA) was officially registered on the 10th November 2004 by the Registrar of Societies, Malaysia.



After a year of hard work with the protem committee, the first Annual General Meeting was held on the 8th of June 2005 at Hospital UKM. I am indebted to the people who worked hard to organize this event especially the students of the Tissue Engineering Laboratory, HUKM. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Professor Lokman Saim, Dean of the Medical Faculty, UKM who presided as the guest of honor and also officially launched the Society. It was a successful meeting for a newly formed Society attended by various groups of professionals including doctors, researches, academicians and representatives from various biotechnology companies. As of today the Society has registered a total number of seventy two members. A special mention has to be made of the many biotechnology companies which were present at the meeting. I am grateful for their support and hope that our partnership will continue to help promote and develop this new field in our country. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage greater participation among members and would value their contribution by promoting the Society, increasing our membership and to establish our Society at home and globally.

Good news from Prof. Alan Russel, President of TERMIS (Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine International Society): members of TESMA will automatically be a member of TERMIS without additional fee for the rest of the year!

Inaugural TESMA AGM – Starting on the right note

On the 8th of June 2005, history was made as the inaugural meeting of the Tissue Engineering Society of Malaysia was held. The meeting was well attended by various professionals, scientists, students and representatives from biotechnology companies from near and afar. Among those attending were representatives from UKM, UM, UTM, UIA, USM and MSN. Professor Dr Lokman Saim, Dean of the Medical Faculty, UKM was invited as the guest of honor and officiated the first AGM. The new committee was formed with Associate Professor Dr Ruszymah Bt Hj Idrus unanimously elected as the first President of TESMA. The other members of the committee were primarily from the institutes of higher learning and government bodies.



Professor Lokman Saim inaugurating the TESMA AGM at Dewan Kuliah 2, Hospital UKM



Participants during the AGM and hi tea after the meeting

TESMA Committee Members 2005 \ 2006.

President:

Dr Ruszymah Bt Hj Idrus (UKM)

Vice President:

Dr Ahmad Sukari Ibrahim (USM)

Secretary:

Dr Aminuddin Saim (APSH)

Assist Secretary:

Dr Jeevanan Jahendran (UKM)

Treasurer:

Dr Chua Kien Hui (UKM)

Honorary Asst Treasurer

Dr Samsudin Osman Cassim (UKM)

Committee members:

Dr Abdul Halim Abdul Rashid (UKM)

Dr Jemaima Che Hamzah (UKM)

Dr Azlina Amir Abbas (UM)

Dr Maizirwan Mel (UIA)

Dr Roslan Abdul Rahman (UKM)

Dr Tan Guan Huat (UKM)

Dr Suzina Sheikh Abdul Hamid (USM)

Dr Idris Besar (MINT)



Attendees of TESMA AGM 2005

UKM TE Lab bags another two medals at ITEX 2005

PWTC, KL. 19-21 May: The tissue engineering team from HUKM bagged another two awards in the recent ITEX expo at PWTC Kuala Lumpur. **Tissue engineered bone using bioresorbable**

porous ceramic scaffold-a natural substitute for bone graft won a gold medal and the other project titled **Autologous neocartilage implantation (ANCI) for the treatment of cartilage injury in sports medicine** won a silver medal. Researchers involved are Dr Ruszymah, Dr. Tan Kok Keong and Dr Samsuddin Cassim. This study was initiated in year 2001 and last year animal clinical trial was commenced. Both study is funded by grants from MOSTI. TESMA would like to congratulate the team and we look forward to their human clinical trials in the near future.



Dr Tan Dr Samsuddin and Dr Ruszymah explaining to the judges during the exhibition.

Tissue Engineering and Reconstructive Medicine International Society –Asia Pacific Chapter.

Seoul: 2nd – 3rd July 2005.

Dr. Ruszymah represented Malaysia as the president of TESMA in the formation of TERMIS – AP Chapter (Tissue Engineering and Reconstructive Medicine International Society - Asia Pacific) in Seoul, South Korea. The meeting was held at the Catholic University in Seoul, South Korea in conjunction with Korean Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine Society meeting. The meeting was well attended with representatives from United States, Europe, Japan, China, Taiwan, Australia, Thailand and Singapore. Also present were the President of TERMIS Dr Allan J Russell, President elect Dr Jöns Hillborn, Dr. Okano, President of the Japan Tissue Engineering Society and Dr. Yilin Cao from the China Tissue Engineering Center. TERMIS is a combination of Tissue Engineering Society International (TESI) and European Tissue Engineering International Society (ETES). TERMIS was formed with regards to make it a more global world body for the tissue engineering society.

The formation of TERMIS would be completed with the formation of the North American, European and Asia Pacific chapters. However there was a heated argument when the President suggested to dissolve the smaller societies associated with Tissue Engineering especially from countries like Japan, Korea, China and Taiwan. China strongly opposed the idea of only one society and suggested that the Asia Chapter representative should be elected and rotated amongst member countries. Finally a consensus was reached where it was agreed that the existing societies will not be abolished and its members will be able to join TERMIS freely or any other society of Tissue engineering or societies associated with tissue engineering which will not be bound to TERMIS. There was also a suggestion from Dr Wei Liu that the membership fees should be reduced from US100.00 to US50.00. The AP chapter of TERMIS was formally formed with Dr Hai Bang Lee from Korea as the representative of the AP Chapter of TERMIS. During this meeting it was decided that allocations will be given to certain countries to organize international scientific meetings of tissue engineering. This was done to prevent the organization of too many international meetings as well as to reduce the chances of clashes between meetings. In 2006, Japan will host their Japan Tissue Engineering meeting and seminar in Tokyo followed by the First World Meeting of Tissue Engineering which will be held in South Korea in 2007.

Speaking to Berita TESMA, Dr. Ruszymah felt that the formation of TESMA is timely, so as to play an important role in bringing together interested parties in tissue engineering under a single body so as to have a strong and united voice. Though small in size we hope that TESMA will be able to put Malaysia on the map with regards to tissue engineering and be a shining icon to other countries in the region. She also welcomed the formation of TERMIS - AP Chapter however she emphasized that it is up to the individual to join TERMIS and with regards to payment, it should be made direct to TERMIS.

She also stated that TESMA will not be bound by the rules and regulations of TERMIS. However TESMA will give its full cooperation with regards to organization of meetings and seminars internationally. She also hopes that one day in the near future Malaysia will be able to organize such events in cooperation with TERMIS. Dr Ruszymah was an invited guest speaker of the inaugural TERMIS meeting where she presented a paper titled "**Tissue Engineering in Malaysia.**"



The TERMIS AP Chapter group after the dinner organised by the Korean TERMS at Catholic University Seoul Korea, with the presence of TERMIS President Alan Russell and President Elect Jöns Hillborn

Embryonic Stem Cell – Made in Korea.

Seoul: 2nd July 2005

Berita TESMA had the wonderful opportunity to discuss embryonic stem cell with Dr Shin Yong Moon Director of Stem Cell Seoul National University Korea Director of Stem cell Korea. Their studies are still at preliminary stages, however they have made significant advances in making stem cell lines and induction to nerves, cardiac muscle and connective tissues. To date there are about 120 stem cell line worldwide and from the ones from Korea are known as *SNUhES 1, 2, and 3*. Two papers were published in Science in 2005 and Professor Woo Suk Hwang will be one of the keynote speakers in the Tissue Engineering Meeting, Shanghai in August 2005.

Road show and membership drive.

Several committee members have suggested that TESMA should organize road shows to promote the society and increase its membership. The suggestion was well received, however due to time constraints at present it will be done only after the meeting in Shanghai in October. Several locations were targeted with the potential of recruiting new members such as USM Kubang Kerian, UIA, UTM and East Malaysia. However TESMA is also working hard to organize a website with online registration for its members. Members who are IT savvy are most welcome to assist the committee in setting up the website.

8th TESI Shanghai Meeting Oct 22-25- 2005

Dr Yilin Cao and Dr Wei Liu have urged all tissue engineers to attend the above meeting which will be held in Shanghai, China from the 22nd to the 25th of October 2005. The closing date for submission of abstracts is on the 15th of July 2005 and participants are advised to register early to expedite visa application. Special rates for student accommodation are also available and more information is available on their website. TESMA fully supports this meeting and is hoping to send a large delegation to represent our country. Among the international speakers are Dr Huang and Dr Vacanti among others. Going by the list of guest speakers in stem cell and tissue engineering, it certainly would be a meeting that should not be missed. We sincerely hope that the meeting will be a huge success and further enhance this region's contribution to the field of tissue engineering. See all of you in Shanghai!!

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aminuddin_saim@yahoo.com
ruszy@medic.ukm.my
Mailing address:
Jabatan Physiology UKM,
Fakulti Perubatan UKM
Jalan Raja Muda Abdul Aziz
50300 Kuala Lumpur.

Who's who:

Dr Ahmad Sukari Halim



Institution: USM

Title:
Chairman of the Reconstructive Sciences Program USM
Consultant Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon HUSM

Field of interest:
Reconstructive microsurgery , Tissue engineering , Burn and wound healing

Research activities
Experimental research experience started back in 1983 , working as research assistant to Professor Carmeliet in the experimental physiology laboratory in the Catholic University of Leuven Belgium ; research studying cellular membrane potential on skeletal and cardiac muscle using microelectrode

Grant :
IRPA, PR , USM Fundamental grant , Short term grant , external grant

Present collaboration :
TE Lab HUKM, MINT, SIRIM, AMREC , ConVatec , HOVID

Possible collaboration:
1. Institution having expertise in preparing chambers for vascularised tissue construct
2. Biomaterial preparation for tissue scaffold
3. Cytokines production in enhancing tissue growth
4. Institution having ' semi-finished ' products that require clinical trials

Present Laboratory:
1. Clinical Tissue engineering Lab in the Burn Unit of HUSM
2. Reconstructive Sciences Laboratory - comprises of Experimental Tissue Engineering Lab and Animal Experimental Lab

Present number of Research staff :
1 Science officer 1 Technologist 3 Research officers 7 Research assistants

E-mail : ashalim@kb.usm.my
Snail-mail : Reconstructive Sciences Unit
School of Medical Sciences USM
16150 Kubang Kerian, Kelantan

Office tel; 09-7663141

From the Editors...

BERITA TESMA is a biannual publication for the circulation among members of TESMA and to be used for promotional activities only. It aims to feature the current progress and development in TE research both within the country and overseas.

Article contributions and suggestions from members are greatly welcome. The Who's Who column is a way to highlight, introduce and pay tribute to our local TE researchers. Please feel free to suggest candidates to be featured in future.