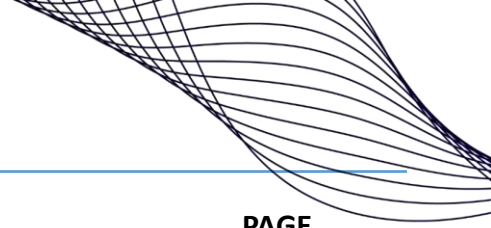




# e-Newsletter

Volume 32 | January – December 2023



CONTENTS	PAGE
News: The 11 <sup>th</sup> HTAsiaLink Conference 2023	1-2
Health Technology Assessment (HTA) and Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) Council Meeting	3-4
HTA Brief Highlights	5
Technology Review (TR) Brief Highlights	6-9
TechBrief Highlights	10
CPG Key Messages	11-12
International Activities	13-17
Local Activities	18-21
Sharing Sessions	22-23
MaHTAS Invited as Speakers	24
Other Activities	25
Internal Training	26
Achievement	27
Editorial Board	28
Turnover of MaHTAS Staff	29



## The 11<sup>th</sup> HTAsiaLink Conference 2023 • 4 to 7 September 2023

*By Dr. Roza Sarimin and Mdm. Balqis Abdul Ghani*

HTAsiaLink is a collaborative research network of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) agencies in the Asia-Pacific region. The HTAsiaLink Annual Conference is a representative academic event that facilitates the exchange of HTA knowledge and experience among member agencies and discussed challenges and opportunities related to HTA implementation in diverse healthcare systems. The conference also functions as a capacity-building platform for junior researchers from member agencies to present their studies to international experts and peers.

2023 marks another milestone for MaHTAS where we had successfully hosted the 11th HTAsiaLink Conference 2023 with the theme 'Reshaping and Reshifting Health Technology Assessment in Navigating the Future Landscape'. The conference was held from 4 to 7 September 2023 in Mercure Putrajaya Living Hotel, Putrajaya, an amazing capital city with innovative architecture and impressive buildings for community-centric town planning. It was attended and highly valued by 275 participants from 20 countries.





## The 11<sup>th</sup> HTAsiaLink Conference 2023 • 4 to 7 September 2023

By Dr. Roza Sarimin and Mdm. Balqis Abdul Ghani

The conference was officiated by the Deputy Minister of Health, YB Dato' Lukanisman Awang Sauni, accompanied by the Director of Medical Development Division, YBhg. Dato' Dr. Mohd Azman Jacob. Over the four-day conference, six pre-conference workshops, three plenary sessions, three oral presentation sessions, three poster presentation sessions, and opening and closing ceremonies were held. The closing ceremony was completed by the Deputy Director of MaHTAS, YBrs. Dr. Izzuna Mudla Mohamed Ghazali as the President of HTAsialink.

In this conference, the discussion on the evolution of HTA had been continued on the need to reshaping the role of HTA in responding to public health emergencies and preparedness, innovative health technologies, and simultaneously reshifting the value assessment by strengthening the wider perspectives of patients and the public. It was hoped that the benefit fostered following the event will impact all and the healthcare system.

Several reviewers from MaHTAS had won awards for oral and poster presentations. Congratulations to Dr. Nur Farhana Mohamad and Dr. Foo Sze-Shir for winning third place in oral presentation for the Health Service Research Track and Economic Evaluation Track respectively. Kudos to Mdm. Nurfarah Aqilah Ahmad Nizam for winning the first prize for poster presentation. The poster presented by Mdm. Balqis Abdul Ghani won the People's Choice Award.

Our sincere gratitude and heartfelt congratulations on this remarkable accomplishment to all the organising team members; the secretariat, the scientific team, the logistic team; speakers, moderators, judges, participants and all who have directly or indirectly contributed to this event. The tireless effort and dedication were truly inspiring, and wished for everyone with continued success and many more years of great achievement.



1/2023

Chairperson: YBhg. Datuk Dr. Muhammad Radzi Abu Hassan  
*Director General of Health, Malaysia*



## Reports and CPGs presented

### Technology Review (TR)

1. Liquid Biopsy for Early Detection of Solid Tumour and Hematological Malignancies
2. Repetitive Peripheral Magnetic Stimulation (rPMS) for Rehabilitation
3. Human Skin Allograft for Burns
4. Negative Pressure Wound Therapy
5. Double Lumen Weighted Nasojejunal Silicone Tube
6. Bioelectrical Impedance Analysis (BIA) for the Assessment of Sarcopenia in Elderly
7. Tertiary Care Virtual Online Consultation between Doctor and Patient

### CPG

1. Management of Retinopathy of Prematurity (Second Edition)
2. Management of Heart Failure (5th Edition)
3. Management of Dyslipidaemia (6th Edition)

### TechBrief (TB)

1. Aprocitentan - Treatment for Resistant Hypertension
2. Capivasertib - AKT Inhibitor, Targeted Therapy for Multiple Subtypes of Breast Cancer
3. EM Watch
4. Hyperacute Stroke Smart Track in Emergency (HASTE)
5. Electronic Discharge Summary System (EDSS)



# Health Technology Assessment (HTA) and Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) Council Meeting

4

2/2023

Chairperson: YBhg. Datuk Dr. Muhammad Radzi Abu Hassan  
*Director General of Health, Malaysia*



## Reports and CPGs presented

### HTA

Continuous Glucose Monitoring for Insulin-requiring Diabetes Patients

### Technology Review (TR)

1. Single-use Biodegradable Patient Care Utensils for Health Facilities
2. Microcurrent Therapy for Wound Care Management
3. Extracorporeal Shockwave Therapy for the Treatment of Erectile Dysfunction
4. Ovarian Tissue Cryopreservation for Fertility Preservation
5. Acupuncture As an Adjunct for Subfertility
6. Needleless Injector in Dermatology and Plastic Surgery

### CPG

1. Management of Cancer Pain (Second Edition)
2. Management of Geriatric Hip Fracture
3. Management of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus
4. Management of Anterior Crossbite in Mixed Dentition (Third Edition)
5. Management of Hypodontia (Second Edition)

### TechBrief (TB)

1. Safeneed for Safety Insulin Needle Disposal
2. EZYkit-PSMA
3. Donanimab in Early Alzheimer Disease



## Continuous Glucose Monitoring for Insulin-requiring Diabetes Patients

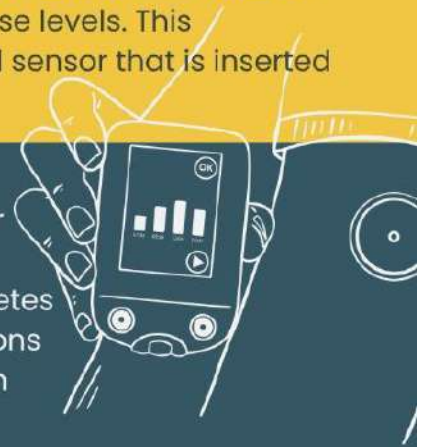
By Dr. Ana Fizalinda Abdullah Sani

### CONTINUOUS GLUCOSE MONITORING SYSTEM (CGMS) Health Technology Assessment

#### Technology Description

Continuous Glucose Monitoring utilises wearable devices to provide real-time monitoring of glucose levels. This technology involves the use of a small sensor that is inserted under the skin.

By continuously monitoring glucose levels, CGM devices provide individuals with diabetes valuable insights on their blood sugar patterns throughout the day and night. This allows for better management with customisation of diabetes treatment plans, as individuals can make informed decisions about their food choices, exercise routines and medication dosages based on real-time data.



CGM significantly enhances glycemic control, particularly in lower severe hypoglycemic events (SHE) in T1DM vs SMBG (self-monitoring blood glucose) (RR = 0.52, 95% CI 0.35 to 0.77,  $p = 0.001$ ). CGM leads to a greater reduction in HbA1c level, in T1DM patients by 0.17% ( $p < 0.003$ ), Improves Time in Range (TIR) & reduces time spent below the range (TBR), especially in T1DM = (5.59%, 95% CI 0.12 to 11.06,  $I^2 = 0\%$ ,  $p = 0.05$ )

### RECOMMENDATION

The CGMS may be offered in aiding glucose monitoring for insulin-requiring especially for Type 1 Diabetes (T1DM) patients. In view of high cost associated with, it may be considered in selected T1DM patients who are at risk or suffering from frequent severe hypoglycaemic events, with data collected on its effectiveness in reducing such events to inform further decision on continuation or expansion of CGM coverage. While patients recognise CGMS as a valuable resource, significant barriers like cost, accessibility and support must be addressed to maximise its potential use in diabetes management.



# TR Brief Highlights

## Extracorporeal Shockwave Therapy (LI-ESWT) for the Treatment of Erectile Dysfunction (ED)

By Mr. Syful Azlie Md Fuzi

### TECHNOLOGY DESCRIPTION

Low-intensity energy from shockwave therapy stimulates new blood vessel growth and increases penile blood flow, which may improve erectile function. Given the controversy and lack of clarity surrounding LI-ESWT, as well as the increasing number of clinicians who are offering the treatment, this review was conducted to evaluate the LI-ESWT to be used as an alternative to standard treatment for ED in Malaysia.

### SAFETY

LI-ESWT was generally safe with low incidence of minor adverse effects and well tolerated by patients during the treatment of ED. However, it is yet to gain approval from the FDA as a treatment option.

### ECONOMY IMPACT / COST

Cost associated to use this treatment is higher than self-administered 20 mg tadalafil on-demand.

### CONCLUSION / POTENTIAL IMPACT

LI-ESWT may be offered to men with mild/moderate vasculogenic ED who do or do not respond to PDE5i, or as a first-line treatment alternative in well informed patients who do not wish or are not suitable for oral vasoactive therapy. The LI-ESWT should only be performed by urologists.

### EFFICACY / EFFECTIVENESS

LI-ESWT versus sham showed modest improvement in erectile function and hardness among patients with ED with an effect that lasted up to 3-6 months. A comparable short-term therapeutic efficacy was shown by the application of LI-ESWT with on-demand sildenafil or tadalafil. Lower energy density, increased number of pulses per treatment and shorter treatment courses resulted in better therapeutic efficacy.



#### CONTACT US:



<https://mymahtas.moh.gov.my>



<https://shorturl.at/mqyLP>



<https://www.facebook.com/MaHTASMalaysia>



<https://mymahtas.moh.gov.my>



<https://shorturl.at/mqyLP>



<https://www.facebook.com/MaHTASMalaysia>



# TR Brief Highlights

## Liquid Biopsy for Early Detection of Solid Tumour and Hematological Malignancies

By Dr. Asliza Ayub

Liquid biopsy is an analysis of tumour material from minimally invasive or noninvasive tests utilising a sample of biofluids including blood, urine or other body fluids

### WHAT IS IT DETECTING?

involves analysis of circulating tumour cells (CTCs), cell-free DNA (cfDNA) or interchangeably known as circulating tumour DNA (ctDNA), circulating tumour RNA (ctRNA), long non-coding RNAs (lncRNAs), messenger RNA (mRNA), microRNA (miRNA), platelets, tumour-derived extracellular vesicles (microvesicles, exosomes) and proteins



### IS IT EFFECTIVE IN DETECTING CANCER?

Retrievable evidence identified several biomarkers of liquid biopsy showing good diagnostic performance in detecting early cancers.

However, positive liquid biopsy (panels/assays for multiple cancer detection) at initial stage may not be able to locate the site/organ or types of cancer.



### HOW ABOUT ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN DETECTING CANCER-SPECIFIC?

#### BREAST CANCER

Limited evidence showed that mRNA has moderate diagnostic performance and cfDNA showed lower diagnostic accuracy.

#### GASTRIC CANCER

For gastric cancer, limited evidence showed cfDNA detected by rtPCR have moderate to good diagnostic performance (AUC ranged from 0.704 to 0.991)

#### COLORECTAL CANCER

limited evidence showed cfDNA detected by rtPCR had good diagnostic performance (AUC: 0.92).



#### LUNG CANCER

Limited evidence showed that cfDNA was unable to discriminate lung cancer with control (AUC:0.496 versus AUC:0.492, respectively)

#### HEPATOCELLULAR CANCER

For hepatocellular cancer, limited evidence showing liquid biopsy (gene panel) had good diagnostic performance (AUC: 0.933)

#### HAEMATOLOGICAL CANCER

For haematological cancer, there was limited evidence on its diagnostic accuracy



### IS IT SAFE?

The blood-based testing required simple venipuncture to obtain the blood sample. There was no retrievable evidence on safety/ adverse events of the procedure from the included studies.

### CONCLUSION

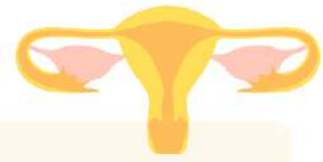
LIQUID BIOPSY APPEARED TO BE PROMISING IN DETECTION OF MULTIPLE CANCERS, HOWEVER, FOR DETECTION OF SPECIFIC CANCER TYPES, LIQUID BIOPSY NEEDS TO BE FURTHER EVALUATED TO DETERMINE ITS DIAGNOSTIC PERFORMANCE BEFORE BEING INTRODUCED INTO OUR HEALTHCARE SYSTEM.





## Ovarian Tissue Cryopreservation (OTC) for Fertility Preservation (FP)

By Dr. Roza Sarimin



### OTC

Involves obtaining ovarian cortical tissue prior ovarian failure by laparoscopy or laparotomy, dissecting the tissue into small fragments, and cryopreserving it using either a slow-freezing technique or vitrification. The cryopreserved ovarian tissue can be reimplanted (ovarian tissue transplantation) to restore natural hormone production and fertility. Patient then can attempt fertility via natural conception or standard ART procedure.

**Advantage: Do not require ovarian stimulation or sperm donor.**

### EFFECTIVENESS

Beneficial effect showed in fertility or reproductive outcomes (live birth rate, pregnancy, miscarriage); and restoring endocrine outcomes by increasing oestrogen, reducing FSH, LH in women with malignant diseases or other medical condition undergoing OTC as fertility preservation treatment.

Indication for OTC varied, common cause include: hematologic malignancy, breast and gynaecology cancers (cervical and ovarian cancer), medical disorder (sickle cell anaemia).

### SAFETY

Safe and well tolerated procedure.

### COST-EFFECTIVENESS

Reasonably cost-effective for women seeking FP prior to receiving gonadotoxic chemotherapy (CEA conducted in US); WTP study (US) it is highly valued.

There is a charge for the tissue-harvesting procedure, freezing and storage, as well as for the transplantation procedure.

### ORGANISATIONAL

Informed consent to be obtained (explaining risk, outcomes, destiny of material in case of non use).

Clinical guidelines recommend its use; ESHRE 2020, ASRM 2019 (Reproductive), NCCN 2023, ESMO 2020, ASCO 2018 (Oncology).

Programmatic requirements for comprehensive FP services require:

- multidisciplinary expert (clinical care team and FP team: cryobiologist, embryologist, pathologist and reproductive surgeons);
- laboratory equipment including infrastructure for cryopreservation;
- trained counsellors

OTC may be offered for female fertility preservation when there is insufficient time for oocyte or embryo cryopreservation or the patient is prepubertal.

Selection of patients for the procedure should be done based on criteria.



# TR Brief Highlights

## Acupuncture as an Adjunct for Subfertility

By Mdm. Maharita Ab Rahman

### 01 EFFECTIVENESS

Acupuncture showed a potential to improve clinical pregnancy rate among subfertile or infertile women who were undergoing IVF procedure when compared to sham acupuncture (low to moderate quality evidence).

For ongoing pregnancy rate, biochemical pregnancy rate, live birth rate and miscarriage, the findings varied.

### 02 SAFETY

Among reported adverse events were itching and pain.

### 03 ECONOMIC IMPACT/COST

No study retrieved on the economic impact. In private practice the service was offered around RM100 per session.

### 04 CONCLUSION/POTENTIAL IMPACT

#### CONCLUSION/POTENTIAL IMPACT

Acupuncture may be used as an adjunct in IVF/ART procedure. However, it must be conducted by certified and registered Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) practitioners with qualifications and experience related to the field of TCM Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

# TechBrief Highlights

## EM Watch

By Mdm. Balqis Abdul Ghani

### EM WATCH

Post-hospital care platform for remote monitoring and consultations of post-discharged patients from Emergency and Trauma Department (ETD). It is a local innovation currently being used in HKL and HSB.

### SIMPLE

Emergency communication platform for ambulance service providers.

### cHEART

Both EM WATCH and SIMPLE are using cHEART, a personalized healthcare apps.



- It reduced the length of stay for patients by up to 25%.
- Reduced bed occupancy rate in the observation ward (OW).
- Increased OW capacity by creating a virtual OW.
- Reduced admission rate from ETD to in-patient ward.
- Saved time and travel costs, and reduced waiting time.

cHEART app – useful, patients and staffs expressed high satisfaction, reliable, easy to use and learn, and offers good quality interaction.

Used blockchain technology to ensure data security for cHEART app.

## Safeneed for Safety Insulin Needle Disposal

By Mdm. Nurfarah Aqilah Ahmad Nizam



01

**SafeNeed** is a **needle remover** and **home sharp bin** created to help patients remove, collect and dispose insulin pen needles at home easily and safely. It is a local innovation by *Bahagian Perkhidmatan Farmasi JKN Melaka*.

SafeNeed helps **prevent needle sharp injury (NSIs)** from occurring among patients, family members and parties involved in managing the disposal of used insulin needles, for example health workers and public waste cleaning workers.

02

03

Feedback from the user found that after using SafeNeed, there were **no more incident of NSIs** to the patients and caretakers. The inventor claimed that the product cost RM3.75 to be produced. However, no selling price is declared.

In short, SafeNeed insulin pen needle remover demonstrated a positive impact on diabetic patients and caretakers by providing better option of insulin pen needle disposal and reducing risk of NSIs.

04

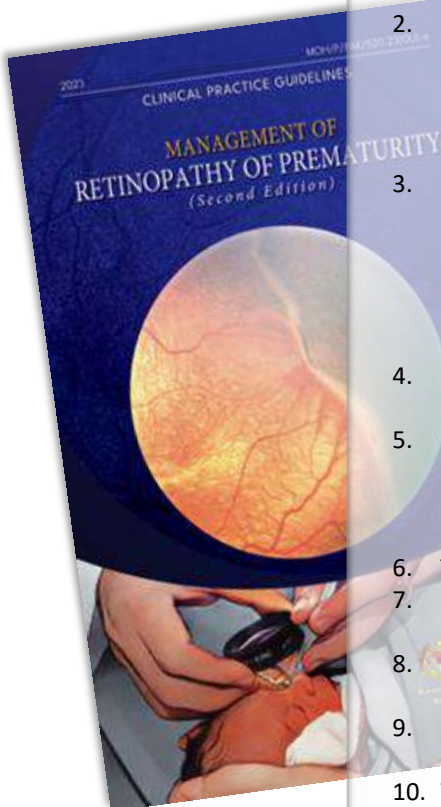




# CPG Key Messages

## Management of Retinopathy of Prematurity (Second Edition)

By Dr. Karen Sharmini Sandanasamy and Mdm. Siti Mariam Mohtar



1. Retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) is a vasoproliferative disease in the developing retinal vessels of premature infants.
2. Significant risk factors for ROP include:
  - prematurity
  - small for gestational age
  - low birth weight
  - supplemental oxygen
3. Screening for ROP should be done for infants with either one of the following criteria:
  - birth weight <1750 g
  - gestational age <34 weeks
  - infants with an unstable clinical course who are at high risk (as determined by the neonatologist or paediatrician)
4. First examination to detect ROP should be done based on post-menstrual age and post-natal age.
5. Preparation for ROP screening include:
  - infants are usually fasted
  - adequate pain relief
  - full eye dilatation
6. Type 1 prethreshold ROP should be treated within 48 hours of diagnosis.
7. Laser photocoagulation should be considered in the treatment of zone II (except posterior zone II) ROP.
8. Intravitreal anti-vascular endothelial growth factor should be considered in zone I ROP and aggressive ROP, and given urgently.
9. Follow-up of infants with or without ROP should be done accordingly with complete eye examination, based on staging and treatment given.
10. Visual rehabilitation should be provided to all visually-impaired children following ROP complication.

## Management of Cancer Pain (Second Edition)

By Dr. Karen Sharmini Sandanasamy and Mdm. Siti Mariam Mohtar



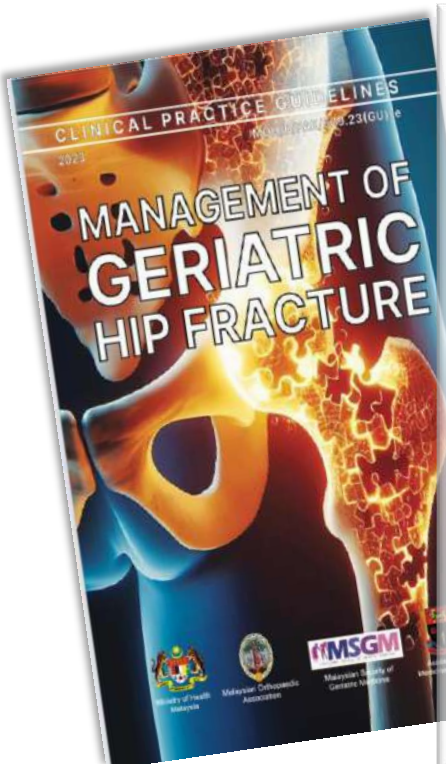
1. Cancer pain is prevalent at 40 - 70% with a third of patients experiencing moderate to severe pain despite treatment and many having their symptoms go unrecognised.
2. Appropriate pain assessment tools should be used regularly on patients with cancer pain and documented accordingly.
3. The treatment of cancer pain should be based on the World Health Organization Analgesic Ladder.
4. Oral morphine is the preferred choice in moderate to severe cancer pain in children and adults.
5. Children and adults with cancer pain on opioid should be prescribed with rescue analgesia if required to ensure optimal pain control.
6. In cancer patients with renal and/or liver impairment, all opioids should be used with caution and at reduced doses and/or frequency.
7. Adjuvant medications may be used in specific cancer pain syndromes while bone targeting agents or radiotherapy may be used in those with painful bone metastasis.
8. Psychoeducation, psychological and spiritual interventions should be considered in managing cancer pain.
9. Patients with poor pain control despite optimal pharmacological therapy should be referred to specialists trained in interventional pain management.
10. Cancer patients should be followed-up for their pain management either in the specialist outpatient clinic, primary care clinic or home.



# CPG Key Messages

## Management of Geriatric Hip Fracture

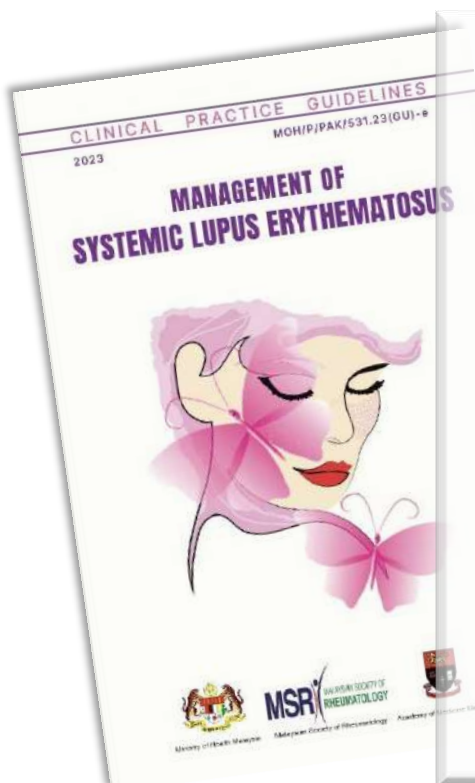
By Dr. Karen Sharmini Sandanasamy and Mdm. Siti Mariam Mohtar



1. Geriatric hip fracture (GHF) is a break in the proximal part of the femur bone and/or around the hip joint following low energy trauma.
2. Geriatric patients with hip pain following a fall need to be assessed to rule out hip fracture.
3. Plain radiographs of anterior-posterior pelvis (with 15° lower limb internal rotation in neutral abduction-adduction) and lateral hip views are the main imaging modalities. However, a normal finding in plain radiograph does not exclude a fractured hip.
4. The definitive treatment for GHF is surgical intervention with the aims to control pain, allow early mobilisation and preserve good functional outcomes.
5. Analgesia should be prescribed adequately in GHF peri-operatively.
6. Frail older patients with hip fracture should receive comprehensive geriatric assessment.
7. Cemented stem should be offered for arthroplasty in displaced neck of femur fracture in geriatric patients.
8. In GHF, cephalomedullary nail (CMN) or extramedullary device may be offered for stable intertrochanteric fracture. CMN is the preferred choice for unstable intertrochanteric fracture.
9. Surgery should be performed within 48 hours of admission in medically stable GHF patients.
10. Early mobilisation should be advocated as early as post-operative day 1 in GHF.

## Management of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

By Dr. Karen Sharmini Sandanasamy and Mdm. Siti Mariam Mohtar



1. Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a chronic autoimmune multisystem disorder with diverse and complex clinical manifestations characterised by inflammation in a variety of organs. It has a relapsing-remitting course with a very unpredictable prognosis and considerable morbidity.
2. Diagnosis of SLE should be based on clinical manifestations supported by laboratory findings following exclusion of alternative diagnoses.
3. All patients with SLE should have clinical assessments of disease activity using validated assessment tools.
4. Patients with SLE should practise sun avoidance and, use protective clothing and broad-spectrum sunscreen with at least sun protection factor 50.
5. Corticosteroids should be used for acute flare in SLE; the dose should be minimised accordingly and discontinued whenever possible.
6. All patients with SLE should be on hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) unless intolerant or contraindicated.
7. Immunosuppressants should be considered as add-on therapy to patients with SLE not responding to HCQ alone or in combination with corticosteroids, or when corticosteroids doses cannot be tapered.
8. Infection in patients with SLE should be identified early and treated accordingly.
9. All women with SLE in the reproductive age group should receive pre-pregnancy counselling.
10. In SLE with pregnancy, HCQ, azathioprine, calcineurin inhibitors and low-dose corticosteroids should be continued.



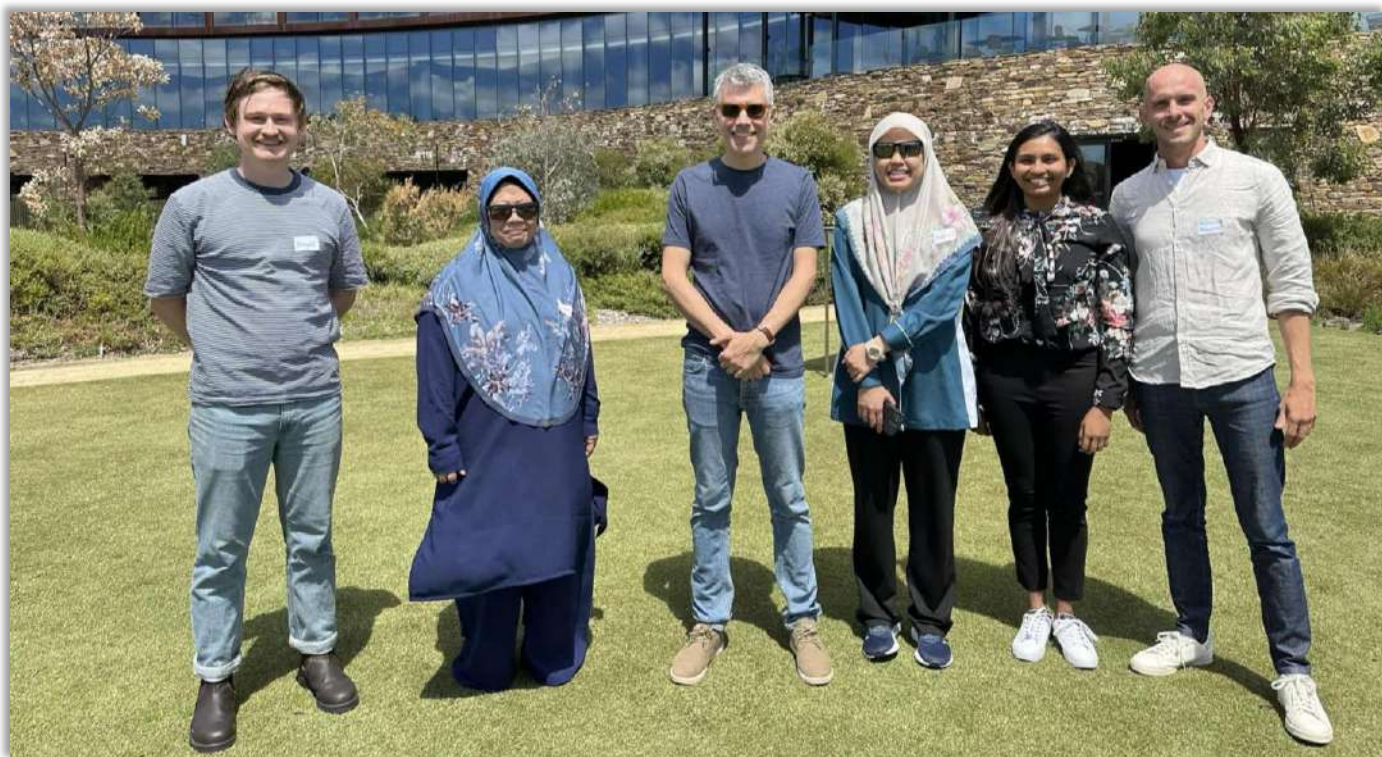
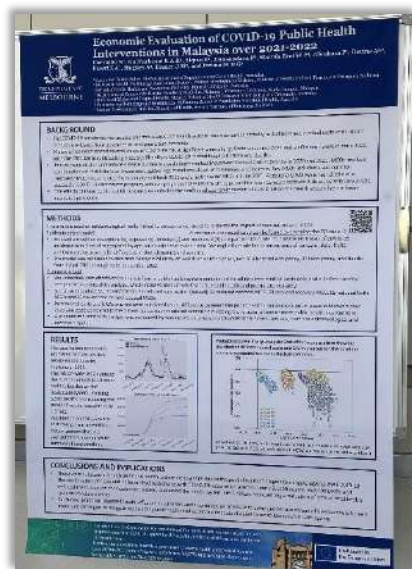
# International Activities

## The Spectrum and Spark Annual Meeting 2023 • 13 to 16 February 2023

By Dr. Izzuna Mudla Mohamed Ghazali

MaHTAS was delighted to accept the invitation to attend this meeting. In this event, MaHTAS had the opportunity to share with the participants on the wonderful project with collaborators from The University of Melbourne and Monash University Australia, entitled "Economic evaluation of COVID-19 Public Health Interventions in Malaysia".

The retrospective model with counterfactual scenarios allowed assessment of past policy decisions and updated the pandemic preparedness plan. Several capacity building initiatives had also been discussed in order to strengthen MaHTAS in infectious disease modelling linked to economic evaluation of public health intervention.





# International Activities

## Seminar: The Economics of COVID-19 From Malaysian Healthcare Perspective • 22 March 2023

By Ms. Nurkhodrulnada Muhamad Lattepi

A hybrid seminar was conducted in collaboration between Ministry of Health (MOH) Malaysia, World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WPRO) and World Health Organization Representative Office for Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Singapore.

This seminar showcased four distinguished speakers who imparted their knowledge to the participants:

- Assoc. Prof. Dr. James Trauer from Monash University Australia, delved into the epidemiological model for pandemic control in Malaysia.
- Assoc. Prof. Natalie Carvalho from The University of Melbourne, focused on the cost of COVID-19 interventions.
- Prof. Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) shared valuable insights about casemix within the context of MOH Malaysia.
- Dr. Amirah Azzeri explored the financial implication of managing COVID-19 at University Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC).

The seminar wrapped up with an insightful panel discussion, expertly moderated by Dr. Izzuna Mudla Mohamed Ghazali, Head of MaHTAS. The panel included Prof. Maznah Dahlui from UMMC and all the other presenters. The MaHTAS expressed gratitude for their collaborative efforts in shaping pandemic policies and decision-making.



**SEMINAR:  
THE ECONOMICS  
OF COVID-19  
FROM MALAYSIAN  
HEALTHCARE  
PERSPECTIVE**

The COVID-19 pandemic has created enormous stress on health systems, economies and societies around the world. Public health and social measures along with vaccinations have been introduced to reduce the burden on health systems and the economy.

This seminar discusses the economics such as cost of disease management and cost-effectiveness of COVID-19 public health interventions.

**22 MARCH 2023  
9:00 - 12:00 SGT/MYT**

**REGISTRATION:**  
Nurkhodrulnada Muhamad Lattepi  
n.lattepi@moh.gov.my

**AGENDA**  
8:00 Registration  
9:15 Opening remarks  
9:30 Presentations  
10:30 Panel Discussion/Q&A  
11:00 Closing remarks  
11:30 Networking

**SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS**

- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Natalie Carvalho  
The University of Melbourne, Australia
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. James Trauer  
Monash University, Australia
- Dr. Izzuna Mudla Ghazali  
Deputy Director, MaHTAS, Medical Development Division,  
Ministry of Health, Malaysia
- Prof. Dr. Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
- Prof. Dr. Maznah Dahlui  
University Malaya Medical Centre, Malaysia
- Dr. Amirah Azzeri  
University Malaya Medical Centre, Malaysia

**FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE CONTACT:**  
Dr. Izzuna Mudla Ghazali (+603-88832288) / izzunam@moh.gov.my  
Nurkhodrulnada Muhamad Lattepi (+603-88832288) / nurkhodrulnada@moh.gov.my



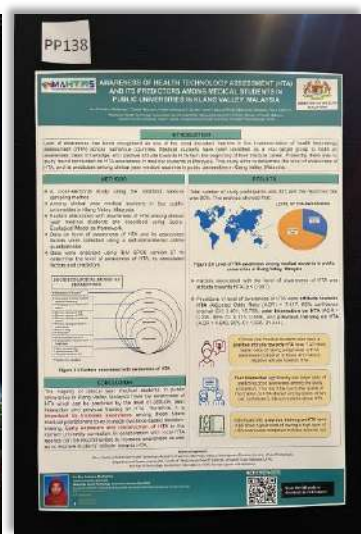


# International Activities

## HTAi Annual Meeting • 24 to 28 June 2023

By Dr. Izzuna Mudla Mohamed Ghazali

The meeting was held at the Adelaide Convention Centre and the theme was “The Road to Policy and Clinical Integration”. The delegates from MaHTAS participated actively in the meeting. They participated in the pre-conference workshops on GRADE and patient and public involvement in HTA. They also attended the HTAi Annual General Meeting and had the opportunity to join International Collaboration Roundtable, hosted by the Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care, which primarily focused on building better connections between government agencies that work with HTA. Dr. Izzuna Mudla Mohamed Ghazali participated as a panelist in three panel sessions namely **‘Towards a Joint Capacity Building through the Family of Health Technology Assessment’** co-organised by HTAi Disinvest and Early Awareness Interest Group and International Health TechScan (i-HTS), **‘HTA Capacity Building in Asia: HTAi Asia Policy Forum 2022 Findings’** organised by HTAi Asia Policy Forum organising committee and **‘Legal Structure for Establishing an HTA Organization: Low and Middle Income Countries Perspective’** organised by the HTAi Developing country Interest Group. Dr. Izzuna also presented on ‘Value of Disinvestment: The Journey from Possibility to Reality’ at an oral session. The delegates listened to the inspiring keynote presentation from Dr. Sam Roberts, the Chief Executive of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, United Kingdom. As the recipient of HTAi Educational Scholarship 2021-2022, Dr. Nur Farhana Mohamad was invited by the HTAi Developing Countries Interest Group (DCIG) to deliver a presentation on her previous research work entitled “Preparing Future Doctors for Evidence-Based Practice: A Study on HTA Awareness and Its Predictors”. She participated in the discussion with DCIG members related to activities to increase awareness in developing countries. During the last day of the annual meeting, she also had the opportunity to present her poster on the related study.



# International Activities

## ASEAN Harmonisation on Reporting Format on Clinical Effectiveness for Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices • 8 September 2023

*By Mdm. Nurul Nashriq Md Hamsin*

The workshop was conducted successfully at the Mercure Living, Putrajaya. It is under the ASEAN Health Cluster 3 (AHC 3) Work Programme for 2021 to 2025, and was led by HTA Philippines and MaHTAS. The objectives to harmonise the reporting format among the ASEAN Member States (AMS) allowing countries to work together and conduct joint assessment on identified topics as well on utilising of reports produced by other AMS. Hence, it fastened informed decision making, reduced duplication, minimised issue on lack of capacity and explored technologies that can be accessed regionally. The workshop was attended by participants from majority of AMS, both physically and virtually. It involved presentations from AMS on HTA work process and reporting formats, as well as lively discussion on common methodology, mechanics and priority topics for joint assessment and, sharing platforms among AMS.



## International Health Tech Scan (iHTS) Autumn Scientific Meeting • 26 to 27 September 2023

*By Dr. Syaquirah Akmal*



Dr. Syaquirah Akmal, the Head of Horizon Scanning Unit attended the Autumn Scientific Meeting, held at St. James Park Stadium, Newcastle, UK, co-hosted by International health TechScan and National Institute for Health Research Innovation Observatory, Newcastle University. Participants included those from the horizon scanning agencies around Europe (UK, Spain, Italy, France), Malaysia and Singapore. With the theme 'Future Signals – The Value of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Insights', members discussed the current trends and future perspectives of AI in knowledge management and evidence synthesis. New developments in Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products and environmental impact of new and emerging health technologies were also learnt. Dr. Syaquirah shared processes and challenges as well as MaHTAS's role in facilitating healthcare innovation through the National HealthTech Hub.





# International Activities

## 10th HTAi Asia Policy Forum Taipei • 1 to 3 November 2023

By Dr. Syaquirah Akmal

Dr. Izzuna Mudla Mohamed Ghazali and Dr. Syaquirah Akmal attended the 10th Asia Policy Forum in Taipei City, Taiwan ROC. This annual forum provided a platform for the HTAi Board of Directors, international experts, senior officers from HTA agencies around Asia region, industries and patient representatives, academia and other stakeholders come together for strategic, innovative and open discussions surrounding the theme of 'Being Bold: How HTA can Foster Innovation in the Asia Region'. It was an honour and proud moment to have our former Director-General of Health, Tan Sri Datuk Seri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah as the keynote speaker sharing his vast experience at the local, regional and global level on 'Policy and Innovation: Your Innovation May Not be My Innovation'. Dr. Izzuna shared the Health Tech Hub initiative under the National Technology Innovation Sandbox programme which was an inter-ministerial collaborative approach to foster health-innovation in Malaysia in one of the panel session. Dr. Syaquirah chaired a discussion group on 'Horizon Scanning - The Role of Early HTA to Inform Product Design to Ensure Technology/Innovation Has Real-world Benefits'. They also had an opportunity to visit the National Health Insurance Administration (NHIA) or the Veterans General Hospital. Information on how HTA can foster Innovation was well discussed in the APF2023 background paper, accessible through: <https://online.pubhtml5.com/xcuo/dmfw/>



# Local Activities

## Training on CPG For Private General Practitioners - a new CPG implementation strategy by MaHTAS

By Dr. Noor Ayuni Bazura Muhamad



GP Training on CPG Management of Major Depressive Disorder (Second Edition)



GP Training on CPG Management of Atopic Eczema



GP Training on CPG Management of Diabetic Foot (Second Edition)

The CPG Unit had embarked on the above-mentioned new and exciting strategy in year 2023 by collaborating with the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) and Academy of Family Physicians of Malaysia (AFPM). The trainings were specially designed by some development group members of the respective CPG to cater the needs of private general practitioners. Each training consisted of three lectures, a case discussion and a quiz and, delivered in a webinar of the following topics:

- Management of Major Depressive Disorder (Second Edition) on 25 Feb 2023
- Management of Atopic Eczema on 3 June 2023
- Management of Diabetic Foot (Second Edition) on 4 Nov 2023

More than 300 participants attended each training and actively participated in the Q&A sessions. With this new CPG implementation strategy, it will hopefully improve the CPG dissemination and uptake among the healthcare providers especially those in the primary care of private sector.

## Real World Evidence (RWE) and Health Technology Assessment

By Ms. Nurkhodruhnada Muhammad Lateppi

Conventional HTA methods predominantly use randomised controlled trials as the main source of clinical evidence. However, incorporating RWE obtained from real-world data (RWD) sources into HTA processes has the potential to offer a more holistic perspective on the effectiveness and safety of interventions in real clinical scenarios, bridging some of the existing evidence gaps.

### a) Policy Development Workshop on the use of RWE for HTA in Malaysia • 19 to 21 March 2023

The workshop brought together participants from various divisions and institutes within the MoH. Esteemed speakers covered RWE from regulatory, research, registry and clinical perspectives. Dr. Izzuna Mudla Mohamed Ghazali adeptly facilitated stakeholder conversations, aiming to enhance clarity and transparency in evidence-based decision-making through RWE guidance.



### b) RWE Workshop for HTA • 3 October 2023



The workshop empowered Malaysian public healthcare stakeholders by leveraging RWE on HTA planning and decision-making. Esteemed speakers highlighted HTA's role in evaluating new medicines, with emphasising efficacy, safety and cost-effectiveness. Participants also acquired knowledge on real world data collection for supporting drug reimbursement decisions.





# Local Activities

## Systematic Review on Evidence-based CPG Development and Implementation Workshops 2023 • 14 to 16 March 2023 and 16 to 18 October 2023

By Dr. Mohd Aminuddin Mohd Yusof

MaHTAS had conducted well the two above-mentioned workshops as part of its annual training. The first workshop was held at Block E1, Ministry of Health and participated by 34 healthcare professionals mainly involved in the development of CPG Management of Myeloproliferative Neoplasms (Second Edition) and Comprehensive Conservative Care in Advanced Kidney Disease. The second one was conducted in Hotel Mardhiyah and Suites, Shah Alam and attended by 43 participants. They were mainly working on new CPG topics of Management of Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Management of Foreign Body Ingestion.

The two trainings aimed at providing knowledge and skills for the CPG Development Groups in developing their evidence-based CPGs using the systematic review approach and other related methodologies. These were based on lectures and group works on retrieval of evidence, critical appraisal, draft writing and implementation strategies. With such trainings, the trainees should be able to work on the CPG projects smoothly under the guidance of CPG Unit staff. This is especially so as CPG development and implementation requires both passion and patience from the CPG teams to complete their noble tasks.



# Local Activities

## Training of Core Trainers (TCT) on CPG Management of Acne Vulgaris (Second Edition), Management of Chronic Hepatitis B in Adults and Management of Obstructive Sleep Apnoea

By Mdm. Siti Mariam Mohtar

MaHTAS had successfully conducted three above-mentioned TCTs in 2023. These trainings consisted of a series of lectures, discussions and test questionnaires covering various aspects of management of the respective medical conditions. The participants were multidisciplinary healthcare providers of relevant specialties from both MoH and Ministry of Higher Education.

The first TCT was on CPG for Management of Acne Vulgaris (Second Edition). It was held at Institut Kanser Negara, Putrajaya on 15 May 2023 and attended by 63 participants. Among the important messages highlighted were severity assessment and effective treatment of acne vulgaris. Inadequate treatment may lead to various physical and psychological complications that will affect quality of life of the affected patients.

The second TCT was conducted on 7 to 8 August 2023 on CPG for Management of Chronic Hepatitis B in Adults at Hospital Cyberjaya. A total of 96 participants nationwide attended the much-awaited training. Among others, it emphasised the importance of targeted screening including on pregnant mothers and appropriate antiviral treatment including for special groups of patients with the chronic infection.

Lastly, a total of 121 healthcare providers attended the TCT on Management of Obstructive Sleep Apnoea (OSA) which was held at Hospital Tunku Azizah, Kuala Lumpur on 27 September 2023. The training stressed on the importance of OSA screening among high-risk group of patients and treatment modalities to be offered to both adults and children of the underdiagnosed medical condition.



TCT on Management of Acne Vulgaris  
(Second Edition)



TCT on Management of Obstructive  
Sleep Apnoea



TCT on Management of Chronic Hepatitis B in Adults





# Local Activities

## HTA Course for Northern Zone • 29 to 31 May 2023

*By Dr. Ana Fizalinda Abdullah Sani*

The course was successfully held in Ipoh, Perak. Participants are selected Deputy State Health Directors (Medical, Public Health, Dental and Pharmacy), Hospital Directors, District Health Officers and officials from Perak, Kedah, Pulau Pinang and Perlis, decision makers and key players in Malaysia northern healthcare institutions. It's hoped that participants had deeper understanding on Health Technology Assessment workprocess to inform decision and advocate its use further in promoting an efficient, equitable and high quality health system. Speakers from MaHTAS lead by Dr. Izzuna Mudla Mohamed Ghazali, delivered exciting topics in the session. We thank you to everyone.

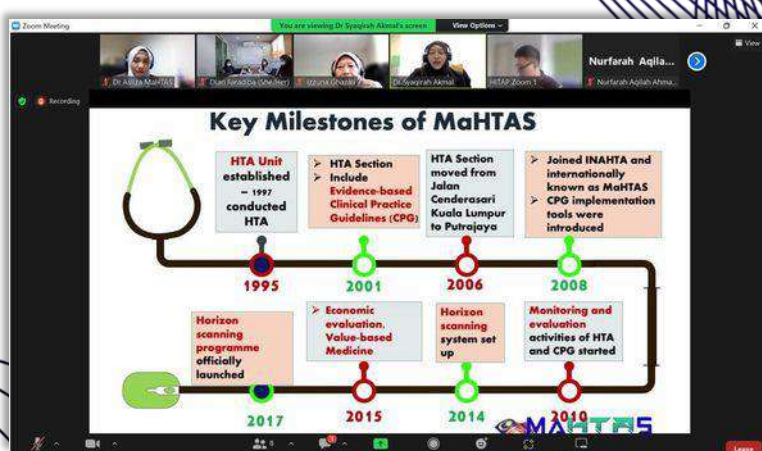


# Sharing Sessions

**MaHTAS-HiTAP • 16 January and 23 May 2023**

*By Mdm. Nurfarah Aqilah Ahmad Nizam*

In 2023, two sharing or learning sessions with Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HiTAP) were attended by the Deputy Director of MaHTAS, Dr. Izzuna Mudla Mohamed Ghazali, the core members of the Horizon Scanning Unit and the HiTAP members. The first session focused on the process involved and challenges in setting up and executing the early warning system in Malaysia. Meanwhile in the second session, MaHTAS shared the scope, institutional capacity, human resources and governance as well as experience in identify of new technology, particularly high-cost drugs, and success stories in adopting such technologies. The exchange-sharing session will facilitate them in developing a framework for horizon scanning in Thailand and initiate more collaboration in the future.





# Sharing Sessions

*By Dr. Ana Fizalinda Abdullah Sani*

**A visit from the Africa Centre for Disease Control Working Group HTA Program (WG-Af-HTAP) • 1 September 2024**

MaHTAS was honoured to meet the delegates from the WG-Af-HTAP as part of their country mission to explore HTA system in different countries. The working group was given the task to help the establishment of HTA institutions in the 55 countries of African continent. During the meeting, both ends recognised the importance of HTA in informing evidence-based decision-making for better healthcare delivery.

MaHTAS shared insights on its respective experiences in implementing HTA programmes and, discussed the challenges faced and the strategies employed to overcome them. The meeting also emphasised the need for capacity building, particularly in terms of institutionalisation of HTA agency, management, co-ordination and communication. Additionally, the meeting served as an opportunity for knowledge exchange and learning of best practices in HTA implementation. Furthermore, the importance of ensuring equal access to healthcare technologies with considering of observed inequalities in health technology need among different socio-economic groups were highlighted.



**MaHTAS and Mahidol University Health Technology Assessment (MUHTA) Program, Thailand • 8 September 2023**

MaHTAS was honoured to welcome the delegates from MUHTA programme for an official visit in Putrajaya. The visit, comprising senior lecturers and post-graduate students from seven countries, focused on exploring perspectives on HTA and the challenges associated with ensuring equal access to healthcare technologies. Sharing an overview of MaHTAS, its mission, role and key activities was a crucial step in welcoming and engaging with the visiting delegation. The MaHTAS Deputy Director, Dr. Izzuna Mudla Mohamed Ghazali's presentation provided valuable context and insights into MaHTAS's role in local healthcare landscape.

ขอบคุณครับ/ค่ะ (KOP KHUN KA)



# MaHTAS Invited as Speakers

By Mdm. Siti Aisah Fadzilah

## CONGRATULATIONS and thank you



### Dr. Izzuna Mudla Mohamed Ghazali

- 13 to 16 February 2023 | *The Spectrum and Spark Annual Meeting 2023*
- 8 March 2023 | *Chairperson for (Digital Health) ISPOR HTA Roundtable Asia Pacific*
- 22 March 2023 | *Moderator for Seminar - The Economics of COVID-19 From Malaysian Healthcare Perspective*
- 25 to 27 July 2023 | *11<sup>th</sup> National Public Health Conference & 1<sup>st</sup> Global Public Health Conference*
- 4 to 7 September 2023 | *The 11th HTAsiaLink Conference 2023*
- 16 to 18 October 2023 | *(Benefit Package) State Deputy Health Director (Medical) and Hospital Directors Summit 2023*
- 3 to 5 December 2023 | *Mount Hood Asia Diabetes Challenge and Society for Medical Decision-making Asia Conference*



### Dr. Roza Sarimin

- 23 February 2023 | *INAHTA Virtual Scientific Workshop*

Title: Identification and Prioritisation of Topics for HTA: Malaysian HTA Section (MaHTAS) Experience



### Dr. Syaquirah Akmal

- 14 March 2023 | *Public Health Innovation Workshop*

Title: Innovation - What's Next?



### Dr. Hanin Farhana Kamaruzaman

- 4 to 7 September 2023 | *The 11th HTAsiaLink Conference 2023*

In the Plenary: Innovative Approaches in Tackling HTA Challenges



### Dr. Erni Zurina Romli and Ms. Nurkhodrulnada Muhammad Lateppi

- 15 March 2023 | *3<sup>rd</sup> National Oncology Pharmacy Conference*

Title: Determining the Value of Oncology Drugs





# Other Activities



## International

**26 to 27 April 2023**

- CIRS Conference: New Ways of Working in Medicines Development - How Is the Regulations and HTA Landscape Evolving?

**24 June 2023**

HTAi 2023  
Annual Meeting

- Snapshots on Patient and Citizen Involvement in HTA in Malaysia. Patient and Citizen Involvement in Health Technology Assessment workshop

**26 June 2023**

HTAi 2023  
Annual Meeting

- Towards a Joint Capacity Building Through the Family of Health Technology Assessment Panel

**27 June 2023**

HTAi 2023  
Annual Meeting

- HTA Capacity Building in Asia: HTAi Asia Policy Forum 2022 Findings Panel
- Value of Disinvestment: The Journey from Possibility to Reality
- Legal Structure for Establishing an HTA Organization: Low and Middle Income Countries Perspective Panel



## Local

**21 February 2023**

Expert Roundtable Discussion on Public Health Intervention Assessment Framework

**13 March 2023**

Health Tech Hub Workshop

**14 March 2023**

Workshop for Public Health Innovation – Innovation: What's Next?

**19 March 2023**

Workshop on the use of Real-World Evidence (RWE) in Health Technology Assessment

**30 March 2023**

Engagement Session with Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council (MHTC)

**23 June 2023**

Critical Appraisal of Economic Evaluation

**24 to 25 June 2023**

Access, Pharmaceuticals and Health Economic Conference (ASPIRE) 2023

**26 September 2023**

Critical Appraisal Workshop for Beginner

**3 October 2023**

Real World Evidence Workshop for Health Technology Assessment

**11 October 2023**

Engagement Session on Health Industry Development

**24 October 2023**

Health Tech Hub Pitching Session with Health Industries

**26 to 28 October 2023**

*Bengkel Pemurnian MyPortfolio CPTK 2023*

**31 October to  
2 November 2023**

Workshop on Accelerating the Adoption of Alternative Technologies for Blood Irradiation



## What's New on OVID?

**11 April 2023**

Speaker: Mr. Allan Finn

Senior Training Manager, Ovid Technologies

## Casemix and DRG in MOH Malaysia

**13 January 2023**

Speaker: Dr. Fawzi Zaidan Ali

Senior Principle Assistant Director, Medical Development Division

## Medical Device Regulatory Framework

**7 July 2023**

Speakers: Mr. Mohd Shahrezza Sirun &

Mr. Amir Azfar Miskon

Senior Assistant Directors, Medical Device Authority

## Training for New Officers: Introduction to the Units

**6 November 2023**

Head of Units, MaHTAS

## Epidemiologist to MaHTAS Reviewer: The Essense Diagnostic Study

**24 November 2023**

Speaker: Dr. Mohd Aminuddin Mohd Yusof

Public Health Physician, MaHTAS

## Introduction to CPG

**27 November 2023**

Speaker: Dr. Noor Ayuni Bazura Mohamed

Senior Principle Assistant Director, MaHTAS

## Observational Study: What, How & Why

**15 December 2023**

Speaker: Dr. Tengku Noor Farhana

Tengku Khalid

Public Health Physician, MaHTAS



## Excellent Service Awards



Mdm. Ku Nurhasni  
Ku Abdul Rahim



Dr. Aidatul Azura  
Abdul Rani



Mr. Syful Azlie  
Md Fuzi

## Section Exhibition



Section Exhibition in adjunct with the Launching Ceremony of the Knowledge Cultivation Session and Meeting Room E-Booking System

## HTAsiaLink Conference 2023



1<sup>st</sup> place for Health Service Research  
(poster category)  
Mdm. Nurfarah Aqilah Ahmad Nizam



3<sup>rd</sup> place for Health Service Research  
(oral category)  
Dr. Nur Farhana Mohamad



3<sup>rd</sup> place for Economic Evaluation  
(oral category)  
Dr. Foo Sze-Shir



People's Choice Award  
(poster category)  
Mdm. Balqis Abdul Ghani

## BookDoc Challenge 10,000 Steps-a-day Volume 1



Mr. Syful Azlie  
Md Fuzi



Ms. Nurkhodruhnada  
Muhamad Lattepi



Mr. Musa Amir

## Minggu EKSA 2023



- The Best Working Room  
Dr. Roza Sarimin
- The Best Working Station  
Mdm. Siti Aisah Fadzilah
- The Best Wash Room  
Disabled Wash Room (Level 4)
- The Best Innovation  
Pumping Spa Corner HTA



- The Best Section
- Poetry Recitation Competition  
Dr. Khairil Idham Ismail and  
Mr. Syful Azlie Md Fuzi
- Recycled Materials Design Competition  
Mdm. Wong Wai Chee

# Editorial Board

## Advisor

*Dr. Izzuna Mudla  
Mohamed Ghazali*

## Editor

*Dr. Mohd Aminuddin  
Mohd Yusof,  
Mdm. Siti Aisah Fadzilah*

## Designer

*Mdm. Fatin Nabila Mokhtar*

## Contributors

*Dr. Mohd Aminuddin Mohd Yusof  
Dr. Roza Sarimin  
Dr. Karen Sharmini Sandanasamy  
Dr. Syaquirah Akmal  
Mdm. Ku Nurhasni Ku Abdul Rahim  
Dr. Ana Fizalinda Abdullah Sani  
Dr. Asliza Ayub  
Dr. Noor Ayuni Bazura Mohamad  
Mdm. Siti Aisah Fadzilah  
Mdm. Maharita Ab Rahman  
Ms. Nurkhodrulnada Muhamad Lettepi  
Mdm. Nurul Nashriq Md Hamsin  
Mdm. Balqis Abdul Ghani  
Mr. Syful Azlie Md Fuzi  
Mdm. Siti Mariam Mohtar  
Mdm. Nurfarah Aqilah Ahmad Nizam*



WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

BEST OF LUCK!

Mdm. Nur Hazlinda Khalidi  
Dr. Khairil Idham Ismail  
Dr. Muhammad Ainuddin Alias  
Dr. Ahmad Tasnim Muslim  
Dr. Amir Hazman Kamarudin  
Dr. Muhammad Arif Izzani Kamarul Nizam  
Dr. Aidil Muhammad Zarif Ahmad

Dr. Mohamed Hirman Abdullah  
Dr. Foo Sze-Shir  
Dr. Aidil Muhammad Zarif Ahmad

