

KERATAN AKHBAR

(Bahagian Canselori)

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Tajuk : Public talk on malaria at Unimas tomorrow

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KUCHING: Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) is organising a public talk titled 'The M&Ms: Malaria, Man, Monkeys & Mosquitoes' tomorrow from 9.30am to 11am.

The university's founding director of the Malaria Research Centre (MRC), Professor Balbir Singh will be delivering the talk.

Malaria in humans was thought to be caused by four species of Plasmodium, until the landmark discovery by Balbir and his

team that there is a fifth species, *P.knowlesi*, commonly found in monkeys that can be transmitted to humans.

Balbir, who has been a 'malaria detective' for almost three decades, will talk about how his team had used molecular tools to discover monkey malaria in humans, how they demonstrated that infections originate from monkeys and also the work they undertook to identify the mosquitoes that are responsible for transmitting

P.knowlesi to humans.

The talk will also include a brief history of this monkey malaria parasite which can cause a life-threatening infection, how it occurs throughout Southeast Asia and has recently become the most common cause of human malaria in Sarawak and Sabah.

All are welcomed to attend the talk.

For more information, contact the Corporate Communications Unit at 082-581214.