

2022-2025 Executive Committee

Fish Health Section-Asian Fisheries Society

Chairperson



Dr. Kua Beng Chu (Malaysia)
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Dr. Kua Beng Chu has been a Research Officer since 1996 and is currently a Deputy Senior Director of Research, Fisheries Research Institute under Department of Fisheries Malaysia. She obtained a Bachelor of Fisheries Science (Aquaculture) and Master of Science (Fish Health Management) from University Putra Malaysia (UPM) in 1993 and 1996 respectively. She completed her PhD in fish parasitology from University of Science, Malaysia (USM) in 2002.

Over the past 27 years, she has been involved in research on fish health, focusing in fish parasite, pathology, disease prevention and management. She has been a Project Leader for more than 10 grants and has written more than 80 technical papers. She has patented six innovations and one of them has won the Commonwealth Secretary-General's Innovation for Sustainable Development Awards in 2021. In addition, she has written a book on Ectoparasites in Aquaculture to assist farmers to overcome the ectoparasite problems, and a series of children books on diseases in fisheries with the purpose of creating awareness to the younger generation.

Vice-Chairperson



Dr. Pravata Pradhan (India)
Principal Scientist
Indian Council of Agricultural
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Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR),
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Dr. Pravata Kumar Pradhan is presently working as Principal Scientist in Fish Health Management and Exotics Division of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR), Lucknow. Prior to his joining at ICAR-NBFGR, he worked as an Assistant Professor in Central Agricultural University (CAU), College of Fisheries (CoF), Agartala from 2002 to 2008. He was identified as one of the Best Teachers for the years 2003-2007 at Cof, CAU, Tripura. Dr. Pradhan has been working extensively on infection with oomycete pathogen *Aphanomyces invadans*. He and his team has been successful in developing treatment for oomycete diseases, which is being used by the fish farmers with promising results. Dr. Pradhan is a member of the India's National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases. His current area of research include host-pathogen interaction, aquatic animal disease surveillance, and fish health management.

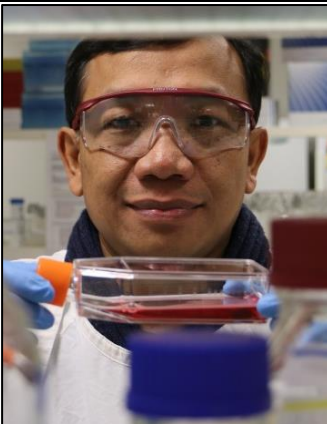
Secretary/Treasurer



Dr. Eduardo M. Leaña
(Thailand/Philippines)
Senior Programme Officer
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Dr. Eduardo Leaña is a Senior Programme Officer of the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific, and currently handling the Aquatic Animal Health Programme and Food Safety, Quality and Certification Programme. His specialization is on Aquatic Animal Health and Marine and Freshwater Mycology. Before joining NACA in April 2010, he has worked at the Fish Health Section of SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department, Philippines (1989-2001), and as Research Fellow at Taiwan Fisheries Research Institute (2002-2003) and National Taiwan Ocean University (2004-2010) in Keelung, Taiwan. Dr. Leaña obtained his PhD degree (Applied Microbiology) at the City University of Hong Kong (1999), his MSc (Fisheries) at the University of the Philippines in the Visayas (1993) and his BSc (Inland Fisheries) at Central Luzon State University (1989). He has co-edited six books and published more than 50 scientific papers on aquatic animal health and aquaculture.

Members:



Dr. Agus Sunarto
(Indonesia/Australia; Immediate
Past-Chairperson)
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Dr. Agus Sunarto is a molecular virologist with PhD from the University of Queensland, Australia, where he studied latency of koi herpesvirus (KHV) in carp. He was head of the Fish Health Research Laboratory within the Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries before joining the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO, Australia) in 2013. Currently, Agus is a senior research scientist in the Genome Engineering Team - exploring the application of gene editing technologies for improving aquaculture productivity and managing aquatic invasive species. Built on his experience on viral biocontrol for carp, Agus initiated and led tilapia biocontrol research <https://invasives.com.au/research/tilapia-biocontrol/>, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocontrol.2022.105020>. He is also a project leader for Sperm Transfection Assisted Gene Editing (STAGE) in zebrafish model <http://people.csiro.au/S/A/Agus-Sunarto>. Agus is a review editor for Frontiers in Microbiology and guest lecturer at Australian (Deakin University and James Cook University) and Indonesian (IPB and UNDIP) universities, where he teaches aquaculture virology, viral biocontrol, and biotechnology. He is based in Geelong, Victoria.



Dr. Motohiko Sano (Japan)

Professor

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Dr. Motohiko Sano is currently a Professor at the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology. His field of specialization is on fish virology and bacteriology. He is in-charge of an OIE Reference Laboratory for Koi Herpesvirus (KHV). Dr. Sano obtained his PhD (1990), MSc (1987) and BSc (1985) in Fisheries degrees at Tokyo University of Fisheries. He previously worked as Director of the Center for Aquatic Genomics, National Research Institute of Fisheries Science (2010-2013), the Aquatic Animal Health Division, National Research Institute of Aquaculture (2008-2010), and Diagnosis and Training Center, National Research Institute of Aquaculture (2007-2008). He is also an active member of the Japanese Society of Fish Pathology (2019-: Vice-President), Japanese Society of Fisheries Science (2020-: Executive Committee member), Japanese Society of Aquaculture Science, Asian Fisheries Society, and European Association of Fish Pathologists.



Dr. Neeraj Sood (India)

Principal Scientist

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Dr. Neeraj Sood is working as Principal Scientist in Fish Health Management and Exotics Division of ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow. He has doctoral degree in Veterinary Pathology. He has 25 years of experience of working in the area of aquatic animal health and has published over 90 research articles. He has worked on understanding host-pathogen interaction of *Aphanomyces invadans* under Newton Fund Global Research Programme. He has been involved in development of new fish cell lines and monoclonal antibodies against fish immunoglobulins. He is the Consortium Principal Investigator of National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases in India.



Dr. Han-Ching Wang (Taiwan)

Distinguished Professor

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Dr. Han-Ching Wang started her career as a shrimp researcher in 2000 as a Master student and continued to obtain her Ph.D. in 2007 from National Taiwan University (NTU), Taiwan. She extensively used proteomics and structural biology to study the pathogenesis of white spot syndrome virus (WSSV) that caused white spot disease (WSD) in shrimps, and focused on shrimp immunity and transcriptomics during her post-doctoral stint at the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology. She joined National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) in 2008 and became a Distinguished Professor by 2020. Apart from research, she currently holds the University Library Curator position at NCKU (2019-2023). Dr. Wang and her team have published over 70 SCI research papers since 2008.

Dr. Wang is recognized as an outstanding young researcher and has received several awards from her university, as well as from regional/international associations. Dr. Wang currently an expert for OIE reference laboratories for white spot disease (WSD) and acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (AHPND), and is highly active in several international and regional organizations.



Dr. Siow-Foong Chang (Singapore)

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Dr. Siow-Foong Chang started work at the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) of Singapore where he served in various operational and strategic roles responsible for control of zoonotic diseases, disease surveillance, food safety and veterinary public health at national and regional levels. He was involved with control of major zoonotic disease outbreaks affecting the region, including Nipah virus, H5N1 avian influenza and H1N1 swine influenza. In 2010, he joined MSD as Site Lead for the MSD Animal Health aquatic animal disease research facility in Singapore, where he managed R&D activities focused on fish diseases and fish vaccine development for warm water aquaculture. After 7 years in MSD, he returned to public sector as Group Director responsible for animal health and welfare policies, planning, and programmes.

Dr. Chang graduated from Glasgow University with a degree in Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, and a MSc degree in control of infectious disease in animals from the Royal Veterinary College in London. His professional interest is focused on disease control, epidemiology and aquatic animal health, with special interest in fish viral diseases.



**Ms. Varinee Panyawachira
(Thailand)**

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Ms. Varinee Panyawachira is a Fishery Biologist of the Aquatic Animal Health Research and Development Division (AAHRDD). She is the Head of the Histology and Mycology Laboratory since 2004. Her laboratory is an OIE Reference Laboratory for Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (EUS) and she was appointed to be an OIE Expert on Infection with *Aphanomyces invadans* from 2013-2018. Her main professional focus is on Aquatic Animal Health with specialization on fish pathology, farm export standard and health certificate issuance system.

Ms. Varinee finished her MSc in Fisheries Science (2004) and BSc in Fisheries (1996) degrees at Kasetsart University.



Dr. Dang Thi Lua (Vietnam)

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Assoc. Prof. Dang Thi Lua is currently the Deputy-Director of Research Institute for Aquaculture No.1 (RIA1), a national research institute under Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) in Vietnam. She has been an aquatic animal health specialist for more than 25 years and currently responsible as the leader of research group on aquatic animal diseases at RIA1. She obtained her PhD degree (Applied Marine Biosciences) in 2008 and her MSc (Aquatic Biosciences) in 2005 at Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology (TUMSAT), Japan, and her BSc degree (Aquaculture) in 1998 at Nha Trang University of Fisheries, Vietnam. She also took postdoctoral fellowship program at TUMSAT during 2008-2010 and became a supervisor to many students.

Dr. Dang Thi Lua has been an active manager and member of number of research and development projects related to her fields funded by international and national authorities. She published a book on diagnostics of aquatic animal diseases and more than 70 scientific papers on aquatic animal health and aquaculture.



Dr. Qingli Zhang (P.R. China)
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Dr. ZHANG received his Ph.D. in Marine Biology from the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2007, and devoted himself on aquaculture diseases control. He invented on-site rapid detection kit for aquatica animal pathogens and >11,000 kits have been applied in over 10 countries. He identified three shrimp viruses, and proven the prevalence of covert mortality nodavirus (CMNV) in Asia and Latin America, as well as CMNV's cross species transmission in marine fishes. Recently, Dr. Zhang identified the pathogenic agent (VpTPD) of an emerging translucent post-larva disease (TPD), which caused closure of 50% *Penaeus vanmamei* nursery along the coastal areas of China in 2020. He has been designated as Expert of the OIE Reference Laboratories for white spot disease, and Expert of Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) for VCMD from 2020.

Observers:



**Dr. Jiraporn Jarungsriapisit
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Dr. Jiraporn Jarungsriapisit finished her Bachelor of Science in Biology at Prince of Songkhla University (Thailand) in 2006, Master of Science in Aquatic Pathobiology at the University of Stirling (United Kingdom) in 2009, and Doctor of Philosophy on Fish Diseases at University of Bergen (Norway) in 2017. She is currently a fishery biologist of the Aquatic Animal Health Research and Development Division (AAHRDD) of Thai Department of Fisheries (DoF). Her group is responsible for disease control of aquatic animals, aquatic animal health certificates, and requirements for import and export of live aquatic animals. Dr. Jiraporn's research interests and experiences are on fish cell culture and application of fish cell line to fish health research.



Dr. Desrina (Indonesia)

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Faculty of Fisheries and Marine
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Dr. Desrina obtained her doctoral degree from Aquaculture and Fisheries Department, Wageningen University, The Netherlands. She is a fish pathologist with 20 years- experience as a lecturer and researcher in the field of fish diseases and fish health management. Her areas of interest are bacterial diseases of fish especially Vibriosis and role of polychaetes as carrier of the white spot syndrome virus (WSSV) and of *Enterocytozoon hepatopenaei* (EHP) in shrimp ponds. Currently, she is investigating blood cockle health assessment for seed production. She has been the principal investigator of research in above areas funded by Indonesian Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education through various funding schemes, Diponegoro University and JSPS core to core Project. She is also active in the Indonesian Network of Fish Health Management and currently the Head of Aquaculture Department, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences, Diponegoro University, Indonesia.



Dr. Stephen Pyecroft (Australia)

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Dr. Stephen Pyecroft is a Senior Lecturer in veterinary pathology at the University of Adelaide. He has worked in diagnostic veterinary pathology and research of animal disease for most of his 38-year veterinary career. He holds a PhD from the University of Queensland where he defined systemic granulomatosis in goldfish and is a member by examination of both the chapters of Pathobiology and Aquatic Animal Health of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientist. His research interest is wide in scope including stem cell research in Tasmanian Devils, development of clinical biochemistry reference ranges in Southern rock lobsters and Pacific oysters, and Black soldier fly production for fish nutrition. He has supervised PhD and Honours (by research) candidates, published in peer reviewed journals and textbooks, and regularly reviews journal submissions for publication. An active promotor of evidence-based science his passion is aquatic animal health and management through sustainability.



Dr. Syed Shabih Hassan (India)
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Dr. Syed Shabih Hassan is working as Scientist (Fisheries) in the College of Fisheries, GADVASU, Ludhiana (Punjab) India and specialize on fisheries resource management, aquatic ecology, biodiversity, veterinary parasitology/immunology and disease diagnosis. Before joining in College of Fisheries in 2007, he has worked as Research Fellow in ODA (UK) funded MRAG/RRAG, Imperial College, London sponsored project (1993-1996), USWWF, (USA) sponsored project (1996-1998), as Project Coordinator of several national and international funded projects. Dr. Syed Hassan earned his graduate degree from Magadh University (Bodh Gaya) in 1989, his Diploma in Pisciculture from AMU, Aligarh in 1991 and his Masters (1993) and Doctoral (2000) degrees from Patna University, Patna (1993). He was involved in river, reservoir, wetland ecology & biodiversity, capture and culture fisheries, livestock disease diagnosis, parasitological/immunological research, and socio-environmental awareness works. He has published 55 scientific articles.



Dr. Naveen Kumar B.T. (India)
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Dr. Naveen Kumar B.T. is presently working as Assistant Professor in the College of Fisheries, Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana, Punjab, India. He formerly held positions as an Associate Scientist at Abexome Biosciences Private Limited in Bangalore, Karnataka, and as an Assistant Professor (contractual) in the College of Fisheries at Mangalore, Karnataka. He has more than eight years of experience in the management of aquatic animal health. For the purpose of detecting pathogens in finfish and shellfish at the farm level, his team has developed monoclonal antibody based diagnostic kits for farmers. Additionally, he developed vaccine against the *Aeromonas hydrophila* and nanoparticle based immunostimulant. As part of India's National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases, he is currently responsible for the Punjab state. Additionally, Dr. Kumar B.T. and his team are working on developing on-site diagnostic kit for shrimp pathogen and vaccine for brood fish and understanding the maternal immunity response in the offspring.