



Profile of Persatuan SLE Malaysia

What is SLE?

Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), or Lupus for short is a life-long, life-threatening autoimmune disorder that occurs when the body's immune system turns against its own tissues for reasons that are still unknown. It can cause severe damage to the body's tissues and organs i.e. the joints, skin, kidneys, heart, lungs, blood vessels, brain, etc. 90% of SLE patients are women of child-bearing age.

Background

Persatuan SLE Malaysia (PSLEM) is registered with the Registrar of Societies as a non-profit, charitable organisation set up to provide social and psychological support for people suffering from Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE). Starting with a small group of 10 doctors and patients in 1994, PSLEM today has more than 2,600 members all over Malaysia, comprising SLE patients, their families and healthcare professionals.

From squatting in a doctor's office in Hospital Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, PSLEM today operates from its Secretariat and Information & Counselling Centre in Petaling Jaya, Selangor near to the Universiti Malaya Medical Centre. A Sandakan Chapter was launched in 2004, a Penang Chapter in 2008 with its own counseling centre near Hospital Pulau Pinang, a Kuching Chapter in 2009 and a Johor Chapter in January 2010.

PSLEM's work is mainly funded by corporate donors and individual well-wishers. PSLEM is recognised by the government as a charity body and donations to the association are tax exempted.

Executive Committee 2012/2014

PSLEM's Executive Committee (Exco) consists of SLE patients, their family members and friends, and medical professionals who volunteer their time and expertise. Exco Members are elected every two years to plan and carry out PSLEM's public awareness, patient welfare, and fund-raising programmes.

Office Bearers

President	:	Dr. Cheah Tien Eang
Vice-President	:	Ms. Chee Siew Lian
Honorary Secretary	:	Ms. Shatiffah Mohd Shah
Honorary Treasurer	:	Ms. Radha Menon

Medical Advisors

Prof. Datin Dr. Norella Kong
Dr. Morris Wo Chee Yuen
Dr. Heselynn Hussein

Counselling Advisors

Prof. Dr. M. Parameshvara Deva
Dr. Jenny M.P. Deva
Ms. Valerie Jaques

Executive Secretary : Ms. Cecilia Wong Ting Ting

Committee Members

Assoc Prof Dr. Cheng Fan Fah
Assoc Prof Dr. Esha Das Gupta
Ms. Siti Sarah Bt Abdul Razak

Nursing Sister Ong Bee Lee
Ms. Liew Nyet Nyuen
Ms. Helen Yong Wai Yuen

Sub-Committee Members

Assoc Prof Dr Ng Chin Teck
Dr. Fariz Yahya
Dr. Yeap Swan Sim
Ms. Loh Pui Yee
Ms. Lucy Goh Kim Hong
Dr. Fauziah Bt Raji

Ms. Winnie Low Wai Kuen
Ms. Cheah Geik Kim
Ms. May Yap Mui Lee
Ms. Chong Chia Chee
Ms. Harman Mohan Kaur
Ms. Lim Wan Chin

State Representatives

Johor – Dr. Pagalavan Letchumanan
Melaka – Ms. Jennifer Yu Swee Mee
Perak - Ms. Magdelene Leong Yeow Yit
Pulau Pinang - Dr. Tan Bee Eng

Sabah - Ms. Monita Cheong Wan Yee
& Ms. Jean Chan Chok Fun
Sarawak – Dr. Teh Cheng Lay
Terengganu - Ms. Siti Nurbaya Zakaria

Members of PSLEM's Executive Committee are allocated duties under six Sub-Committees:

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|---------------------------------|--|
| 1) Corporate Care Sub-Committee | 4) Volunteers Sub-Committee, |
| 2) Social Events Sub-Committee | 5) Patients Support Sub-Committee, and |
| 3) Education Sub-Committee | 6) Editorial Sub-Committee. |

Our Activities

We work in partnership with the corporate sector and the public to raise funds for our various activities:

- The Lupus Information & Counselling Centre in Petaling Jaya, which also operates a 12-hour SLE helpline for SLE patients and members of the public all over Malaysia.
- PSLEM's SLE patient support groups in Pulau Pinang, Johor Bahru, Kuching and Sandakan. PSLEM targets to have at least one patient support group in each state within the next 10 years.
- Training patients who are coping well as SLE para-counsellors to be on duty to provide free counselling services at major hospitals where SLE patients receive treatment.
- Patient education programmes to provide patients and their family members with better coping skills: group therapy sessions, talks, public forums, and family camps.
- Public awareness programmes. With greater public awareness, SLE sufferers will be more likely to get an earlier diagnosis, thereby improving their chances of survival.
- Financial assistance for needy patients who have to undergo joint replacement and cataract operations due to the side effects of their corticosteroid treatment. The SLE Fund subsidises up to 90% of the cost of the patient's prosthesis or lens implant.

Future Plans

As the only organisation in Malaysia set up to help people suffering from SLE, PSLEM has to work towards extending its reach to every State to benefit all SLE sufferers in the country. Besides its Secretariat in Petaling Jaya, PSLEM is targeting the setting up of five Regional Counselling Centres as follows:

- In Georgetown, Penang to cover the northern region
- In Johor Bahru, Johor to cover the southern region
- In Kuantan, Pahang to cover the East Coast States of Peninsular Malaysia
- In Kota Kinabalu to cover the State of Sabah
- In Kuching to cover the State of Sarawak

How you can support us

- Donate – we issue tax exemption receipts. You may donate to Persatuan SLE Malaysia via CIMB Cares under CIMB Clicks (www.cimbclicks.com.my).
- Sign-up as a volunteer – so we could have a pool of volunteers whom we could call upon to assist in our various activities. Call us at tel. 03-7957 7672 or email us at pslem@streamyx.com / pslemhq@gmail.com

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Executive Secretary : Ms Cecilia Wong

HELPLINE No. 603-7957 7672 (From 9am to 9pm daily)