

## Re: Dengue Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices Among Primary Care Physicians in Singapore

### Dear Editor,

We compliment the team of healthcare providers in Singapore for their meticulous assessment of primary care physicians in Singapore on their dengue-related knowledge, attitudes and practice.<sup>1</sup> A comprehensive assessment of the different level healthcare providers involved in the management of dengue cases would be possible through an evaluation of their appreciation of the basics of biology of mosquitoes that are responsible for the spread of the dengue virus.

The biology of the vector responsible for dengue fever *Aedes aegypti* or *Aedes albopictus* is intriguing. *Aedes aegypti* is an early morning or late afternoon biter, but will also bite at night if there is sufficient artificial light. *Aedes aegypti* is particularly fond of human ankles when it is searching for a good spot to bite.<sup>2</sup> *Aedes albopictus* is a very aggressive day time biter, with peaks generally occurring in the early morning and late afternoon. It is a container inhabiting species which lays its eggs in any water containing receptacle in urban, suburban, rural and forested areas.

Generally, anti-mosquito measures are practised by individuals during the night with the use of repellents, insecticides or mosquito nets. Even after such a meticulous nocturnal care taking, one could still be exposed to bites from the *Aedes* family of mosquitoes which transmit not only dengue but also chikungunya and yellow fever. Therefore, daytime care is more essential to prevent one's self from the dengue carrying mosquitoes.

### REFERENCES

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2. Novak R. The Asian tiger mosquito, *Aedes albopictus*. *Wing Beats* 1992;3:5.

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