



*Long Live the King*  
*60th Anniversary Celebrations of His Majesty's*  
*Accession to the Throne*



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Newsletter

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# The King and Medicine

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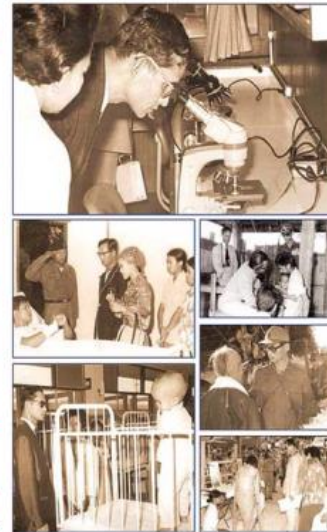
Health and medicine was a prominent feature in the childhood of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej. His father, HRH Prince Mahidol of Songkla, was a pioneering doctor who dedicated his life to the plight of the rural poor. He initiated numerous healthcare programmes that brought medical care to rural areas. His mother, HRH the Princess Mother, was a trained nurse who vigorously supported her husband's aims. After the death of Prince Mahidol, the Princess Mother continued this work and started numerous public health programmes.

King Bhumibol followed in his parents' footsteps as he has been an ardent advocate of health and medical concerns. Throughout his reign, His Majesty has made many visits to rural areas with teams of doctors and nurses. By taking mobile medical teams with him, he helped to change the attitude of healthcare authorities, who learned how important it was

to extend public healthcare and medical treatment throughout the nation. It was realized that volunteers, health workers and nurses could play an important role in primary community healthcare. Additionally, His Majesty was instrumental in encouraging villagers to care for themselves; by first adopting basic preventive measures rather than waiting until they fell ill.

King Bhumibol has played a direct role in assisting in the eradication of several widespread diseases. After WWII, the country's most dreaded disease was TB and there were no sanitariums. His Majesty took a personal interest in establishing the Anti-Tuberculosis Society to help prevent the spread of the disease. He was also instrumental in eradicating leprosy. In 1955, leprosy patients could be observed on the streets; thus, His Majesty established the Rajaprasanna Foundation, which worked to reduce the incidence of leprosy. Similarly, His Majesty played a significant role in eliminating polio from Thailand. Thus, apart from donations to set up the Polio Welfare Fund and to construct the Vajiralongkorn Tarabambat Building at the King Mongkut Hospital, His Majesty spearheaded the drive to raise funds for vaccines.

In 1952, His Majesty established the Blood Service Centre which developed into the National Blood Service Centre in 1969. At present, the centre has branches throughout the country, saving thousands of lives each year. Relatedly, His Majesty expanded the work of the Red Cross to cover the whole country. In addition to King Bhumibol's commitment to addressing current healthcare needs, His Majesty supports the development of Thai medical professionals by sending them abroad for further study using the Ananda Mahidol Fund. As His Majesty said during a visit to a tuberculosis treatment centre (April 6, 1950) to the then Health Minister Luang Payung Vejchasart, "If you lack any medicine I will find it for you. I want to see Thai medicine progress."





## Distinguished Guests

Professor Motoshige KUDO from Tokyo Medical University came to the Faculty of Medicine between April 24–25, 2006, as a guest speaker and consultant for the project *"Enhancing the Potential of Learning and Teaching to Medical Students and Residents"* by invitation of the Department of Pathology. Discussions on the possibility of academic collaborations between our two institutions were held with Dean Professor Wiroon Laupattarakasem, the Associate Dean for Hospital Affairs and Director of Srinagarind Hospital Professor Plaake Lumbiganon and Assistant Dean for International and Special Affairs Associate Professor Chaichana Sinkuakool.



Dearest Memories: Professor Motoshige KUDO visits Faculty of Medicine, KKU between 24 and 29 April 2006

May 10, 2006, Ms. Thiden Heng, Mr. Savooun Va and Mr. Si Tark, students from the Khmer Foundation for Justice, Peace and Development, Cambodia, attended a lecture on the 'Medical Doctor (MD) Programme' by the Head of the International Relations Section (Mrs. Duangsamorn Chankwang). In the afternoon, they attended presentations by the elective students from Hong Kong University.



On April 25, 2006, Mr. Saw Aung Thu, Mr. Khin Maung Shwe, Mr. Thaug Aye and Mr. Saw Min Oo, WHO Fellowship Recipients from Myanmar visited the Faculty to attend special presentations on 'Hospital Equipment Repair and Maintenance' at the Engineering and Maintenance Section. They also met with the Dean.



May 18, 2006, Professor Curtis A. Johnson and Professor Connie Kraus from the School of Pharmacy, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA, came to the Faculty for a study visit to the Pharmacy Service Section.



May 25, 2006, Professor Michael S. McGrath from University of California-San Francisco devoted time as a special speaker on 'Macrophage Targeted Diagnostic and Therapeutic Approaches to Chronic Human Diseases' and provided guidance on research being done by postgraduate students in the Faculty.



June 29, 2006, **Dr. Rosemary Quirk, Internal Medicine Coordinator**, and **Dr. Jon White, Pediatrics Coordinator** met the Heads and staff of the Departments of Medicine and Paediatrics in order to report on the outcomes of the programme of elective exchange students and residents between the Faculty of Medical Sciences, National University of Laos, Lao PDR, and the Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University, Thailand.

**Professor Anthony J. Hedley** from the **University of Hong Kong** visited the Faculty of Medicine June 2, 2006, to follow up the progress of the establishment of a new Emergency Medical College and to coordinate a visit to the University of Hong Kong by Thai medical administrators and staff **June 13-16, 2006**.



## MEDICAL STAFF AND STUDENT NEWS

On the occasion of **60th Anniversary Celebrations of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne**, the Faculty of Medicine held a ceremony to honour His Majesty on June 9, 2006. Professor Wiroon Laupattarakasem, Dean of the Faculty, presided. All the medical staff, professors, residents and medical students lit candles as a blessing to His Majesty, sang the Royal Anthem and cheered "**Long Live the King**". The Faculty held an exhibition of the King's model development projects, life history, philosophy and practice of working and notable speeches, for medical staff, students and patients. In addition, medical students played musical instruments and sang songs written by His Majesty.



June 22, 2006, professors, doctors, medical students and residents attended the 2006 "Wai Kru Ceremonies" at the Mor Din Dang Meeting Room at the Faculty of Medicine. The Wai Kru Ceremony is a Buddhist tradition, held annually, to pay respect to teachers and professors. The ceremony takes place throughout the nation at the beginning of each academic year. Students pay respect by presenting teachers with: (1) the eggplant flower (DOK MA KHUE), symbolizing respect because when the tree blooms, its branches hang down just as the arms of a student should do in the presence of a teacher; (2) Bermuda grass (YA PRAEK), representing patience or perseverance because, though withered, the grass is still very much alive; (3) popped rice (KHAO TOK) representing discipline because the rice is placed in a pan and heated until it pops; and, (4) the needle flower (DOK KEM), symbolizing sharpness or cleverness.



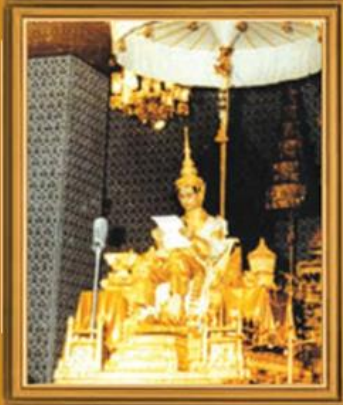
Between June 17 and 19, 2006, KKU students from six faculties (viz., Medicine, Nursing, Associated Medical Sciences, Public Health, Dentistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences) held the **2006 Gross Anatomy Cadaver (Kru Yai) Funeral Ceremony under Royal Patronage** at the KKU 25th Anniversary Building. Kru Yai is the Thai word for "great teacher"--- that is, cadavers donated for medical science.

This annual ceremony is held to pay respect to those who donated their bodies so students could learn.





## 60th Anniversary Celebrations of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne



In 2006, Thais are celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of His Majesty the King's accession to the throne. The King's sixty years on the throne make him the longest-reigning, living monarch. He is widely known as one of the hardest working monarchs as he has devoted his life to the Thai people, to better their lives. On the day of his coronation on June 9, 1946, His Majesty pronounced the traditional Oath of Accession: "We will reign with righteousness for the benefit and happiness of the people of Siam."

His Majesty's words continue to resound, as his reign has been characterized by development, education and reform. He has worked tirelessly and recorded numerous significant achievements. All Thais know and gratefully appreciate his dedication for the benefit and happiness of the people.

### Highlights of the 60th Anniversary Celebrations of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne



Between June 8-13, 2006, Thais commemorated the 60th Anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Accession to the Throne. **On June 8, 2006**, a religious ceremony was held at Amarin Winitchai Throne Hall to celebrate the 60th anniversary of His Majesty's reign. This ceremony was broadcast to the nation.

**June 9** was a special national holiday and hundreds of thousands of people wore royal-yellow shirts and waved royal-yellow flags. Many had camped out overnight, hoping to catch a glimpse the monarch, who would attend a royal ceremony of merit-making, dedicated to past kings. The crowd would also pay tribute to His Majesty in front of the Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall.



When the King appeared on the balcony to greet the people at 11:24 am, the crowd gave a deafening cheer, "Long Live the King" and sang the Royal Anthem.

**On June 10, 2006**, there was a ceremony to bestow titles upon 69 monks while 99 other monks chanted blessings and lit sacred candles as a blessing for His Majesty's 60th year on the throne at Amarin Winitchai Throne Hall at Bangkok's Royal Plaza.





The program on **June 12** started at 4:00 p.m. at the Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall within the Grand Palace, where royalty—an emperor, kings, queens, a sultan, a sheik and royal representatives from 25 nations—attended the grand ceremony to offer their congratulations to His Majesty. Following the ceremony, His Majesty and the royal guests

proceeded to the Royal Thai Navy Convention Hall, where His Majesty opened an exhibition featuring royal activities and projects over the 60-year reign. After that, a spectacular royal barge procession—comprising 52 barges—was presented. On the last day, **June 13**, His Majesty hosted a banquet for the foreign monarchs and



royal representatives at the Chakri Maha Prasat Throne Hall, culminating in the grandest fireworks display ever held in Thailand—comprising some 5,000 sets of fireworks.

## Photo Gallery





# Foreign Elective Students and Residents from Overseas



**Mr. Takeshi OKADA** and **Mr. Ryuichiro TANI**, 6<sup>th</sup>-year medical students from **Mie University School of Medicine, Japan** completed elective student exchange program at the Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine between April 10 and May 5, 2006.



**Dr. Vanita DHARAN**, a 3<sup>rd</sup>-year medical resident (OB&GYN) from **Magee-Women's Hospital, the University of Pittsburgh, Medical Center, Pennsylvania, USA**, completed a training program at the Clinical Epidemiology Unit from April 17-28, 2006 and a WHO trial program from May 1-5, 2006.



**Miss CHOW Chi Kwan, Jasmine**, a 5<sup>th</sup>-year medical student from the **University of Hong Kong**, completed an elective student exchange program at the Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, between May 1 and 13, 2006.



**Miss Juri HASEGAWA**, a 5<sup>th</sup>-year medical student from **Mie University School of Medicine, Japan**, completed an elective student exchange program at the Department of Medicine between May 15 and June 7, 2006.



**Miss Aoi HAYASAKI**, a 5<sup>th</sup>-year medical student from **Mie University School of Medicine, Japan**, completed an elective student exchange program at the Department of Surgery (General Surgery) between May 15 and June 7, 2006.



**Resident from the Faculty of Medical Sciences, National University of Laos, Lao PDR, with assistance from Health Frontiers and Case Western Reserve University, USA**

Name	Department	Period
Dr. Leeyer XAYASANG	Pediatrics	01/Jun/06-30/Jun/06
Dr. Ketmaly PHANHSOUK	Pediatrics	01/Jun/06-30/Jun/06
Dr. Pome HOMSINGHAK	Pediatrics	01/Jun/06-30/Jun/06
Dr. Sonephet SAYSOULIGNO	Pediatrics	01/Jun/06-30/Jun/06
Dr. Ang SIHAVONG	Pediatrics	01/Jun/06-30/Jun/06
Dr. Naly BOUNSAVATH	Medicine	01/Jun/06-30/Jun/06
Dr. Sona SIAPAOSONG	Medicine	01/Jun/06-30/Jun/06
Dr. Anouxay SAXPRASEUTH	Medicine	01/Jun/06-30/Jun/06



## Academic Conferences

**Professor Pisake Lumbiganon**, Associate Dean for Hospital Affairs and Director of Srinagarind Hospital, and **Assistant Professor Watchara Boonsawat**, Associate Dean for Research Affairs, attended "The 7th World Asthma Exhibition" held at the Friendship Meeting Room, Faculty of Medicine, May 2, 2006. The exhibition encouraged people to protect themselves from Asthmatic Disease. Activities included academic discussions on asthma and interviews with asthmatic patients.



May 29, 2006, **Assistant Professor Charoon Jetsrisuparb**, Associate Dean for International and Special Affairs, presided over the opening ceremony of the practical training session on "Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)" at the Friendship Meeting Room, Faculty of Medicine. The training was to strengthen the knowledge and experience among doctors and nurses working in acute emergency situations. The lecture was given by Associate Professor Thepakorn Sathitkammanee, Head of the Department of Anesthesiology, Faculty of Medicine.

On May 29, 2006, **Associate Professor Somsak Tiamkao**, Deputy Director of Srinagarind Hospital, gave a speech in recognition of "World Stroke Day". The objective of our Faculty's activities was to make people aware of strokes and cerebrovascular disease, which can result from high fat and low fruit and vegetable diets and lack of exercise. In addition, **Assistant Professor Nichanun Punyaek**, from the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, presented information to all participants.



## Social Events

On April 12, 2006 the Faculty of Medicine held "Songkran Day 2006" with a parade of doctors, medical staff and medical students dressed in traditional Thai outfits. The Faculty awarded prizes to dressed most beautifully. One of the important customs of the festival is taking occasion to pay respect to the Faculty's administrators, professors and elderly medical statepersons through **ROD NAAM DUM HUA** ceremony, (anointing with Songkran water). This year, Songkran fell between April 13 and 15, 2006



## History of Thai New Year or Songkran Festival



**Thai New Year** or the **Songkran Festival** is celebrated every year from April 13 to 15. The most obvious activity during Songkran is the throwing of water. People roam the streets with bowls of water, water guns or even running water, and drench each other and passers-by. This, however, is not the heart of this festival. In fact, our Buddhist forebears started this festival to teach future generations the importance of learning from one's elders. This festival teaches people to come home to visit their parents, to pay respect to them and to bring them a small gift.

People also visit elder neighbors to foster good relationships and to pay respect to senior citizens. Songkran is therefore a community day.

People may go to a temple to pray and give food and alms to monks. They clean the Buddha images at the temples with water and gentle Thai perfume, as it is believed that this will bring them good luck and prosperity in the New Year.



In many cities, including Khon Kaen, the Buddha statues from all of the temples in the city are carried through the streets so that people can wash them as they pass by. People bring handfuls of sand to their temple in order to return (as it were) the sacred earth they carry away on the bottoms of their feet.

The sand is piled into tiered piles and decorated with colorful flags. Later in the day, people do community services. Going to the temple and doing community service teaches us that giving is a way to happiness. Some people make New Year's resolutions.

Throwing water originated as a way to pay respect to people, by pouring a small amount of lustral water on other people's hands is a sign of respect. Youths do it in a more fun way as they splash others to get relief from the heat. April is the hottest month in Thailand and temperatures commonly rise to over 100°F (40°C). Nowadays, the emphasis is on fun and water-throwing rather than on the festival's spiritual and religious aspects, which sometimes prompts complaints from traditionalists and those concerned for public safety.



## Recent Index Medicus Publications with Assistance from the International Relations Office, Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University

1. **Correlation of Weight Estimation in Large and Small Fetuses with Three-Dimensional Ultrasonographic Volume Measurements of the Fetal Upper-Arm and Thigh: A Preliminary Report.** Somsak Patipanawat, Ratana Komwilaisak, Thawalwong Ratanasiri. *J Med Assoc Thai* 2006; 89 (1): 13-9
2. **Development of Severe Anemia During Fever Episodes in Patients with Hemoglobin E Trait and Hemoglobin H Disease Combinations.** Jetsrisuparb, A. Sanchalsuriya, K. Fucharoen, G. Fucharoen, S. Wiangnon, S. Jetsrisuparb, C. Sirijirachai, J. Chansong, K. *Journal of Pediatric Hematology Oncology.* 2006; 28 (4): 249-253
3. **Disseminated Septicaemic Melioidosis: an Unusual Presentation of Masticator Space Infection.** Somchal Srirompotong and Wisoot Reechaipichitkul. *Journal of Laryngology & Otology* 2003; 117: 417-418
4. **Preoperative Vaginal Preparations for Abdominal Hysterectomy for the Prevention of Febrile Morbidity: Savlon Douching vs Povidone-iodine Painting.** Kullathida Sowapat, Sukree Soontrapa, Chuanchom Sakondhavate. *J Med Assoc Thai* 2006; 89 (1): 20-4
5. **Prevalence of Osteoporosis in Thai Men.** Chatlert Pongchaiyakul, Chalermchai Apinyanurag, Supasil Soontrapa, Sukree Soontrapa, Choowong Pongchaiyakul, Tuan V Nguyen, Rajata Rajatanavin. *J Med Assoc Thai* 2006; 89 (2): 160-9
6. **The Validity and Reliability of the WHO Schedules for Clinical Assessment in Neuropsychiatry (SCAN Thai Version): Mood Disorders Section.** Thawatchai Krisanaprakornkit, Suchat Paholpak, Nawanant Piyawatkul, Jiraporn Khiewyoo. *J Med Assoc Thai* 2006; 89 (2) : 205-11

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