



*On behalf of the Faculty of Medicine,  
Khon Kaen University,  
I wish you, your family, and your colleagues  
a prosperous and healthy New Year in 2007.*



Professor Wiroon LAUPATTADAKASEM, MD  
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Newsletter

# FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Khon Kaen University, Thailand

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## Celebration of His Majesty the King's 80th Birthday on December 5, 2007



*H*IS MAJESTY KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ of Thailand was born in Cambridge Massachusetts, USA, on Monday December 5, 1927; the third and youngest child of their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Mahidol of Songkla. He was given the name Bhumibol Adulyadej, which means "Strength of the Land, Incomparable Power," which now seems prophetic as his reign has progressed through various critical periods and the nation has coalesced around him as a source of unity and strength.

After a brief period of primary schooling in Bangkok, His Majesty left with the rest of his family for Switzerland, where he continued his secondary education at Ecole Nouvelle de la Suisse Romande,

Chailly sur Lausanne and received a Bachelieres Lettres from the Gymnase Classique Cantonal of Lausanne.

He then chose to enter University of Lausanne to study Science, but the death of his elder brother King Ananda Mahidol in Bangkok (June 9, 1946) changed the course of his life. After this event, His Majesty decided to go back to Switzerland for another period of study, but this time in Political Science and Law in order that he might equip himself for government. In 1950, His Majesty returned to Thailand for the Coronation Ceremony (May 5) after which he continued his studies in Switzerland before taking up permanent residence in Thailand in 1951.



and Thais wore yellow shirts as a sign of devotion to the King, for Buddhist tradition, yellow represents Monday, the day the King was born. Other events honoring the King included holding religious rites, giving of alms to Buddhist monks, releasing fish and other marine creatures into rivers or ponds, and donating blood. At night, candles were lit to convey best wishes to His Majesty. Spectacular fireworks displays were held and the atmosphere was altogether festive.



## Graduation Ceremony



*H*er Royal Highness Crown Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn came to Khon Kaen to preside over convocation ceremonies December 18, 2006, at the Golden Jubilee Convention Hall. In 2005, Khon Kaen University had 4,979 graduands of whom 199 were MDs.

## MOU Signing Ceremony

*O*n 13 November 2006, Professor Wiroom Laupattarakasem, MD, Dean, Associate Professor Boonsong Patjanasontom, MD, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Assistant Professor Vinai Tantiyasawadikul, MD, Associate Dean for Hospital Affairs and Director of Srinagarind Hospital, Assistant Professor Maneewan Tanratnavijitara, MD, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, Associate Professor Chaichana Sinkuakool, MD, Assistant Dean for International and Special Affairs and Associate Professor Pisamai Laupattarakasem, MD, Head of Stem Cell Research Group, Department of Pharmacology, the Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University, visited Wakayama Medical University School of Medicine, Japan, to participate in an MOU Signing Ceremony between Wakayama Medical University School of Medicine, Japan, and the Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University, Thailand. The Thai team also met and discussed the possibility of an elective exchange student program with Professor Kishio Nanjo, President, Professor

Kazuhisa Miyashita, Dean, and other administrators and staff.



## World University Rankings

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*K*hon Kaen University was ranked at 475th of the world's 500 best universities by **The Times Higher World University Rankings 2006**.

Khon Kaen University is the leading educational and learning center for Northeast Thailand. It has 17 Faculties and one graduate school, and a remote campus at Nong Khai. More than 200 study programs with over 100 Master's and Doctoral degree programs are offered at KKU. The number of students has grown to more than twenty thousand including more than 100 international students. KKU has more than 100 agreements with faculties and research organizations in over 21 countries for exchange of staff, students and graduates, joint research activities and publications, exchange of academic materials, and participation in seminars and academic meetings.

## OFFICIAL VISITS TO JAPAN

Between November 12 and 18, 2006, delegates from the Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University including **1) Professor Wiroom Laupattarakasem, MD, Dean**, **2) Associate Professor Boonsong Patjanasoonorn, MD, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs**, **3) Assistant Professor Vinai Tantiyasawadikul, MD, Associate Dean for Hospital Affairs and Director of Srinagarind Hospital**, **4) Assistant Professor Maneewan Tanratnavijitara, MD, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs**, **5) Associate Professor Chaichana Sinkuakool, MD, Assistant Dean for International and Special Affairs** and **6) Associate Professor Pisamai Laupattarakasem, MD, Head of Stem Cell Research Group, Department of Pharmacology** the representative from the Department of Research Affairs, visited 4 Institutes in Japan.



From November 13-14, they visited **Wakayama Medical University School of Medicine** to attend the MOU signing

ceremony, discuss the possibility of elective exchange student program between the two universities and observe the activities at the university and its hospital. During the visit at Wakayama Medical University School of Medicine, the KKU-MD delegation received a warm welcome from **Professor Kishio Nanjo**, President, **Professor Kazuhisa Miyashita**, Dean, and other administrators and staff. On November 15, the KKU-MD delegation went to **Mie University** and met **Professor**

**Nagayasu Toyoda**, President, **Professor Yoshihiro Komada**, Dean, and **Professor Atsumasa**



**Uchida**, Director of Hospital and observed the activities on Medical education, Research lab for stem cell and

Hospital management at Gifu University and its hospital. On November 16, the team visited **Gifu University** and met **Professor Naomi Kondo**, Dean, and discussed the possibility of an elective exchange program between the two universities. They gained much valuable knowledge through the observation of Gifu University. On November 17, our representatives went to **Fujita Health University** to visit **Professor Hiroshi Nakano**, President, and **Professor Takahide Nomura**, Dean, to discuss the possibility of other collaborations, especially an elective exchange program.







## Distinguished Guests

**P**rofessor Kate Haswell from Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand, visited the Faculty of Medicine between July 3 and 8, 2006, in order to discuss the possibility of further academic collaborations between our two institutions.



**P**rofessor Iddya Karunasagar, Department of Fishery

Microbiology, University of Agricultural Science, India, Professor Zheng Feng, Institute of Parasitic Diseases, Chinese for Disease Control and Prevention, China, and Mr. Ian Watson Natural Resources Institute, UK, visited the Faculty on July 12, 2006, to follow-up the TREMKIT research project.

**M**r. D.G. Macleish, Senior Vascular Surgeon Royal Melbourne Hospital, Australia visited the Faculty as an invited guest of the Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand on July 14, 2006.



**O**n July 21, 2006, by invitation of the Department of

Biochemistry, Assistant Professor Aaron Smith from Illinois State University, USA, came to the Faculty to give a special practical lecture on "Strengthening English Proficiency for Scientific Purposes" which aimed to develop the medical professors' and postgraduate students' skills in reading and writing English.

**B**etween August 7 and 8, 2006, Associate Professor Som Ok Kingsada, Dean, Associate Professor Sing Menorath, Vice Dean for Postgraduate Studies and Research, Associate Professor Bounkong Sihavong, Vice Director, Mahosot Hospital, Associate Professor Bouachanh Rachachack, Head, Department of Medicine, Mahosot Hospital, Dr. Thongdy Luangxay, Vice Dean for Administration & International Relations, Dr. Alongkone Phengsavanh, Director Division of Postgraduate Studies & Research, Dr. Visanou Hasana, Head, Unit of Postgraduate Studies, Dr. Soulideth Sengchanh, Lecturer in Pediatrics from the Faculty of Medical Sciences, National University of Laos, Lao PDR and Dr. Rosemary Quirk (Field Representative), Medicine Coordinator and Dr. Jon White, Pediatrics Coordinator from Health Frontiers, Lao PDR, visited and met the Dean and Associate Deans of the Faculty in order to introduce the new administration team.



The Dean, Associate Deans and Assistant Deans of the Faculty of Medicine welcomed **Professor Allen Finley and Professor Paula Forgeron from Dalhousie University, Canada**, who were invited to be special lecturers on "Pediatric Pain Management: Barriers and Service Improvement" between July 25 and August 4, 2006.



**Associate Professor Janet I. MacInnes,**

**Department of Pathobiology, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada**, came to the Faculty as the foreign adviser for Associate Professor Surasakdi Ratanacheewin, Professor of Microbiology, who received a scholarship from the Royal Golden Jubilee Ph.D. Program to study Medical Biochemistry.

On September 15, 2006 **Professor Paul J. Brindley, Head, Helminth Biology Laboratory, QIMR, Australia**, **Dr. Alex Loukas from Department of Tropical Medicine, Tulane University, USA**, **Dr. Jeff Bethony, George Washington University, USA** and **Dr. Malla Rao, ICIDR Program Director, NIAID, National Institute of Health, USA**, visited the Department of Pathology in order to follow up joint research on the "Pathogenesis of Liver Fluke Induced Cancer in Thailand".



**Professor Deyong Tan, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in the School of Life Sciences, Yunnan University, People's Republic of China**, came to the Faculty on

October 3, 2006, in order to develop collaborations for the training of postgraduates between our two institutions.

**Professor Patricia Martin and Professor Richard J. Martin, Director Division of Neonatology, Rainbow Babies and Children Hospital from Case Western Reserve University, USA**, came to the Faculty between October 6 and 7, 2006. Professor Patricia kindly gave special lectures on the "Psychopathology of Phobia" at the Department of Psychiatry and Professor Richard on "Neonatal Apnea" at the Department of Pediatrics.



**Dr. Sayadeth Ratanavong, Head of ENT Department, Dr. Viravong Douangnoulak, Dr. Kaysone Khemmanivong, Audiologist, and Mrs. Mokkeo Khamsingsvath, Technician from ENT Department, Mahosot Hospital, Lao PDR**, visited the Dean of our Faculty October 17, 2006. The purpose of their visit was to attend and observe activities in the field of ear surgery at the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, October 18-20, 2006.





On October 19, 2006, Dr. Cindy Chu, Coordinator, Internal Medicine Department, Dr. Louisa Mackenzie, Coordinator, Pediatrics Department and Mr. Kevin Mottershead from Health Frontiers, Lao PDR, visited Associate Professor Boonsong Laupattanasontorn, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in order to introduce new staff and follow up on the Elective Program at our Faculty for residents from National University of Laos.

On October 24, 2006 Professor Wiroon Laupattarakasem welcomed delegates from Guangxi Traditional Chinese Medical University (GTCMU), People's Republic of China, namely: Associate Professor Li Hong Yang, Department of TCM Cosmetics, Associate Professor Pang Yong, Department of Acupuncture and Moxibustion, Associate Professor Fang Zhuo, Faculty of Preclinical Medicine, Dr. Qin Lilan, Department of Science & Techno and Dr. Bai Wenjie, Foreign Language. The GTCMU delegates visited the Faculty in order to attend "The Interchange Program between Thailand and China" between October 22 and 29, 2006, at the Department of Physiology.



From October 24-27, 2006, the Faculty welcomed three WHO Fellowship recipients: Dr. Won Sung Gwon, Dr. Kim Jong Wu, Specialists from the Red Cross General Hospital, DPR Korea, attending training on "Diagnosis and Management of Spinal Injury" at the Department of Orthopaedics and Dr. Ri Hyon, Chief, Traumatic Department, Institute Medical Academic, DPR Korea, attending training on "Diagnosis and Management of Trauma" at the Department of Radiology.

Between October 21 and November 3, 2006, the WHO Fellowship recipients from Pyongyang Medical University, DPR Korea, were trained at the Faculty : Dr. Ri Song Hyok, Chief, Dr. Hong Song Chol and Dr. Pak Kum Sok, Anesthesiology Department, attended training on Diagnosis and Management of Injury at the Department of Anesthesiology. Between October 30 and November 3, Dr. Ju Kum Son and Dr. Ri Gyong Ae, General Surgical Chairman, participated in training on Management of Burns at the Department of Surgery. Between October 31 and November 2, 2006, Dr. Choe Tok Min, Instructor, Abdominal Surgical Chairman, and Dr. Hwang Ryong Su, Instructor, General



Surgical Chairman, attended training on the Diagnosis and Management of Trauma at the Department of Surgery.



Professor Robert Anderson, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Dalhousie University, Canada, visited the Faculty November 3, 2006, to discuss the possibility of a short-term exchange student program between the University of Dalhousie and our Faculty. He kindly gave a special lecture on "Strategies for vaccine development against respiratory pathogens" at the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University.



On November 18, 2006, Miss Jiang Feifei, Miss Mo Chunhua, Miss Gan Qiongfang, Miss Shi Wenqing, Miss Zhou Huiyu and Miss Zhou Xiaohong, students from the Faculty of Nursing, Guangxi Traditional Chinese Medical University, People's Republic of China came to Srinagarind Hospital, Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University, for training at the Nursing Division.

Professor Wiroon Laupattarakasem, Dean,

and Assistant Professor Charoon Jetsrisuparb, Associate Dean for International and Special Affairs, welcomed and met Associate Professor Katsuhiko ANDO from Mie University School of Medicine, Japan, on December 1, 2006. Associate Professor ANDO came to the Faculty in order to discuss an Elective Exchange Student program between Mie University and Khon Kaen University.



Professor Bruce B. Svare, Department of Psychology, State University of New York at Albany, USA, kindly gave special lectures on "Behavioral Neuroendocrinology: Survey of an Exciting Field" at the Departments of Psychiatry and Physiology between December 6 and 7, 2006.



Professor Scott Nelson, Department of Pathology, University of

California, Los Angeles, USA, visited the Faculty in order to be a guest speaker on "Immunoperoxidase Study in GIST" at the Department of Pathology, December 11-15, 2006.



On December 14, 2006, Professor Deng

Jiagang, Vice President and other staff from Guangxi Traditional Chinese Medical University, PR China, visited the Faculty to discuss the possibility of other collaborations and follow up research between our two institutions.



Professor Anthony J. Hedley, Chair of

Community Medicine, Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, was invited to visit the Faculty between December 25, 2006 and January 5, 2007, as a consultant for developing the Master of Science Program in Community Medicine (International curriculum) and the PhD Program in Clinical Sciences.





## Social Events

### Father's day

As part of the celebration in honour of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's birthday, **Assistant Professor Vinai Tantiyasawadikul, MD**, Associate Dean for Hospital Affairs and Director of Srinagarind Hospital, professors, medical staff and students participated in an alms-giving ceremony to 80 Buddhist monks.



### Second Tsunami Memorial



On the morning of December 26, 2006, **Professor Wiroom Laupattarakasem, Dean**, professors, doctors, medical staff, students and residents gave food and alms to Buddhist monks as housing aid for victims of the Tsunami of December 26, 2004.

## Academic Conferences

### Third Thalassemia Day

**Assistant Professor Charoon Jetsrisuparb, Associate Dean for International and Special Affairs**, opened the 3rd Thalassemia Day held by the Department of Pediatrics and Nursing Division of Srinagarind Hospital at the Faculty on December 25, 2006. **Associate Professor Arunee Jetsrisuparb**, President of this project, said that the objectives of this project were to strengthen the knowledge of thalassemia including how to prevent and treat the disease.



### Fifth World Melioidosis Congress

The Melioidosis Research Center, Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University, is to organize the **5th World Melioidosis Congress between November 21 and 23, 2007**, in Khon Kaen, Thailand. **Associate Professor Surakdi Wongratanacheewin, Chair**, said that it will be a pleasure to receive experts on melioidosis from all over the world, who meet once every three years, to update their knowledge and meet internationally-renowned leaders in the field. Participants will also have a chance to discuss and present original research. If interested in participating, please contact: **Associate Professor Surasakdi Wongratanacheewin, Ph.D.**, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen, 40002, Thailand, Tel: 66-43-363515, Fax: 66-43-202858, E-mail: [sura\\_wng@kku.ac.th](mailto:sura_wng@kku.ac.th); [chair@wmc2007.org](mailto:chair@wmc2007.org) or visit the congress' website at [www.wmc2007.org](http://www.wmc2007.org).

## A one-month elective for Thai Medical Students

Some of our medical students have won Faculty scholarships to attend elective programs at foreign medical schools between March 1 and 31, 2007, including:

Name	University
Ms. Jantima Mahaphon	Case Western Reserve University, USA
Ms. Wallaya Phitakwatchara	Case Western Reserve University, USA
Mr. Patt Pannangpetch	Royal Free Hospital, UK
Mr. Panuwat Trairatphisan	Royal Free Hospital, UK
Ms. Patcharin Tantiworawit	Royal Free Hospital, UK
Ms. Peerapat Pakdee	University of Sassari, Italy
Ms. Metrujee Thaweeksuri	University of Sassari, Italy
Ms. Chitchanok Leephiboonsawat	University of Sassari, Italy
Ms. Pongkaew Thitisakulchai	Mie University, Japan
Mr. Supanut Lumbiganon	Mie University, Japan

## Foreign Elective Students and Residents from Overseas



Ms. Dagmar Schmid, Ms. Stefanie Aichholzer and Ms. Iris Steinwender, 6th-year medical students from **Medical University of Graz, Austria**, completed an elective program at the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Community Medicine between July 31 and August 25, 2006.



Mr. Philip Pucher, a 5th-year medical student from **Medical University of Vienna, Austria**, completed an elective program at the Departments of Pediatrics and Anesthesiology between September 4 and 29, 2006.



Ms. Raphaela Steffel, a 5th-year medical student from **Medical University of Vienna, Austria**, completed an elective program at the Departments of Pediatrics and Medicine between September 4 and 29, 2006.

Mr. Mark Gregory Longman, a 6th-year medical student from **University of Otago, New Zealand**, completed an elective program at the Department of Orthopaedics between September 25 and October 20, 2006.

