



The Sixtieth Anniversary Celebrations of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand
Working Monarch, King of Development

LONG LIVE HIS MAJESTY THE KING



Newsletter
FACULTY OF MEDICINE
Khon Kaen University Thailand

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Accolades for faculty

On March 3, 2006, at the Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Anthropology Centre, HRH Crown Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Srinagarind Hospital Affairs, the field of Medicine for most prestigious researchers. For Lumbiganon has promoted research synthesis Collaboration which aims to make Thailand a center for research synthesis in Southeast Asia.



M.O.U. Establishment

Guangxi Traditional Chinese Medical University (Guangxi TCMU), People's Republic of China



Professor Deng Jiagang, Vice President, and other administrators from Chinese Medical University (Guangxi TCMU), People's Republic of China, visited our Faculty January 25, 2006, to discuss the possibility of closer collaboration and to participate in the ceremony to extend the MOU between our two institutions. Associate Professor Dr. Sumon Sakolchai, the President of Khon Kaen University, kindly attended the ceremony and conveyed a warm welcome to all of the delegates from Guangxi TCMU. The MOU between the our two institutions was first signed October 2, 2003, in an effort to promote the development of academic programs and courses, the exchange of academic staff, researchers and students and collaborative research and joint academic meetings.

Gifu University School of Medicine, Japan



On February 10, 2006, the MOU between Gifu University School of Medicine, Japan, and our Faculty was extended with keen interest on both sides. Representing Gifu was Professor Naomi Kondo, Dean of the Gifu University School of Medicine. This MOU provides opportunities for staff exchanges and allows students to carry out joint projects or research between our two schools of medicine. The first MOU between our two institutions was signed December 18, 2000.



Distinguished Guests

On January 4, 2006, Professor Michel Strobel (Director), Dr. Philaysak Naphayvong (Deputy Director), Dr. Hasiniaina Hugues RazaKatiana and Dr. Zhang Wei from the Institut de la Francophonie pour la Medicine Tropicale (IFMT), Lao PDR, came to the Faculty to discuss joint collaborations following the signing of an MOU between the IFMT and our Faculty. On this occasion, Professor Michel Strobel introduced his students – Dr. Phetsavanh Chathavilay, Dr. Phonepasong Soukhatammavong and Dr. Bounnam Xomvimane – who will be trained at the Faculty during their elective program with us.



On January 10, 2006, Professor Yoshihide Ogawa and Dr. Rayhan Zubair Hossain from the Department of Urology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ryukyus, visited the Faculty. They currently serve as foreign supervisors for students in the PhD programme at our Department of Biochemistry, who will conduct research at the University of Ryukyus. Additional discussions included the development of an academic exchange and cooperation protocol between our two universities.



On January 12, 2006, Professor of Chemistry Anake Kijjoa and Professor of Medical Chemistry Paulo Pinho from the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Science, University of Porto, Portugal, visited the Faculty and met Assistant Professor Watchara Boonsawat, Associate Dean for Research Affairs, and Assistant Professor Bandit Chumworathayi, Assistant Dean for International and Special Affairs, to discuss the possibility of establishing a

collaboration and academic agreement between the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Science, University of Porto, Portugal, and our Faculty.



Professor Nobuo Sakaguchi, Professor Hideyuki Saya and Associate Professor Norie Araki from Kumamoto University kindly devoted their valuable time to be guest speakers on January 23, 2006, for the academic conference of the Royal Golden Jubilee Scholarship (RGJ) 'Seminar Series XL: Molecular and Cellular Biology for Medicine' by invitation of the Liver Fluke and Cholangiocarcinoma Research Center, Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University. In addition, on January 24, 2006, they paid a visit to administrators of our Faculty and discussed how to develop international collaborations between our two universities.



Associate Professor Katshuhiko Ando from the Department of Medical Zoology, MIE University, Japan, visited the Faculty January 27, 2006, to track research collaborations with the Department of Parasitology and the exchange of medical students between MIE and Khon Kaen Universities. Moreover, he is a foreign supervisor for Thai medical students (both undergraduate and postgraduate) from Khon Kaen University and other Thai universities (viz., Chiang Mai University, Kasetsart University and King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang).





On February 6, 2006, Professor Shinji Uemoto, the Director, First Department of Surgery, Assoc.Prof.Shuji Isaji, First Department of Surgery, Asst.Prof.Hiroyuki Sakurai, Department of Hepatobiliary Pancreatic Surgery and Breast Surgery and Asst.Prof.Naoki Toma, Department of Neurosurgery from MIE University School of Medicine, Japan came to the Faculty to supervise a liver transplant under the aegis of the Organ Transplantation Unit, Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University.

Also, on February 6, 2006, the Faculty received Professor Young-Joon Surh from the College of Pharmacy, Seoul National University, South Korea. Professor Young-Joon Surh visited Dean Professor Wiroon Luapattarakasem to discuss the possibility of academic collaborations including plans for joint research. Professor Surh serves as the foreign supervisor for the medical students in our Department of Pharmacology, in the PhD Program of the Royal Golden Jubilee Scholarship (RGJ).



Professor Anthony J. Hedley Department of Community Medicine, University of Hong Kong, visited February 22, 2006, to follow up and supervise research in the fields of Health Economics. He also met the administrators of the Faculty to discuss the possibility of closer and more useful academic collaboration between the University of Hong Kong and Khon Kaen University.

On March 2, 2006, Professor Takeshi Azuma and Associate Professor Hiromu Kutsumi – from Frontier Medical Science in Gastroenterology, International Center for Medical Research and Treatment, Kobe University School of Medicine, Japan – gave a special lecture on 'Helicobacter pylori in Asian Dyspeptic Patients' at the Department of Pathology and discussed academic exchanges and research with the Faculty's Liver Fluke and Cholangiocarcinoma Research Center Team.



On February 7, 2006, Professor Paul Brindley and Dr. Christina Styron from Tulane University, USA, and Dr. Alex Loukas from Queensland Institute of Medical Research, Australia, visited to follow up and supervise joint research with the Department of Pathology on 'Pathogenesis of Liver Fluke induced cancer in Thailand' supported by the International Collaborations in Infectious Disease Research (ICIDR), National Institutes of Health (NIH), USA.

Congratulations are extended to the **WHO Fellowship Recipients** – **Dr. Hong Nam Chol, Dr. Han Gum Hyong, Dr. Pak Gyi Nyo and Dr. Kim Gyong Hye from DPR Korea** – for attending the clinical training for 'Modern Obstetric Practice' at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, March 6 – 31, 2006



A warm welcome is extended to the **WHO Fellowship Recipients from Myanmar** who will attend the clinical training for 'Hospital Administration' at the Faculty March 13, 2006. Ms. Choosri Kuchaisit, Assistant Dean for Hospital Affairs and Deputy Director for Srinagarind Hospital, kindly presented an Overview of our Hospital's Administration System: Srinagarind University Hospital to all delegates from Myanmar and facilitated an exchange of experience on hospital administration systems.



Professor Jeffrey P. Harris, Chief of the Otolaryngology Division, Head and Neck Surgery, **University of California**, San Diego, USA, visited March 12, 2006, in order to give a special lecture on 'Update on Autoimmune Inner Ear Disease and Menière's Disease' and 'Advances in Cochlear Implant and Bone-anchored Hearing Aids' at the Department of Otorhinolaryngology and to supervise the respective establishment of a BSc and MSc in Audiology and the Ear Center for Northeast Thailand.



On March 15, 2006, **Ms. Kiyoko Yamakami and Mr. Shafi Babak from the JICA Afghanistan TB Control Project, National Tuberculosis Institute**, met Assistant Professor Charoon Jetsrisuparb, Associate Dean for International and Special Affairs, to discuss the possibility of sending 20 Afghan staff to attend the 'Training Course for Medical Laboratory Technicians' at the Faculty of Medicine, KKU.



M^edical Staff & Student News

On March 22, 2006 **Assistant Professor Supinda Koonmee – Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs** – presented information on Khon Kaen University and the Faculty to delegations from **Da nang, Vietnam**, at Sofitel Raja Orchid, Khon Kaen. She attended the conference held by the Office of Commercial Affairs Khon Kaen to discuss the possibility of establishing an MOU and closer collaborations (e.g., Commercial and Investment, Human Resource Development, Tourism and Culture) between Da nang, Vietnam, and Khon Kaen, Thailand.



Associate Professor Jaturat Kanpittaya from the Department of Radiology, Faculty of Medicine, was invited to speak on *Thorax X Ray Interpretation* on the 2006 follow-up patients and to attend the discussion on the paragonimus publication between March 9 and 10, 2006 at the Institut de la Francophonie pour la Medicine Tropicale (IFMT) Vientiane, Lao PDR.



A one-month elective for Thai Medical Students

Ten of our medical students were given a Faculty scholarship to attend an elective student exchange program at foreign medical schools, between March 1 and 31, 2006, including

Name-Last Name	University
1. Ms. Jarin Chindaprasit	Case Western Reserve University, USA
2. Mr. Parkorn Homchampa	Case Western Reserve University, USA
3. Mr. Chalawat Inpa	Case Western Reserve University, USA
4. Ms. Kanda Chetthasombat	Royal Free Hospital, UK
5. Ms. Nisachon Larit	Royal Free Hospital, UK
6. Ms. Onsiri Prathompattama	Royal Free Hospital, UK
7. Ms. Nongnapat Jirawuttinunt	Mie University, Japan
8. Ms. Pankamol Sirivadhanakul	Mie University, Japan
9. Ms. Komkanok Suttapan	University of Sassari, Italy
10. Mr. Jakapol Serevichayasawat	University of Sassari, Italy

Foreign Elective Medical Students and Resident from Overseas Wakayama Medical University, Japan



Noriko

Ms. Noriko Odani, a third-year medical student, completed an elective at the Department of Community Medicine (Sumsoog Community Hospital) between January 30 and February 10, 2006.

Mr. Yutaro Matsunaga and Mr. Yasushi Tsujimoto, the third-year medical students, completed an elective at the Departments of Medicine and Community Medicine (Sumsoog Community Hospital) between February 6 and 17, 2006



Yutaro



Yasushi

Case Western Reserve University, USA

Mr. Tarek El-Sawy completed an elective at the Departments of Ophthalmology, Otorhinolaryngology and Radiology between February 1 and March 15, 2006



Institut de la Francophonie pour la Medicine Tropicale (IFMT), Lao PDR

Dr. Phonepasong Soukhathammavong was trained at the Department of Radiology between February 10 and March 3, 2006.

Dr. Bounnam Xomvimane, was trained at the Department of Parasitology between February 10 and March 3, 2006.

Dr. Phetsavanh Chanthavilay, was trained at the Department of Medicine between February 10 and March 3, 2006



Residents from Faculty of Medical Sciences, National University of Laos, Lao PDR

Dr. (Mr.) Sonexay RAJVONG and Dr. (Mr.) Chanthone NATSAVAN from Faculty of Medical Sciences, National University of Laos, Lao PDR attended the training on "The 18th Basic Ultrasound Workshop for General Practitioners" on March 3, 2006 at the Department of Radiology, Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University.



Academic conference

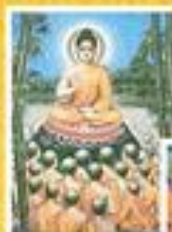
World Kidney Day



Professor Pisake Lumbiganon, Associate Dean for Hospital Affairs and Director of Srinagarind Hospital, opened the 1st World Kidney Day on March 3, 2006, at the Faculty of Medicine. The First World Kidney Day was held by Kidney and Artificial Kidney Unit and Medical Nursing Division of the Faculty led by Associate Professor Dhavee Sirivongs, Head of the Nephrology Division, in accordance with the declaration of the International Federation of Kidney Foundations and the International Society of Nephrology. The purpose is to inform and encourage people about preventing kidney disease. Attendees of the exhibition were offered a free health check-up.

Social event

Makha Pucha Day on February 13, 2006



Makha Pucha Day is one of the most important Buddhist celebrations and falls on the full moon day of the third lunar month (about the last week of February or early March). This day marks the great four events that took place during Lord Buddha's lifetime, namely:

1. 1250 Buddhist monks from different places converging unbidden to pay homage to the Lord Buddha at Veluvana Vihara in Rajgaha, the capital of Makha Sutta
2. All of whom were enlightened monks (or Arhants)
3. All of whom had been individually ordained by Lord Buddha himself (Ehi Bhikkhu) and
4. On the evening of that same day, the Lord Buddha gave a discourse 'Ovadha Patimokkha' in which he articulated the principles of His Teachings summarized into three acts: 1) to do good, 2) to abstain from bad actions and 3) to purify the mind.

Makha Pucha Day is a statutory holiday so that people from all walks of life can go to a temple to make merit and to perform other religious activities in the morning.

MEDICAL STAFF & STUDENT ORINATION

As part of celebrations in honour of the 60-Year Reign of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the Faculty of Medicine held a **Buddhist ordination of 23 medical students** and staff on March 12, 2006. The purpose of this Thai Buddhist event was to deliver a donation to HM at 'Wat Pa Sang Ar-Roon', Poi-Lub, Meung, Khon Kaen and to meditate on HM's kindness and efforts to persuade Thais live by the dharma principles.



Appreciation

The Faculty would like to express its sincere gratitude for the kind collaboration of:

Professor K. M. Sykes Vice-Provost (Biomedicine) and Dean of the Royal Free & University College London Medical School, UK, for cooperating with the Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University, toward achieving the successful elective exchange student program between our two schools. The annual study visit by two Thai medical students to Royal Free & University College London Medical School, UK, provides valuable experience to the students.



Ms. April Rodon from School of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University, USA, for coordinating the elective exchange of Thai medical students from our Faculty to CASE.

Ms. Rodon devotes time and effort in order to ensure the success of the exchange program. Because of these efforts, two to four students are able to attend electives in Cleveland each year, a window on American medical teaching, research and practice.

Advisory Board: Associate and Assistant Deans for International and Special Affairs (Assistant Professor Charoon Jetsrisuparb, MD, Associate Professor Chaichana Sinkuakool, MD and Assistant Professor Bandit Chumworathayi, MD), Bryan R. Hamman,
Editorial Board: Duangamorn Chankwang, Pavinnee Khumlar, Duangkamol Srisawasdi and Buthnga Thunprasart