Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease. World Health Organization, 1948

Khon Kaen University (KKU) scientists rank top in tropical diseases in Asia

A recent presentation on Thai university competencies reported by Yukun Harsono, Senior Vice President of Product Management, Elsevier Inc., at the 4th QS University Rankings and Evaluation Workshop held in Singapore (November, 2010) revealed that most of the publications from Thai universities (based on Scopus, 2008) were in Biology and Infectious diseases, which can be further categorized into: Parasitology (51.4%), Tropical Medicine (35.3%) and Ethnopharmacology (3.2%). Paiboon Sithithaworn, Banchob Sripa and Pewpan M. Intapan are among the top five authors and they are members of KKU’s Faculty of Medicine. KKU had the most number of fractional publications in Tropical Medicine and Parasitology in Thailand and Asia Pacific countries. We can proudly say that KKU is Asia’s best destination for tropical disease research!

What’s inside:
- Khon Kaen University scientists rank top in tropical diseases in Asia.................................................................1
- Friendship with Mie University ..............................................................................................................................2
- Academic collaboration with Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Japan ..............................................................3
- Welcome Visiting Scholars from Harvard ..................................................................................................................4
- Cooperation with the Faculty of Medicine, JSS University, India ............................................................................5
- Solidifying Friendship with Consulate General of Vietnam; Celebrating VIETNAM’S INDEPENDENCE DAY .............6
- Newcastle University Medical Students, UK ..............................................................................................................7
- Welcoming Residents University of Health Sciences, Leo PDR ................................................................................8
Strengthening Friendship between Mie University School of Medicine and Faculty of Medicine, KKU

On September 28, 2011, Professor Pisake Lumbiganon, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University and the administrative team were honored to welcome Professor Tsutomu Nobori, Dean of the Mie University School of Medicine, Japan, and his colleagues (Professor Taizo Shirachi and Professor Katsuhiko Ando) at the Dean’s Office. Associate Professor Jintara Sattayasai (Associate Dean for Academic Affairs), Associate Professor Witoon Prasertcharoensuk (Associate Dean for International Affairs), Associate Professor Surapon Virasiri (Associate Dean for Quality Assurance), Professor Weerachai Kosuwon (Head, Department of Orthopedics), Associate Professor Pensri Kosuwon and Associate Professor Surapan Wiangnon (both from the Department of Pediatrics) also attended. Also present was Assistant Professor Toshihiko Sakakibara from Mie University, who is attending a 4-week faculty exchange program (between September 5 and October 4, 2011) at the Department of Orthopedics, MD-KKU.

Dean Nobori spoke about the two main purposes for the visit to Khon Kaen. The first was to thank the Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University the only overseas partner medical school to send a donation (via Mie University) to help Japanese people who suffered from the 2011 Japanese earthquake and tsunami. And, secondly, to take the opportunity to personally invite our Dean to participate in the auspicious opening ceremony of a new building at Mie University Hospital this November.

Discussions centered on how best to develop collaborative activities in laboratory and clinical research, especially those requiring multicenter collaborations. There is already an exchange in progress between our respective Departments of Orthopedics (conducted by Professor Kasai and Professor Weerachai). Relatedly, Dean Pisake plans to give a special lecture on “Evidence-based Practices and Research Synthesis” during his visit to Mie University.

After the courtesy visit, Professor Weerachai Kosuwon, Head of the Department of Orthopedics, led the visitors from Mie University on a tour of Srinagarind (University) Hospital; during which he presented the facilities of the Department of Orthopedics, which was then conduction a fresh cadaveric workshops.
There is indeed a longstanding friendship between Mie University School of Medicine and the Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University. The first mutual Academic Collaboration Agreement was first established in 1994. The cooperation developed and expanded to include the university level with the establishment of an MOU in 2000, which continues to the present. Since 1993, the two institutions have each year exchanged academicians, clinicians and students.

The Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University, esteems Mie University School of Medicine as its elder.

**Academic collaboration with Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Japan**

Professor Pisake Lumbiganon, Dean, MD-KKU, welcomed Professor Miyuki Azuma from the Department of Molecular Immunology, Graduate School, Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Japan, in her role as overseas visiting professor between August 24 and 27, 2011.

Our two institutions have had a 5-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place since January 2008. Professor Azuma and Pisake discussed the development of academic and research cooperation, including: Supervision research work in the postgraduate program in Medical Microbiology, Molecular Immunology and related fields;
- Supervise the development of the Medical Microbiology Laboratory;
- Discuss the potential for collaborations with the HPV-CA Research Group in the field of head and neck cancers and HPV; and,
- Deliver lectures on the "Control of immunity and tolerance by co-signal molecules" at the academic seminar for graduate students and PhD candidates.

Associate Professor Chametsri Pientong, PhD, MD, from our Department of Microbiology, MD-KKU the coordinator of staff exchanges participated this meeting.
Academic Achievement in Community Medicine

On September 12, 2011, Dean Pitsake Lumbiganon attended a meeting with Professor John F. Smith, Head, Department of Community Health Development, Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences, Auckland University of Technology (FHES-AUT), New Zealand, and Assistant Professor Pattapong Kessomboon, MD, Program Coordinator, Department of Community Medicine, KKU, in order to discuss the development of collaborations between AUT and our Faculty.

The four-month academic visit of Professor Smith (between July 8 - October 31, 2011) was very fruitful as he assisted with topics related to community health development, provided consultations on theses/dissertations; participated in giving suggestions at academic meetings and conferences; supervised community health research; and provided guidelines on how to write a research paper on community health.

The Department of Community Medicine, Khon Kaen University (MD-KKU), is developing an internationalized standard for post-graduate courses, using various approaches. One is to invite professors from foreign universities to teach at the Faculty.

The Department of Community Medicine, MD-KKU, has many challenging courses for both Thesis and foreign students, including international short training courses for persons receiving scholarship support from the WHO and/or other international organizations. For example, in 2011, the Department enrolled five foreign master degree students: 3 from PR China, 1 from Lao PDR, and 1 from Nepal.

Visiting Scholars from Harvard

On September 7, 2011, Associate Dean for International Affairs welcomed Assistant Professor Michael G. Morley, MD, MHCM, Retina Specialist, from Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston and Harvard Medical School, and Dr. Katharine Morley, MD, MPH, Emergency Medicine, Metrowest Medical Center, Boston, Harvard School of Public Health. The visit to Khon Kaen University was to encourage involvement of academic staff in exchange activities. The visit was coordinated by Dr. Thuss Sanguansak, from the Department of Ophthalmology, MD-KKU.

Of historical note: HRH Prince Mahidol of Songkla, the King’s Father graduated from Harvard School of Medicine and His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, Rama IX of Thailand, was born in Massachusetts at Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, Massachusetts, making HM the only foreign sovereign to be born within the continental USA. Photos of His Majesty & Her Majesty are displayed at the birth place on the 5th Floor of Mount Auburn Hospital. King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand Square, Cambridge, Massachusetts, is a popular destination place for His Majesty’s visits in Boston.

Dr. Wilson introduced our international programs in Tropical Medicine, Infectious Diseases, Parasitology, and Clinical Epidemiology. Professors Morley and Associate Dean Wilson then discussed the possibility of establishing an academic exchange agreement between our two medical schools, beginning with elective exchanges. Dr. Morley agreed that exchanging clinical residents helps to provide medical experience to residents and doctors as they learn from patients from different cultures and having a different suite of illnesses. Additionally, residents from both schools become friends with shared experience.
Cooperation between MD-KKU and JSS University, India

September 5, 2011. Associate Professor Sopit Wongkham, PhD, Associate Dean for Research Affairs and Associate Professor Wisoon Prasertcharoensuk, MD, Associate Dean for International Affairs welcomed Dr. S. Suriyanarayanan, PhD, from the Faculty Medicine, Jagadguru Sri Shivarathreeshwara University, Sri Shivarathreeshwara Nagar, Mysore, Karnataka, India. Dr. S. Suriyanarayanan, visiting on behalf of JSS University invited our Dean to visit.

The official collaboration between our two institutions started with the MOU Signing Ceremony between our two institutions August 5, 2010. On that occasion, the participating representatives from JSS U were: K. Puttappa, Registrar; Dr. H. B. Gowdappa, Principal, JSS Medical College; and, Dr. B. Nandlal, Principal, JSS Dental College. Their visit to Khon Kaen was on behalf of that Chancellor - His Excellency Jagadguru Sri Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Mahaswararni.

Dr. S. Suriyanarayanan visited us from July 12 to September 8 to further cooperation under the MOU. Of particular interest is the co-research program on "Environmental Impact Assessment Global Warming" between Dr. Suriyanarayanan and Dr. Pirl Charoenudwina, Head, Dept. of Environmental Science, Faculty of Sciences, KKU. Two PhD candidates are working on the Microbiological Impact Assessment of the Drinking Water System. There is also interest in establishing cooperative activities with the Water Analysis Unit, Department of Biochemistry, MD-KKU.

Dr. Sopit and Wisoon were pleased to inform JSS staff about the availability of scholarships from our Faculty for foreign students who attend the postgraduate program here; the 40th Anniversary of the MD-KKU next year; and, the International Conference to be held in October in celebration of this.
Helping to celebrate Vietnam’s Independence Day

Independence Day in Vietnam is celebrated on September 2nd to commemorate Ho Chi Minh’s proclamation of a provisional government on the same day in 1945. On September 2, 2011, Associate Professor Chanchai Panthongviriyakul (MD), Associate Dean for Hospital Affairs, the Director of Srinagarind (University) Hospital, and Associate Professor Witoon Prasantcharoensuk (MD), Associate Dean for International Affairs, paid a courtesy visit to His Excellency Nguyen Huu Din, Consul General, and Consul Vu Quang Tao, at the Consulate General of Vietnam at Khon Kaen, Thailand. Professor Panthongviriyakul wished the people of Vietnam happiness, health and prosperity, and that Thailand and Vietnam would lead ASEAN to greater cooperation and progress. In this regard, Dean Professor Pisake Lumbiganon has made academic and research cooperation and exchange activities among ASEAN and ASEAN+6 a priority.

Ideas were also exchanged on how to expand collaborations. Since 2010, Associate Dean Witoon visited Hanoi Medical University and Hue College of Medicine and Pharmacy, Hue University, and conducted academic exchange agreement with Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University, in order to exchange academic staff, researchers and students; do collaborative research; and, conduct joint academic meetings. An MOU between the Faculty and Hue College of Medicine and Pharmacy, Hue University, commenced November, 2010. Currently, there is one Vietnamese postgraduate student studying at the Faculty.

The new Consul General had been at his duties for just a month ago but had already heard about the close relationship between the Faculty and the Consulate. He was therefore delighted to receive a visit from the Faculty. He sincerely hopes that there will be further cooperation to foster growing ties, especially student exchanges.
TDR recruited several foreign staff and students this year.

TDR Lab recruited several staff and students to join our laboratory and field works on neglected tropical diseases in this fiscal year 2011. These include Dr. Yuji Arimatsu (a Post-doc, Japan), Salma Teimoori Zandehdel (Iran), Phung Thi Luyen (Vietnam), Sakhone Lamanivong (Lao PDR) and Christina Kim, an exchange research student from Ohio State University. We will also have two more exchange research students from the University of Queensland, Australia and the University of California at Berkeley by early next year 2012. They will have more experience in tropical disease research from bench to community.

Newcastle University Medical Students, UK

Associate Professor Dr. Witoon PRASERTCHAROENSUK, Associate Dean for International and Special Affairs, welcomed Ms. Joanna Godbehere, Ms. Charlotte Victoria Hargreaves, and Ms. Lianne Harrison, 4th-year medical students from Newcastle University, UK. These students trained at the Department of Surgery and Department of Psychiatry between July 19 and August 8, 2011.

Elective Students from Medical University of Vienna, Austria

Associate Professor Dr. Witoon PRASERTCHAROENSUK, Associate Dean for International and Special Affairs, welcomed Ms. Teresa BINDER, a 4th-year medical student from the Medical University of Vienna, Austria. Ms. Binder was an elective student at the Department of Surgery between August 1 and 25, 2011.

Warmest Welcome to Laotian Residents

Associate Professor Dr. Witoon PRASERTCHAROENSUK, Associate Dean for International and Special Affairs, welcomed residents from the University of Health Sciences, Lao PDR. Their training was supported by Health Frontiers. The residents trained at the Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University between July 4 and 31, 2011. Those from the University of Health Sciences included: Dr. Amnala Chingsamod, Dr. Vilayvanh Vilay, Dr. Thippasone Saysomphang, Dr. Thippalax Phenggasauth, Dr. Sonedeheuang Daovinhourng and, Dr. Manachit Luangluexay.
Warmest Welcome to Residents from the University of Health Sciences

Associate Professor Dr. Wiloon PRASERTCHAROENSUK, Associate Dean for International and Special Affairs, welcomed Dr. Phouthamath SORCHANVILAY, and Dr. Sayavath KEOOSODSAY from the University of Health Sciences, Lao PDR. The training is supported by Health Frontiers. The residents trained at the Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University, between August 1 and September 30, 2011.

Warmest Welcome Lao Residents

Associate Professor Dr. Wiloon PRASERTCHAROENSUK, Associate Dean for International and Public Affairs welcomed a group of clinical staff members and 10 anesthesia residents from Lao PDR. The residents trained at the Department of Anesthesiology, Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University between August 15 and September 9, 2011.

The names of the participants include:
- Dr. Khamsay DETLEUXAY
- Dr. Phomvay KEUAPHAPHONE, Mrs.
- Sengsavone KHUMEPAPHONE, Mr. Phanomhath CHANHTHILATH, Mr. Somphone PHOHLACK, Mr. Khamsouk PHETSANGUBAN, Mr. Poyang YIAYENG, Mr. Neelomith KHAMVONGSA, Mr. Boupanyh LUANGLATH, Mr. Khamsay THOUAUBTHOL, Mr. Sengsone PHILLAVONG, Mr. Amphayvath YILAYVONG.

Advisory Board: Associate and Assistant Deans for International and Special Affairs, Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University (Associate Professor Wiloon Prasertcharoensuk, MD), Bryan Hannah, Karen Walker.


International Affairs, Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University
123 Mitraphap Highway, Muang, Khon Kaen 40002 THAILAND
Tel: +66-43-36-3377 Fax: +66-43-34-8375
Website: www.medicine.kku.ac.th E-mail: intermed@kku.ac.th
Facebook Fanpage: www.facebook.com/medselective