



Long Live Her Majesty the Queen



งานวิเทศสัมพันธ์ คณะแพทยศาสตร์
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H.M. the Queen's Birthday Celebration and National Mother's Day

August 12th is a national public holiday marking Her Majesty's birthday and Mother's Day. On this day, private citizens, businesses and local organizations throughout Thailand decorate homes with flowers and colored lights, raise flags and put up portraits in honor of Queen Sirikit.



Queen Sirikit is perhaps best known for her efforts in reviving many of Thailand's ancient arts and crafts. The Queen's support of the "Foundation for the Promotion of Supplementary Occupations and Related Techniques" has expanded continuously since its establishment in 1976 to include craft shops in many of Thailand's cities and tourist areas, and 2 Thai Folk Arts and Crafts Training Centers at Chitralada Villa and at in Bangsai, Ayutthaya.

In addition to her projects and effort to help the needy, H.M. is highly regarded by her own children for her care and skill



as a mother. She brought up the prince and princesses with traditional Thai value of respect of elders and self-sufficiency. She therefore taught her children knowledge and skills until they became self-supporting.

Activities and projects conducted as a tribute to Her Majesty on this occasion are meant to show the Thai people's gratitude to the national standard of motherhood. Indeed, Her Majesty is deeply loved and admired by her people. For over 50 years, Her Majesty has worked alongside His Majesty to address social and development issues.



Long Live Her Majesty the Queen!

Cholangiocarcinoma.... a blot on Northeast Thailand



Dr. Sopit WONGKHAM and the Liver Fluke and Cholangiocarcinoma Research team

Dr. Sopit reports that, "One of the risk factors for cholangiocarcinoma is *Opisthorchis viverrini* (OV) which is indigenous to Northeast Thailand such that this region has one of the world's highest incidences of cholangiocarcinoma (in 39 females and 98 males per 100,000). By comparison, in America the incidence is 2 persons per 100,000."

"The parasitic liver flukes (*O. viverrini*) irritate the bile ducts which in turn causes tumors or wounding of the bile ducts frequently leading to cancer. This disease is rarely discovered at an early stage but incubates for as long as 30 years, by which time the general symptoms are abdominal pain and jaundice. Cancer is induced because the bile ducts are

Associate Professor Dr. Sopit WONGKHAM and Liver Fluke and Cholangiocarcinoma Research Center, Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University, have studied cholangiocarcinoma intensively for many years.

physically damaged by the parasite or its eggs resulting in chronic inflammation and/or scarred tissue. In the final stage, the disease is difficult to cure and most patients have a poor prognosis (six months or less). Owing to the devastating impact on patients, researchers from the Departments of Surgery, Pathology, Parasitology, Pharmacology, Microbiology and Biochemistry have joined together to study the disease to create the guidelines for prevention, diagnosis and treatment in order to improve the quality of life of Thailand's Northeast people."



**targetting for prevention/
diagnosis and effective
treatment** supported by the National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (BIOTEC). The research is expected to develop a DNA array chip for cholangiocarcinoma, which will make diagnosis and treatment possible and affordable.

Notwithstanding scientific advances, Dr. Sopit underscored that it is crucial to prevent the disease through public awareness campaigns on the dangers of eating raw fish, the potential for repeated infection and addressing misunderstandings.



At present, Dr. Sopit and 18 researchers are conducting a five-year, 18 million Baht research project entitled, **"Cholangiocarcinoma associated genes**



Distinguished Guests



On April 11, 2007, **H.E. Dr. Ponmek DALALOY** and delegates from the **Ministry of Health, Lao PDR**, visited the Faculty to solidify ties and observe the preparation and abilities of treatment services for Lao people at Srinagarind Hospital. In 2006, more than 2,500 patients from Lao PDR were treated at Srinagarind Hospital. At present, the Faculty has established academic collaborations with the National University of Laos. For instance, many Lao residents attended the elective program to be trained at the Faculty of Medicine. Moreover, the Faculty has enrolled several students from National University of Laos in Master and Doctoral programs.



On March 29, 2007, **Mr. Fouad HAMADI**, Permanent Secretariat, Ministry of Public Health, **Professor My Tahar ALAOUI**, Chairman, Consultant Committee, Lalla SALMA Association Against Cancer, **Professor Brahim EL GUEDDARI**, Director, Institut National d'Oncologie in Rabat and **Professor Nezha TAOUFIK**, Ibn Rochd Central Hospital, Casablanca, Morocco, visited the Faculty to make a study visit on cancer in Khon Kaen. On this occasion, the Faculty held an exhibition on Morocco to create an awareness amongst our staff and patients.



On January 10, 2007, **Professor Mara KIESER** from **School of Pharmacy, University of Wisconsin-Medison, USA**, visited the Faculty to observe the activities at the Pharmacy Services Section, Out-Patient Nursing Division, Medicine Ward 4 C and Chemotherapy Ward 5 E.



Associate Professor Ira D. DAVIS, Chief of Pediatric Nephrology Unit, Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, **Case Western Reserve University, USA**, was invited to be a speaker on "Chronic Kidney Disease in Children: A Total Body Experience" at the Department of Pediatrics on February 2, 2007.



On February 12, 2007, **Professor Seiji OKADA**, Division of Hematopoiesis Center for AIDS Research and **Associate Professor Norie ARAKI**, Department of Tumor Genetics and Biology, Graduate School of Medical Sciences, **Kumamoto University, Japan**, met the Dean to discuss further academic collaborations and education and research plans between our institutions.



On March 9, 2007, Associate Professor Ross H. ANDREWS, from University of South Australia, Australia, met the Faculty board to discuss academic collaborations and joint research with Associate Professor Paiboon SITTAWORN, Department of Parasitology.



On April 9, 2007, Dr. Than WIN, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon General Hospital, Lasho, and Mr. Zaw WIN from Mandalay General Hospital, Myanmar, attended a short training course on "Pre Hospital Care Management for Injured Victims" at the Accident and Emergency Nursing Division.

Between January 15 and 19, 2007, Dr. Won Sung GWON and Dr. Kim Jong WU from the Specialized Hospital of Orthopedics in Red Cross General Hospital, DPRK, North Korea, attended a short training course on "Diagnosis and Management of Spinal Injury" at the Department of Orthopedics.

On March 14, 2007, Associate Professor Pradeep RAY, Director and UNSW-Asia's foundation staff and Dr. Farhad DANESHGAR, Senior Lecturer from University of New South Wales, Australia, met the Faculty board to discuss the possibilities of further collaboration in research between the universities.

Dr. Garth MANNING, Director of International Family Medicine Development Programme (IDP), Royal College of General Practitioners, UK, visited the Faculty March 20, 2007, to observe activities in Family Medicine at Srinagarind Hospital.

Between January 22 and 26, 2007, Dr. Pak Song UN, Dr. Kim Yong SI from South Hamgyong Provincial Maternity Hospital, Dr. Jon Song HO, Dr. Kim Ae SUN from Pyongyang Maternity, Dr. Hwang Song Gi from Kwangwon Provincial Maternity Hospital, and Dr. Kim Hye YONG from Population Center, DPRK, North Korea, participated in a short training course on "Training on Emergency Obstetric Care (EMOC)" at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Between February 15 and 17, 2007, Professor Anthony J. HEDLEY and Professor Sarah McGHEE from the University of Hong Kong visited the Faculty to follow up and supervise research on "Interdisciplinary Management of Cleft Lip, Cleft Palate and Cranio Facial Anomalies Research Group" and to help supervise the PhD dissertation on the "Private Economic Cost of Alcohol Consumption" being conducted by Assistant Professor Suchada PAILEEKLEE, the Department of Community Medicine.



Official Visit to Cambodia

The delegates from the Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University, including: 1) Assistant Professor Bandit CHUMWORATHAYI, Assistant Dean for International Affairs, 2) Dr. Sauwanun BUMRERRAJ, Assistant Dean for International Affairs, 3) Mrs. Duangsamorn CHANKWANG, Head, International Relations Section and 4) Ms. Pawinee KHAMLAR, International Relations Officer, visited 4 Institutes in Cambodia between March 19 and 22, 2007.



or residents. In the afternoon, they visited [University of Health Sciences](#) to discuss the feasibility of the establishment of an MOU to enhance further exchanges of Thai and Cambodian medical students. During the visit to the

On March 20, 2007, they visited the [Japan International Cooperation Agency \(JICA\) Cambodia Office](#) and met Ms. Terakado MASAYO, Assistant Resident Representative and Mr. Peong VATTANA, Program Assistant (Health Sector) to discuss the international courses of our Faculty for Cambodian medical students

[University of Health Sciences](#), the delegates received the a warm welcome from [Professor Ka SUNBAUNAT](#), Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, [Professor Seang THARITH](#), Deputy Dean of the School of Medicine and [Professor Huy SOVATH](#), Director, [Technical School for Medical Care and Other Staff](#).



On March 21, 2007, our team went to the [International University \(IU\)](#) and discussed the possibility of establishing an MOU with [Professor UON Sabo](#), President, H.E. [Professor Sabo OJANO](#), Vice President, [Professor Chhin SENYA](#), Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Head of the Infectious Diseases Department, [Professor Taing Bun LIM](#), Head of the Dentistry Department, and [Mr. Federico DUMAGPI](#) Director for International Relations. The team also observed administrative systems and other departments of IU. In the afternoon, they went to the [Technical School for Medical Care and](#) met [Professor Huy SOVATH](#), Director, and other administrators to introduce our Faculty of Medicine and to discuss the international training course for medical students and/or residents from the Technical School for Medicine. During the visit, they introduced and discussed the international training course for doctors, residents and medical students at our Faculty with Ms. [Junko DATE](#), Chief Advisor, [Japan International Cooperation Agency \(JICA\)](#), Project for Human Resource Development of Co-Medicals and Mr. [Masanori OIKAWA](#), Project Coordinator. Ms. [Junko DATE](#) kindly presented the framework and objectives of JICA.

MEDICAL STAFF NEWS

The research team led by **Dr. Somboon THIENTHONG**, Professor of Anesthesiology, and **Dr. Allen FINLEY**, Professor of Anesthesia and Psychology at Dalhousie University and physician with the IWK Health Centre received \$1 million from Teasdale-Corti Team Grants Program to develop a pediatric pain management program in Thailand.



Dr. Somboon THIENTHONG

Dr. Somboon explained that, "This participatory action research is to be conducted

to improve and develop a community of practice among the 19 provincial and regional hospitals in Northeast Thailand with standardized approaches to ensure the best possible pain prevention and treatment for children. Moreover, the research team will strengthen the knowledge of pediatric pain management to the medical staff of other hospitals to ensure more efficient treatment for children. At the same time, we will make Srinagarind Hospital the collaborative and coordination center for creating sustainable knowledge with other hospitals."



Dr. Paula FORGERON, Dr. Allen FINLEY and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine

The research team comprised two groups, one from Khon Kaen University and the other from Halifax, Canada. The KCU team include Associate Professor Wimonrat KRISANAPRAKORNKIT, Department of Anaesthesiology, and Associate Professor Sivieng PAIROJKUL, Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, and Assistant Professor Poonsook SIRIPOON and Assistant Professor Darunee JONGUDOMKARN, Faculty of Nursing. The Halifax co-investigators on the project include Dr. Raza ABIDI of Dalhousie University, Faculty of Computer Science, and Dr. Paula FORGERON, Clinical Nurse.



Social Events



The parade of Song Kran Day

On April 11, 2007, the Faculty held the annual Faculty ceremony for Song Kran Day (Thai New Year). The parade of the Buddha image and parades of medical students and personnel dressed in Thai traditional costumes walked around the Faculty in order to invite patients and their relatives to pour water over (to bless) the Buddha image. There were also traditional games, a beauty contest and musical performances.

Foreign Elective Students and Residents

Wakayama Medical University, Japan

Mr. Uda Kazuhiro and Mr. Takaharu Matsuhisa, 3rd-year medical students completed an elective program at Department of Medicine between February 19 and March 2, 2007



Case Western Reserve University, USA



Mr. Yun Sheu and Ms. Mollie O Manley, 4th-year medical students completed an elective program at the Department of Forensic between March 26 and April 7, 2007.

"I had a great time at Khon Kaen University. I really appreciated that all of the students and faculty took the time to get to know us and show us around the University and Khon Kaen. They were really friendly and allowed us to participate in procedures and projects. Not only that, but they took the time out of their busy schedules to teach us about various lab techniques and about the research that is ongoing at the University. I truly appreciated all of their kindness and support. I hope that students from Khon Kaen will be able to come to the US so we can show them the same hospitality," said Mr. Yun Sheu.



Mr. Kanu Goyal, a 4th-year medical student completed an elective program at Orthopedics between April 17 and 27, 2007. "I spent a few weeks at the Department of Orthopaedics at KKV and it was amazing. The professors and residents were very kind and helpful throughout my time there. I observed and participated in the surgical theater as well as in the clinics. I saw a wide range of cases and was able to work with many professors. I enjoyed my time very much and would love to do it again, perhaps as a resident physician!" he said.



Ms. Ramya Gurumurthy, a 4th-year medical student completed an elective program at the Department of Psychiatry between April 17 and 27, 2007.



Nottingham University, UK



Ms. Ruth Waller and Ms. Katharine McClenaghan, 4th-year medical students completed an elective program at the Department of Medicine between April 2 and May 7, 2007.



Mie University School of Medicine, Japan

Between April 11 and May 8, 2007 Ms. Chisa Ishikawa, Ms. Mariko Oyabu, Mr. Tomoaki Tokoyada and Mr. Tomoaki Yo, 6th-year medical students, completed an elective program at the Department of Medicine, while Mr. Naoya Shigeta completed one at the Department of Surgery.



The elective students from Mie University school of Medicine, Japan received the certifications from the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.



Mr. Tomoaki Tokoyada said, "My stay in KKU provided very important experience. KKU

medical students have a real passion to be good doctors and they study hard from early morning to midnight. I was very impressed watching them. Thai people were very kind to us. Thank you all. I want to visit Khon Kaen again."

"I enjoyed staying in Kohn Kaen University, because Thai students were really kind to me. While staying in KKU, they asked me to go out somewhere famous in Kohn Kaen, to go for dinner, or even to go to have myself massaged in Thai traditional style. Of course, I have also studied in ward, but I was really impressed by kindness of Thai students, doctors, and staff. I appreciate your welcome", said Ms. Chisa Ishikawa.



"The medical students in Thailand were excellent and kind. The same year of students as us (6th-year) function just as a doctor would in Japan. I was very impressed. As there were many helps, the practice in Thailand was meaningful. I think the Thai education system is good and should be introduced in Japan. The patients trust the doctors and the therapy. Recently, in Japan, patients mistrust and complain about doctors, nurses and co-medical staff, perhaps because of the media. The relationship between doctors and patients requires many things, but trust is the key element. It might be interesting to have opportunity to includetime in a private hospital when in Khon Kaen, so that we can see the value of the government hospitals. Overall, I think seeing the medical situation in a foreign country is valuable," said Mr. Tomoaki Yo.



Mr. Naoya Shigeta said, "It was very interesting to me to know the medical situation in Khon Kaen, which is very different from Mie, Japan. During my stay at Khon Kaen University, I attended wards and surgery with staff doctors, residents and medical students. It was very exciting and a most informative experience."



Ms. Harue Tonomura and **Ms. Chiai Tanaka**, 6th-year medical students, completed an elective program at the Department of Medicine between May 14 and June 8, 2007.



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

NO	NAME - LASTNAME	DEPARTMENT	DURATION
1	Dr. Viengxai Southahack	OB & GYN	05/Feb/07-24/Feb/07
2	Dr. Oudomsack Sisouvong	OB & GYN	05/Feb/07-24/Feb/07
3	Dr. Gneunson Lor	OB & GYN	05/Feb/07-24/Feb/07
4	Dr. Chanhmaly Keomany	Medicine	01/Mar/07-31/Mar/07
5	Dr. Khamphou Nammavongmixay	Medicine	01/Mar/07-31/Mar/07
6	Dr. Ko Chang	Medicine	01/May/07-31/May/07
7	Dr. Kham savang Singhavong	Medicine	01/May/07-31/May/07
8	Dr. Alounxay Khamtanh	Medicine	01/Jun/07-31/Jun/07
9	Dr. Thongphoun Meunphilom	Medicine	01/Jun/07-31/Jun/07

