

## Letter to the Editor

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# A visit to Songklanagarind Hospital, Prince of Songkla University

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In the period from 7-20 December 2022, I had an opportunity to visit the Department of Radiology of the Faculty of Medicine in Prince of Songkla University at Hatyai, Songkhla, Thailand for a short course training in cardiac computerized tomography.

Hatyai is a district in Songkhla province in the southern part of Thailand approximately 950 kilometers from Bangkok, the capital city of Thailand. Hatyai is well known for the people from nearby countries, i.e., Malaysia and Singapore, the ample number of restaurants and delectable food. The people from Malaysia and Singapore come to visit Hatyai during weekends regularly and usually stay 2-3 days. The visit from these tourists helps improve the economic status of the city and the financial condition of the local people at Hatyai.

Prince of Songkla University is the largest university in southern Thailand. The Faculty of Medicine recently celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2022. The university is located in the suburb of Hatyai, just a few kilometers away from downtown of Hatyai, making the lives of the people working and staying in the university quite comfortable and easy.

The Department of Radiology is located at the 1st and 2nd floors of the main building of the university hospital. There are 41 staff members in the department, 29 of which are in the section of diagnostic radiology, whereas 3 in the section of nuclear medicine section, and 11 in the radiation therapy section.

There are 3 CT scanners as follows:

GE Revolution 512 slices

Philips Brilliance ICT 256 slices.

Toshiba Aquilion Prime 160 slices.

There is 1 MRI scanner: Philips Ingenia Ambition X 1.5 Tesla

There is 1 SPECT/CT machine: Siemen Symbia Pro.specta

There is 1 PET/CT scanner: Philips Vereos Digital

There is 1 Cyclotron: I.B.A. Cyclone KIUBE 18 MeV

During my 2-week training period, I attended daily morning conference and lectures, daily image viewing and read-out altogether with the resident rotating in the cardiovascular imaging section. There were 3-5 cases of coronary computed tomographic angiography (CCTA) per day. The daily CCTA case review and interpretation provides me a great number of practical points for interpretation of the CCTA, and how to operate and manage the post processing images.

There is a daily short teaching session in cardiovascular imaging taught by the attending staff-in-chief of the cardiovascular section, Dr. Ruedeekorn Suwannanon. This teaching session is very informative and valuable regarding various aspects of the cardiovascular imaging interpretation.

Dr. Ruedeekorn Suwannanon is my supervisor throughout this period. She is very knowledgeable, kind and enthusiastic in teaching in cardiovascular imaging which is her specialty. I received a great deal of knowledge and up-to-date information from her. I was also accompanied by Dr. Tanapol Jiwanun, the second year resident in his rotation period to the cardiovascular section. He is friendly, co-operative, enthusiastic and knowledgeable.



*(upper left) Dr. Ruedeekorn Suwannanon. (upper right) The author with Dr. Tanapol Jiwanun, the second year resident. (lower) The author with the residents in training of the department.*

I had an opportunity to discuss and exchange points of view and information in nuclear medicine (my second subspecialty) with Dr. Teerapon Premprabha, the Director of the Department of Radiology. He was kind enough to invite me to visit the PET scanner and the cyclotron. Our extensive discussion and idea exchange are thought provoking and impressive. The new and up-to-date information in the nuclear medicine society and regarding PET/CT imaging are very valuable to me.

Dr. Wiwatana Tanomkiat is another staff member that I had a chance to associate with. It appears to me that, besides his knowledgeability in radiology, his area of expertise extends to social science as well. Our discussion and idea exchanges are completely intriguing and informative.

I was greeted with a very warm and friendly welcome from all the staff members of the department and all residents in training of the department. I would like to extend my gratitude to the Director of the Department of Radiology of the Faculty of Medicine at Prince of Songkla University, everyone in the section of Diagnostic Radiology for this great period of training. I would like to especially thank you Dr. Wiwatana Tanomkiat for the keen co-operation and assistance in attending this training course. Without his assistance, this training of mine would never have been possible.