

***Report on the Medical Physics Symposium***  
***“New Horizon of Medical Physics in Radiation Oncology”***  
***Held***  
***May 2-3, 2002***  
***Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand***

Submitted by  
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This meeting was a two-day symposium organized jointly by the North America Chinese Medical Physics Association (NACMPA) and the Thai Medical Physics society. The local arrangement representatives were Anchali Krisanachinda, PhD, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok and Wichit Kirdpon PhD, Khon Kean University, Khon Kean. The US faculty representatives were Cheng B Saw, PhD, University of Nebraska, Andrew Wu, PhD, University of Pittsburgh, Shalom Kalnicki, MD, University of Pittsburgh and Nagalingam Suntharalingam, PhD, Thomas Jefferson University. This symposium was endorsed by the AAPM Asian and Oceanic Affairs Subcommittee and the Asian-Oceania Federation of Organizations for Medical Physics (AFOMP) of the IOMP.

The objective of the symposium was to present the current status of cancer treatments using the state-of-art technology to the radiation oncologists, medical physicists, radiographers, and allied professions in Thailand. The program allowed for discussion and personal interaction of the US representatives with the Thai participants to promote collegiate atmosphere. This invariably would foster closer collaborative efforts between the US and Thai medical physicists in the future. The symposium consisted of the Thai Medical Society Annual Meeting in the morning followed by a series of presentations by the US speakers in the afternoon and the next day. The topics were

1. “New horizon of imaged-based radiation oncology” by A. Wu
2. “Role of PET/CT fused images on treatment strategy” by S. Kalnicki
3. “Basic principles of IMRT” by N. Suntharalingam
4. “Implementation of QA for a new IMRT program” by C.B. Saw
5. “Clinical indication and efficacies of IMRT” by S. Kalnicki
6. “Radiobiological model for plan evaluation (TCP-NTCP)” by A. Wu
7. “Basic principles in dosimetry of brachytherapy” by N. Suntharalingam
8. “Intravascular brachytherapy” by C.B. Saw

The symposium was held at Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital within the university. This university named after one of its king is a highly regarded institution and known around the world. It was a very well organized meeting in regard to the facility, the program and the need of the representatives. Both slide presentations and powerpoint presentations were needed. The breaks and lunches consisted of local foods were authentic to our US representatives and tasted excellent. The hospitality of the host had

allowed the US representatives to taste the local foods and fruits as well as toured Bangkok and its surroundings. The presentations were well received by the attendees. There were approximately 70 attendees among which were radiation oncologists, medical physicists, radiographers, medical physics students, and observers. The symposium was very interactive and enjoyable. All attendees were given a book of presenters' notes, e-textbooks on foundation of radiological physics and therapeutic radiological physics and certificate of attendance issued by Chulalongkorn University. The organizers viewed the symposium as well attended and successful based on the anticipated attendance and financial support. The US representatives were impressed with the cordial and politeness of the Thai people. They have positive experience and have expressed their interests in returning to Thailand in the near future.

This symposium would not be possible without the financial contributions from the vendors (Siemens, Varian, Elekta, Sun Nuclear, CMS), Mr. Sankara I. Ramaswamy from Best Industries, Mr. John C Yassenak from Inovision, Radiology Dept, Chulalongkorn University, NACMPA, and local vendors. In addition, it would not be possible without the US faculties whom had given up their time to travel to Asia and made presentations. Lastly, the hard work of the local arrangement committee was critical to the smooth conduct of the symposium. I take this opportunity to thank our US faculties for agreeing to come to this symposium and the local arrangement committee for agreeing to take the critical tasks of running the operation of the symposium. Thank you.