

The Bangkok Hospital Group has been recognized for its quality medical care internationally. It has become the largest private hospital group in Thailand with almost 5,000 beds. Bangkok Hospital has been the leader in radiology, surgery, cardiology and other fields. The expertise of its personnel is well known and many prominent persons have been treated in this hospital. Recently, the Bangkok Hospital Group has initiated academic activities for its personnel and medical society as a whole, the last one is the publication of the Bangkok Medical Journal .

I have the opportunity to read the manuscript of the first issue of the Journal. Dr. Chirochana Suchato, the Editor in Chief, has successfully recruited a big quality team of editors, indicating his great determination and dedication for the quality of the Journal. It is worth mentioning that the 2 original articles reflect the academic background of the staff members of the Bangkok Hospital Group. It is uncommon for a research paper in Thailand to be presented by doctors working in private hospitals. The paper on evaluation of coronary artery by a non-invasive mean using high technology available only in a few hospitals yielded a good result. The technique could replace the current practice of invasive coronary angiography. The second original article on endobronchial ultrasound - guided transbronchial needle biopsy of mediastinal lymph nodes, a new technique , is jointly presented by the researchers of the Bangkok Hospital Group and Chiba University, Tokyo. This cross-country co-operation is to be congratulated, especially by a private hospital.

The Bangkok Medical Journal also contains eight reviewed articles on common practices .The articles are well prepared for basic knowledge and practical points. They were written by well known doctors in each field. The reviewed topics could be widely applied not only in big private hospitals but also in smaller, government hospitals as well.

The Bangkok hospital Journal is a quality journal ever published by a private hospital in Thailand. The dedication of Dr. Chirochana Suchato and his team is to be appreciated. This

Journal is a symbol of academic interest and of education value given by a private hospital group. Such activities are rarely given to medical community by private sector and they deserve admiration.

Somwang Danchaivijitr M.D.
Emeritus Professor of Medicine
Former President of the Royal College of Physicians
of Thailand.

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