

# APPLIED PHYSICS IN MEDICINE: DO WE FORGET ITS IMPORTANT - REFLECTION FROM CURRENT MEDICAL CURRICULUM IN THAILAND

SORA YASRI\*

## ABSTRACT

Applied physics is proven for its usefulness in several fields including to medicine. In medicine, physics is the basic knowledge for practitioners on some specific clinical aspects such as orthopedics and radiology. An interesting concern is the fact that medical physics is usually received little interest from medical practitioner. Here, the authors discuss on the current situation of medical curriculum in Thailand that lacks for important component on medical physics.

**KEYWORDS:** Physics, Medicine, Curriculum.

## INTRODUCTION

Applied physics is proven for its usefulness in several fields including to medicine. In medicine, physics is the basic knowledge for practitioners on some specific clinical aspects such as orthopedics and radiology. An interesting concern is the fact that medical physics is usually received little interest from medical practitioner. Here, the authors discuss on the current situation of medical curriculum in Thailand that lacks for important component on medical physics.

## SITUATION OF MEDICAL PHYSICS RESEARCHES AND MEDICAL CURRICULUM IN THAILAND

### MEDICAL PHYSICS RESEARCHES IN THAILAND

The medical physics have been implemented with the strongest linkage to medical radiology in Thailand. However, the physician usually neglects the importance of medical physics and there are very publications on medical physics from Thailand. The summarization of some important publications is hereby presented in Table.

Table 1. Some important publications on medical physics from Thailand

Authors	Details
Tsapaki et al. [1]	This article mentioned about "22nd International Conference on Medical Physics 2016, Bangkok, Thailand; Medical physics propelling global health [1]."
Kron et al. [2]	Kron et al. studied on Medical physics aspects of cancer care in the Asia Pacific region including to Thailand [2].
Urairat et al. [3]	Urairat et al. performed an evaluation of radiation dose to patients undergoing interventional radiology procedures at Ramathibodi Hospital, Thailand [3].

\*KMT Primary Care Center, Bangkok, Thailand.

Correspondence E-mail Id: editor@eurekajournals.com

## **MEDICAL CURRICULUM AND MEDICAL PHYSICS IN THAILAND**

In the past, the medical physics is an important requirement for medical students to stud. Nevertheless, due to the present change of medical curriculum due to the new concept implemented by some young non-experience medical education expert, the medical physics are already dropped out from the medical curriculum of almost all medical departments in Thailand. This is contrast to the fact proposed by Ng et al. that "*The demand for medical physicists is expected to rise in tandem with the increased emphasis on innovative technology for health care, stringent governmental regulation, and acceptance by the medical community of the important role of medical physicists*[4]."

## **CONCLUSION**

The Thai medical curriculum at present seems to overlook the important of medical physics. In fact, there are very few Thai researches on medical physics and the problem will be more serious according to the change of the new medical curriculum without concern on the important of medical physics.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** None

## **REFERENCES**

- [1]. Tsapaki V, Ibbott G, Krisanachinda A, Ng KH, Suh TS, Tabakov S, Damilakis J. 22nd International Conference on Medical Physics 2016, Bangkok, Thailand; Medical physics propelling global health. *Phys Med.* 2017 Dec; 44: 196-198.
- [2]. Kron T, Azhari HA, Voon EO, Cheung KY, Ravindran P, Soejoko D, Inamura K, Han Y, Ung NM, Tsedenlsh B, Win UM, Srivastava R, Marsh S, Farrukh S, Rodriguez L, Kuo M, Baggarley S, DilipKumara AH, Lee CC, Krisanachinda A, Nguyen XC, Ng KH. Medical physics aspects of cancer care in the Asia Pacific region: 2014 survey results. *Australas Phys EngSci Med.* 2015 Sep; 38(3): 493-501.
- [3]. Urairat J, Asavaphatiboon S, Singhara Na Ayuthaya S, Pongnapang N. Evaluation of radiation dose to patients undergoing interventional radiology procedures at Ramathibodi Hospital, Thailand. *Biomed Imaging Interv J.* 2011 Jul-Sep; 7(3): e22.
- [4]. Ng K, Pirabul R, Peralta A, Soejoko D. Medical physics is alive and well and growing in South East Asia. *Australas Phys EngSci Med.* 1997 Mar; 20(1): 27-32.