

Message from the President, Thailand Chapter of The American College of Surgeons

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It is a proud moment for Thailand Chapter of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), to mark the first anniversary of the auspicious occasion of its establishment in 1997. Starting with our past Governors and lately Dr. Chinda Suwanraks with the cooperation of the Fellows from Thailand, the Thailand Chapter is now among the world's 28 chapter-countries outside the United States, Canada and Mexico. This issue of the Thai Journal of Surgery contains a special article with the history of the ACS, Thailand Chapter.

Each ACS Chapter's objectives are as follows:

- To provide for close fellowship of members in uniting their efforts to elevate the standards of surgical education and practice;
- To provide a medium through which surgical experiences may be presented and discussed;
- To provide a meeting ground for all surgical specialties;
- To provide a forum for young surgeons;
- To provide economic support for the College's Endowment Funds;
- To offer assistance to professional and civic groups concerned with the health of the community;

- To provide a mechanism for focusing local attention on national College programs (for example, the Committee on Trauma and the Commission on Cancer); and

- To encourage Associate Fellows and members of the Candidate Group to affiliate with the chapter.

As you know, most of the Fellows, Thailand Chapter are the active members of the Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand (RCST). Some of them are playing an important role in the RCST administrative activities. We surgeons have respected the RCST as the most important body of surgeons in Thailand. We think that the ACS, Thailand Chapter should be one of the international arms of the RCST. What have we done and what is our future planning to support the RCST? One of the impressive and interesting examples is to award a young surgeon who is able to win the first prize in presenting an outstanding paper in English in the RCST annual meeting. We are not only presenting a cash award and a plaque, but also inviting him or her to attend the Annual ACS Congress in the US. There are two additional subjects that we, FACS, Thailand Chapter are concerned with and consider them as our activities. They are the fields of trauma and cancer. I would like to encourage and persuade all

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members to join this program. Nevertheless, our ACS, Thailand Chapter annual meeting is very important to all our members and they should take this opportunity to attend the meeting. The ACS annual meeting this year, 1999, was held in conjunction with the RCST Annual Congress on 25-27th July 1999 at the Royal Cliff Hotel in Pattaya, Chonburi. We invited Professor Douglas Wilmore to give a lecture on "Trends to reduce length of hospitalization following elective

operation" in the early morning of July 26. The event was of great interest, and was well attended.

On this important occasion, on behalf of the administrative committee ACS, I would like to extend my congratulations to our Fellows, Thailand Chapter for its first anniversary, and would like to express my grateful appreciation to the editorial board of the Thai Journal of Surgery for their permission to publish the history of ACS, Thailand Chapter in this special issue.