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Editorial

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Editor-in-Chief of the Thai Journal of Surgery
On Behalf of the Editorial Team

The Thai Journal of Surgery is now entering its 42nd year. The first issue was for January to March, 1980, and the Journal has been in print, for better or for worse, continuously for over 40 years in the (mainly) quarterly format. There is no doubt the Journal will continue to exist for the benefit of the members of The Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand, and to showcase the best of Thai surgery in both academic and practical aspects, in the future. And, of course, contributions from related disciplines and from colleagues outside of Thailand are most welcome.

To be around for 40 years is no easy task. And it was no easy task to start an academic journal 40 years ago, as one of the founders and Inaugural Editor/Publisher of the Thai Journal of Surgery, Professor Thongdee Shaipanich, might attest. In the words of Professor Udom Poshakrishna, the Inaugural President of The Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand, in the first ever Editorial in the Journal, "To publish a journal in Thailand is the most tedious enterprise that only the ablest can dare to venture".[1] We have also been fortunate with a series of dedicated Editors-in-Chief, Professor Soottiporn Chittmittrapap, Lieutenant-General Professor Noppadol Wora-Urai, and Professor Pornchai O-Charoenrat, all of whom are among the most respected of Thailand's Surgical Mentors and who continued to keep Ajarn Thongdee's vision and excellence in journalism alive. In subsequent issues, we hope to engage these now honorary Editors-in-Chief in putting their experiences as Editors in writing for the benefit of later generations of surgeons.

We, the current Editorial Team of the Thai Journal of Surgery, are proud to have gathered together almost all articles ever published in the Journal and to have digitized all this material to be made readily available at the touch of a button (or perhaps several buttons) to all our readers, on the Journal's Website. To read them chronologically is to observe how the Science and Practice of Surgery have grown and advanced tremendously within the last four decades. It will amaze the reader to

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see the extent to which these invaluable contributions reflect practically all major developments in all branches of surgery. We plan to enlist the help of all specialty or subspecialty organizations to sort out this historical material and summarize the recent advances in each specialty and subspecialty as reflected in the articles published in the Journal, in the form of historical narrative reviews to be published in subsequent issues.

In this issue, the first in the year 2021 and a prologue to our 40th Anniversary Volume, we feature, in addition to our regular research articles, a special article to emphasize the scientific spirit of all doctors and to describe the possible transformation toward the profession of the doctor-scientist, within a framework based on data gathered through routine clinical observations. This is a celebration of the numerous observational studies published in the Thai Journal of Surgery, many of which are of considerable scientific value.

We are indebted to Professor Pornthep Premyothin and the current President of The Royal College of Surgeons, Professor Paisit Siriwittayakorn for suggesting the undertaking of a 40th Anniversary Volume and for unending support of the Journal and ceaseless encouragement.

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