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Editorial

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

It is with profound sadness, as the current Editor-in-Chief of the Thai Journal of Surgery, that I will become a former Editor-in-Chief right after the new year. On the other hand, I am extremely proud that the Editorial Team of The Thai Journal of Surgery has done a tremendous job of transitioning our Journal to an electronic format as well as creating the infrastructure needed for a smooth running of an almost-international-level academic journal.

I have served the Journal in various capacities for almost 15 years. I strongly believe, and will continue to believe in the importance of the Journal to the Thai Surgical Community, and in the Journal's commitment to serve the needs of all Thai Surgeons, but with an international outlook. It is almost certain that the future path of the Journal would become that of a world class journal listed in reputable international databases, which I also believe to be the right path. However, to that end, requirements imposed on our Authors must be quite stringent, and may seem impossibly or at least frustratingly difficult. I apologize if these requirements and processes have caused our Colleagues some degree of mental anguish, but it is the right thing to do, as neces-

sary as it is to hold our surgical practice standards up to international levels.

Ethical academic and scientific publishing, in which the reporting of scientific truths obtained ethically is paramount, must be a part of the Journal's unshakable foundation. The Thai Journal of Surgery is deeply committed to ethical publishing, to the extent that some behind-the-scene manuscript rejections were because of ethical issues, and I must apologize to the authors of those manuscripts. The ethical issues are often a result of ignorance or unintentional misconduct. Occasionally some unethical manuscripts will slip through our peer-review process, and may never be identified as such. It is crucial that we handle all research misconduct appropriately, and all our Surgical Colleagues must be aware of these issues. Surgical Educators must emphasize ethical research and ethical publishing, no less than ethical surgical practice.

As Editor I take my work very seriously. But as my own personal affairs have significantly impacted my editorial work, I can no longer serve as Editor with good conscience. It is, in every sense, unethical publishing if the Editor continues his or her substandard editorial

work in a compromised working environment. I have therefore decided to step down as Editor-in-Chief. The decision was not made lightly and was contingent upon the finding of a new and more capable Editor. Thus, it is with pleasure and a great sense of relief to announce that the next Editor-in-Chief of The Thai Journal of

Surgery will be none other than our esteemed colleague *Professor Potchavit Aphinives*. I am sure that Professor Potchavit will continue to serve our Surgical Colleagues with utmost commitment, and will take our Journal to far greater heights than I can ever achieve on my own.