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# Remembering Professor Emeritus Lady Dr. Putipannee Vorakitpokatorn: A visionary anesthesiologist and ICU pioneer

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We mourn the loss of Lady Dr. Putipannee Vorakitpokatorn or "Ajahn Tam", beloved wife, mother, teacher, a remarkable anesthesiologist, critical care physician, and a mentor who dedicated her life to improve patient care in Thailand. Ajahn Tam passed away peacefully on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, her unwavering passion and compassion touched the lives of countless individuals.

## DEDICATION TO PATIENT CARE

### Compassionate care

Ajahn Tam had taken care of every patient with empathy and respect, going above and beyond to ensure their well-being. Her expertise and meticulous attention to detail made her an exceptional clinician, trusted by colleagues and patients. She believed in providing personalized care, tailoring treatment plans to each patient's unique needs and circumstances. She always placed her patients at the heart of her practice, ensuring they felt heard, understood, and respected.

### Exceptional clinical skills

Her expertise and precision in administering anesthesia and managing critical care patients earned her widespread recognition and admiration. She saved numerous critically ill patients with miraculous recoveries despite limited resources.

### KIDNEY TRANSPLANT (1996) AND LIVER TRANSPLANT (2002) PIONEERS TEAM IN SIRIRAJ HOSPITAL

Back to the year 1996, the kidney transplant operation was introduced, and Ajahn Tam was positioned as the leader of the anaesthesia team working closely with the urological surgeon. She was deeply respected by all team members. This pioneering team not only conducted the complex operations but also provided comprehensive care throughout the anaesthesia process and intensive care unit recovery after the operation. Their groundbreaking work laid the foundation for countless lives to be saved in the years to come.

### ROBOTIC SURGERY TRAIL-BLAZERS (2007)

The Tireless Anaesthesiologist: A Heroine in the Urological Surgery. Her unwavering dedication and expertise in laparoscopic and robotic prostatectomy procedures have made her an indispensable personnel in the operating theatre. During laparoscopic prostatectomy procedures, she had been extra vigilant, specifically with the patient's position, which sometimes might have a negative consequence for their respiration and circulation. It's like playing a high-stakes game of Twister, where every move could impact the patient's well-being.



This innovation explores her journey, skills, and the impact she contributed to her patients while maintaining a friendly, caring, and humorous approach to the entire team. Apart from that, she also provided unwavering support to her patients and their families, offering comfort and guidance during challenging times.

### PIONEERING CRITICAL CARE

She was a driving force in establishing modern intensive care units (ICUs) in Thailand, set the gold standard for modernized ICUs (1998), and established the High Dependency Unit (HDU) (2008) for critical care medicine.

She was also the expert in everything regarding the ventilator, medical students, residents, and fellows from everywhere in this country had intense desires to study with her. Ajahn Tam eventually wrote a book named "Mechanical Ventilation and Respiratory Care Principle and Practice", this book has served as the precious ventilator bible ever.

### MENTORSHIP AND TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Ajahn Tam was an exceptional educator, inspiring generations of medical students, residents, and fellows with her knowledge and passion, although at the first time her students might understand what

she was saying. She taught with unwavering patience and fostered a supportive atmosphere. She never rushed her students' learning process. She served as a true philosopher, for example, she had created plenty of mnemonic magic as memorable acronyms for complex concepts and incorporated humor into lessons promoting a learning environment and student engagement.

## GUIDING FUTURE LEADERS

Her mentorship and guidance helped shape the careers of countless aspiring anesthesiologists and intensivists throughout the country.

## IMPACT ON THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY

Lady Dr. Putipannee was a highly respected mentor, guiding and inspiring countless aspiring doctors. Her contributions to the field earned her recognition and leadership roles within various medical organizations. She was a strong advocate for collaboration among healthcare professionals, fostering a spirit of teamwork and shared knowledge.

## BECOMING A TRUSTED PHYSICIAN

Ajahn Tam had become a trusted physician for providing care to a very, very important person. Offering care to the VVIP came along with its unique challenges and responsibilities. She certainly handled the immense pressure of providing medical care to high-profile individuals while navigating the complex protocols and expectations. She constantly maintained confidentiality and discretion, knowing that every decision and every action could have significant ramifications.

## LEGACY OF EDUCATION

Her dedication to education, academic and healthcare services leaves a lasting legacy, shaping the future of healthcare in Thailand.

In Memory of Ajahn Tam, who will never be forgotten, forever loved, and dearly missed by her family, friends, colleague, and her students.

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