

Biography of Professor Udom Bhosakrisana

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Professor Udom Bhosakrisana was born on November 6, 1910 in Bangkok, and was married to Kun Ying Mattanee Bhosakrisana with 2 sons and 2 daughters. He studied at Thepsirintra School and Assumption College before entering his premedical year at Chulalongkorn University in 1930. He then turned to the Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital. During his study, he got a First Class Honor in all 4 consecutive years at Siriraj.

He received a scholarship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation to study Dentistry in Leipzig, Germany and got the First Class Honor of Dr. Med. Dentistry in 1941. He also got a First Class Honor of Dr. Med. Medicine in Heidelberg and Facharzt für Chirurgie in Vienna, Austria in 1946. He came back to the Department of Surgery in the same year and spent 10 years to get a Professorship in Surgery.

The Father of Neurosurgery in Thailand

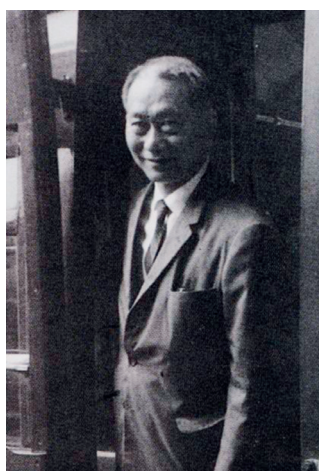
At the time of his return from abroad, he was perceived among others as a very talented energetic and undoubtedly fully competent young surgeon. He brought back new ideas, new technologies and new techniques from Europe. He started to develop many specialties apart from general surgery which were subsequently branched out to be the division of Head-Neck and Breast Surgery, Cardio-thoracic Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Neurosurgery, and Trauma. He was also named as the Father of Neurosurgery in Thailand.

The longest reign in Surgery

He was the Faculty's longest seated chairman of the Department of Surgery for more than 14 years from 1956 to 1971. As for our department staff, he led and steered the department through many crises from Post-World War recession to high technology competition keeping the department glorious and excellent among leading institutes.

Siriraj's Field Doctor Team in Udon Thani

The Communist Party of Thailand illegally was established in 1942, and resulted from the social inequality and injustice among the local governance which was one of



the key internal factors for separation. To alleviate the situation and bring the public's loyalty back to the royal government, medical care and medical aid was then the only genuine activities that could infiltrate to the red areas of the communist strong hold. In 1965, Siriraj led by Professor Udom (Dean of the faculty) and Professor Prem Buri (Chairman of the Department of surgery), organized rotating medical teams to provide medical aid to the local people in Udonthani Province for many years.

The First President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand

He also played an active role among 20 pioneer surgeons who established the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of Thailand in 1972 with the objective to improve the country's standard of training in surgery. The Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand was then the first college of its kind and was qualified by the Thai Medical Council on November 12, 1973 with Professor Udom as the first President.

Rural Health Development

He played a big role in establishing the volunteer doctors Foundation under the King's Mother Patronage (Po Or Soe Wor) in 1974. The foundation aimed to enhance the well being of the rural and remote area people by providing all medical facilities including health promotion, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation by all volunteer health care personnels.

Volunteer Surgeon Team

After the Great Tragedy Day of October 14, 1973, a new civilian government was founded. Professor Udom Bhosakrisana was appointed to hold the Minister of Health under Prime minister Dr. Sanya Thammasak. During that period, there were lots of accidents, natural disasters and terrorist assaults in all parts of the country. Surgeons had been lacking in many areas due to shortage and unsuitable distribution. As a consequence, he asked the College of Surgeons to set up a volunteer team serving side by side along with the royal family while their majesties travelled to four regional areas such as Chiangmai, Sakonnakorn

Narathivart and Hau-Hin. Since then, the college has been kindly supported and was put under Royal Patronage in 1980.

Named Lecture Udom Bhosakrisana

To memorize and praise his contribution to the development in Surgery and also to the improvement of health care and well being of the rural people, the Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital initiated an Outstanding Community Doctor Award in 1973. Each year until now, the award goes to the most devoted doctors that worked in the rural and remote areas with excellent performance. The laureate of the year will present a special talk under the named lecture of Udom Bhosakrisana.

A great sportsman, surgeon, teacher, leader, mentor and icon

He was a true sportsman, with a body builder frame, because he kept a very good shape through his very advanced age. He was talented in many sports such as body building, gymnastics, boxing, swimming, yoga and judo. Consequently, this really made him a leader, fair player, accountable, and good judgment person among family, friends, social and administrative communities.

His prominent characteristics were talk-less, but precisely, and not ferocious but calm and respectful. He was also modest, humble, considerate and compassionate. He had initiative, and was innovative and communicative especially being a mentor and good teacher and surgeon all the time.

His retirement date

Since professor Udom spent his life in a modest way and traveled to all parts of the rural and remote areas in the country, he had opportunities to meet with many high ranking monks in the jungle temples. Finally, he devoted himself to be a faithful Buddhist follower. He also loved to visit surgeons and do some surgery together, while he ate and stayed with them in the hospitals.

In 1985, he was kindly appointed as Secretary General of the Po Or Soe Wor Foundation, working closely with the King's Mother for the rural health care project.

He had a coronary artery bypass graft surgery in 1989. He recovered well for many years until 1996, when he began to have brain degeneration and subsequent multiple organ failure. He passed away peacefully in February 3, 1997.