

Newsletter



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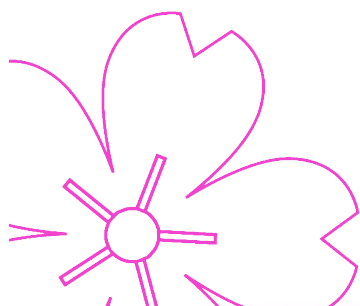
Chulalongkorn University (CU) and
Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMDU)
Research and Education Collaboration Center in Thailand

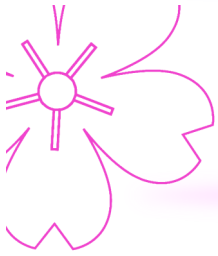
CU-TMDU Research and Education Collaboration Center, Thailand

April 28th, 2023

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① Report on a visit to Chulalongkorn University / Mahidol University

In January 2023, as the COVID-19 pandemic was beginning to fade from view, I made a trip to Bangkok to conduct some work at Chulalongkorn University. Suvarnabhumi Airport, where I landed after a long absence, was far from crowded, though I saw many Chinese tourists, probably because my visit coincided with Chinese New Year. Arriving at Siam Square via the Airport Rail Link/BTS Skytrain, I found the area crowded with people wearing masks and enjoying Chinese New Year celebrations; everyone seemingly reconciled to incorporating coronavirus precautions into their daily lives. The vibrant atmosphere of the streets where people were enjoying their lives post pandemic also helped dispel any anxiety about my first overseas business trip in a long time.

The CU-TMDU Research and Education Collaboration Center, which opened in 2010, was a facility I made use of during my one-month business trip. The center was also utilized frequently during the pandemic and continues to play a significant role in the development of cooperative research not only between the two universities, but also between Japan and Thailand in general. While walking the grounds of Chulalongkorn University with Assoc. Prof. Atiphan Pimkhaokham, who manages the Center, we happened to meet Assoc. Prof. Somsri Rojanawatsirivej, who was a great help to us more than two decades ago when we started the student exchange program between the School of Dentistry at Chulalongkorn and TMDU. I was happy to again report to him on my life as a member of the faculty. Online communication is a new tool, but this was a moment when I felt the warmth of international exchange and the necessity of direct interaction, as we all appreciated the value of coincidentally meeting. ■

*Associate Professor Jun Tsuruta, Department of Educational System in Dentistry



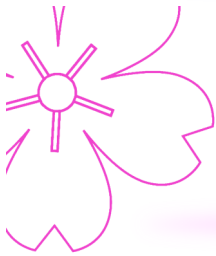
In front of hospital building 1, from left: Assoc. Prof. Atiphan, Asst. Somsinee, Assoc. Prof. Somsri, Assoc. Prof. Tsuruta



A night view of the campus and the new dental school hospital during Chinese New Year



Assoc. Prof. Atiphan Pimkhaokham at the CU-TMDU Research and Education Collaboration Center



② Chulalongkorn JDP: M2017 Cohort Graduation Ceremony & M2020 Cohort Thesis Planning Examination

Following 2021, three Thai students in the second cohort completed the Chulalongkorn JDP in July 2022 as well. During the COVID-19 pandemic, thesis guidance was provided using Zoom and other online communication tools, and all the students in the second cohort successfully completed their studies. With COVID-19 infection rates slowing in Thailand, the degree conferment ceremony for the second cohort of students was held in November 2022 to great fanfare.

In November 2022, a fifth thesis planning examination was also held, and all three students passed with flying colors. Through the Chulalongkorn JDP, we will continue to strive for the development of highly specialized medical professionals who command international leadership. ■

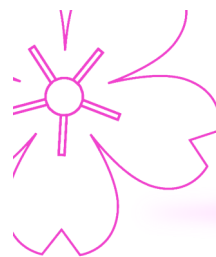
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The three new graduates



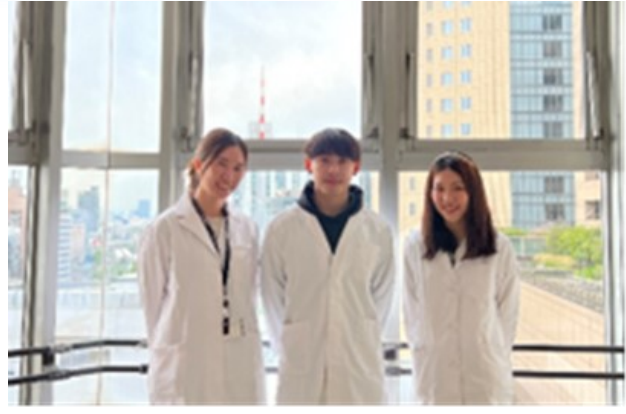
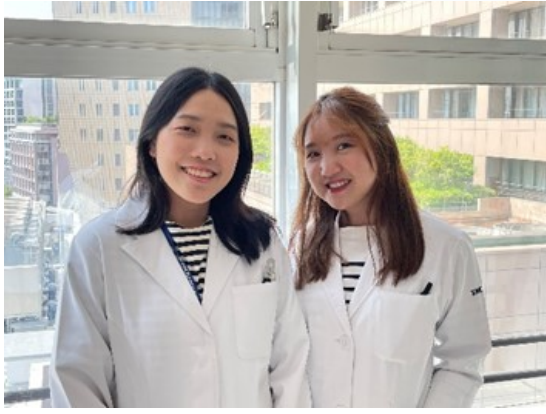
Chulalongkorn JDP students and faculty members



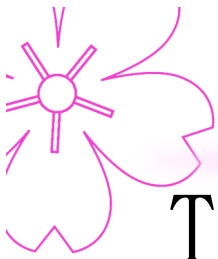
③ Chulalongkorn JDP: M2021 Cohort Japan Visit

Two students from the class of 2021, the sixth cohort of the program, came to Japan on December 1, 2022 to begin their studies in the Department of Maxillofacial Orthognathics and the Department of Orthodontic Science at TMDU. Due to the impact of the pandemic, their trip was delayed by about six months, but the two students will spend the next year collecting and analyzing research data and writing theses. We hope this will give them a good opportunity to absorb Japanese language and culture, not only through their research, but also through communication with international and Japanese students at TMDU. ■

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Students admitted in 2020 and 2021
who are currently in Japan



④ Mahidol JDP: First Cohort Japan Visit

Two students from the first cohort of the JDP program at Mahidol University, whose arrival in Japan was delayed due to the spread of COVID-19, came to Japan in October 2022 to commence their clinical training and research activities at TMDU.

With the cooperation of faculty members from various departments along with those from the departments that are hosting the students, clinical training in gastrointestinal surgery is being gradually extended to include endoscopy (gastroenterology), with the help of faculty members from other departments. The students are being encouraged to balance this clinical training with their thesis writing work. Research activities in the field of stem cell regulation, meanwhile, are being enthusiastically supported by way of an invitation to be part of a new research project.

Both students have shown a keen interest in Japanese culture and customs, alongside academic interest in ideas related to disease distribution. They are already showing great promise as individuals active on the global stage, taking advantage of the benefits of the JDP, including expanded communications and networking through Japanese language study. ■

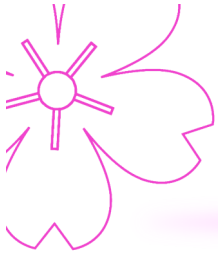
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The two first-cohort students who began their training at TMDU in October 2022

Left: Mr. Tanakorn, who is conducting research in Department of Stem Cell Regulation

Right: Mr. Tharathorn, who is receiving clinical training in the Department of Gastrointestinal Surgery



⑤ Mahidol JDP: 2nd Year Thesis Planning & Review

On November 14 and 24, 2022, an evaluation committee comprising doctoral advisors from Mahidol University and TMDU carried out thesis planning reviews via Zoom. The purpose of these reviews is to confirm that candidates have the ability to express their thought processes, that they have the analytical and problem-solving skills necessary to writing a doctoral thesis, and that they are prepared to push forward with independent research.

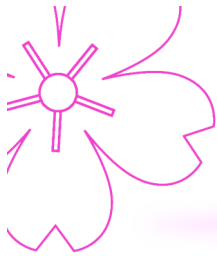
The three students in the second cohort gave presentations on their research topics and plans, received advice from evaluation committee members on how to apply their research to future research activities, and took the first step along their respective research paths. The students will continue to report regularly on their research progress to their supervisors at the two universities as they prepare for their thesis review in two years' time. ■

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Doctoral advisors from Mahidol University and students making their presentations to the thesis review board





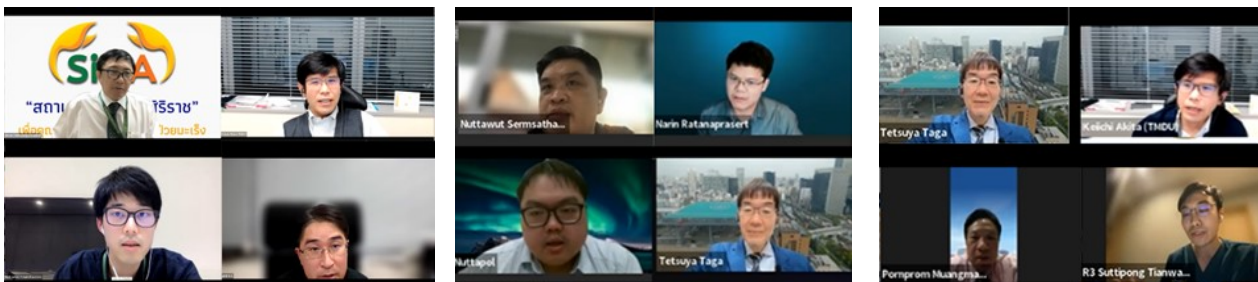
© Mahidol JDP: 1st Year Student Meetings

On November 29–30, 2022, meetings were held to discuss future research plans and provide guidance to the three Mahidol JDP students who enrolled in the program in April 2022, with research faculty members from TMDU and Mahidol University, who were selected on the basis of the students' research themes.

The three students gave presentations on their research topics and plans, the meetings providing them with a valuable opportunity to exchange opinions and receive specific advice on their future research plans from research faculty at the two universities.

We will continue to provide guidance in cooperation with research faculty at both universities, and do everything to ensure that the students acquire the knowledge and skills needed to undertake their research. ■

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The meeting between TMDU faculty members and the three students from the first cohort of the Mahidol JDP

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