



Introduction and research highlights

Department of Community Medicine traces its root back to the foundation of Ramathibodi Hospital back in 1968. From its original mission to prepare medical students to work in rural hospitals, the department focuses on the community and population health and has produced many high-quality researches in these areas. It is currently one of the most productive departments in terms of research output per faculty member, with research projects in 6 key areas:

- Health systems research
- Public health policy
- Community Medicine
- Epidemiology
- Occupational & Environmental medicine
- Medical education & student well-being

Health Systems Research

Health systems researches address issues on the evaluation, setup and implementation of health systems. This can have far-reaching impact on the health of large number of population, an example of which can be seen from the differing responses from various national governments on the COVID19 pandemics.

List of research topics/ questions

- **New-normal healthcare delivery (During and After COVID-19 pandemics)**
 - Telemedicine & home deliveries of medicine
 - Public-Private partnership in Primary Care setting
 - Role of nursing staff
- **Long-term care services**
 - Evaluation of community-based LTC services
 - Family caregivers' burden
- **Effectiveness of cloud-based blood pressure monitoring and low-cost medications on controlling blood pressure in workplace setting**



Healthy Public Policy

Should we impose a tax on high-salt food? Should we legalize e-cigarette? Should people contribute to insurance for long-term care in case they need it in the future? These questions on public health policy can have significant health impacts and are the areas that require good quality evidence to formulate an appropriate policies.

List of research topics/ questions

- **Tobacco control:** research & analysis on tobacco and e-cigarette use and its impact, monitoring and surveillance of tobacco industry strategies, evaluation of tobacco control policies.
- **Evaluation of road safety program**
- **Industrial interference of public policy**
- **Food policy** e.g. tax, advertisement, regulations, laws
- **Long-term care insurance**

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Review



Active Smokers Are at Higher Risk of COVID-19 Death: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

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RESEARCH

Open Access

District division administrative disaggregation data framework for monitoring leaving no one behind in the National Health Insurance Fund of Sudan: achieving sustainable development goals in 2030

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Community Medicine

Researches in community medicine address equally important issues on the health and healthcare of the community. Unlike researches in healthcare systems or public health policy, these tends to have immediate impacts on the local community, but can also serve as prototype for wider implementation.

List of research topics/ questions

- Community health & community safety
- School health
- Youth health and addiction study
- Community-based intermediate care & longterm care
- Elderly surveys
- Dementia in community

Medical Education and Student Well-being

In order to improve students' well-being and medical curriculum, we aim to apply a mixedmethod research and systems thinking tools and concepts identify the problem and synthesis the recommendations. In addition, we purpose to prototype the research collaboration between faculties and students to make change in mode of partnership.

List of research topics/ questions

- **Health and well-being of medical students and its' determinants**
 - What has been done by the faculty to deal with it.
 - What to be done for further improvement?
 - i.e. depression, mistreatment, bullying, etc.
- **What is "a change agent"?**
 - What are its' attributes?
 - What are key competencies of being "a change agent"
 - How to develop a student to be a change agent?

Occupational & Environmental Medicine

Occupational medicine is a branch of preventive medicine, regarding the health of working population. The objectives are to early detect occupational diseases and injuries, protect workers from occupational hazards, ensure that workers are capable of working safely, and, finally, to promote workers health and well-being.

List of research topics/questions

- Occupational diseases and risk factors in healthcare workers e.g. work-related COVID-19 infection, tuberculosis
- Health status of healthcare workers and impact on productivity e.g. non-communicable diseases
- Long working hours and health effects in healthcare workers e.g. Karoshi syndrome

Epidemiology

Epidemiology is a discipline that studies the distributions of diseases or conditions and factors contributing to them. The department's work in this area complement Ramathibodi's strengths as the leader in non-communicable diseases research, with national flagship projects in the areas of non-communicable diseases (NCD) epidemiology and genetic epidemiology:

- **Non-communicable diseases (NCD) epidemiology:**
The National Health Exam Surveys is the five-yearly national surveys of population health status including NCDs prevalence and commonrisk factors such as smoking, alcohol use, medication use. This generates rich data which can be explored in many ways.
- **Genetic epidemiology:**
The department is the project lead of the non-communicable diseases arm of the Genomics Thailand program. Researches in this area include the distribution of genotypes in the population, relationship between genetic factors and health outcomes especially non-communicable diseases, construction of polygenic risk scores for risk predictions, as well as theoretical works in statistical genetics and bioinformatics.

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

Infantile onset Sandhoff disease: clinical manifestation and a novel common mutation in Thai patients

Thipwimol Tim-Aroon¹, Khunton Wichajarn², Kamornwan Katanyuwong³, Pranoot Tanpaiboon⁴, Nithiwat Vatanavicham⁵, Kullasate Sakpichaisakul⁶, Arthaporn Kongkrapan¹, Jakris Eu-ahsunthornwattana⁸, Supranee Thongpradit⁹, Kanya Moolsuwan¹⁰, Nusara Satproedprai¹¹, Surakameth Mahasirimongkol¹¹, Tassanee Lerksuthrat⁹, Bhoorn Suktitpat^{12,13}, Natini Jinawath^{10,13} and Duangrudee Wattanasirichaigoon¹⁴

scientific reports

OPEN Ideal cardiovascular health and all-cause or cardiovascular mortality in a longitudinal study of the Thai National Health Examination Survey IV and V

Wichai Aekplakorn^{1,2}, Nareemarn Neelapaichit³, Suwat Chariyalertsak⁴, Pattapong Kessomboon⁵, Sawitri Assanangkornchai⁶, Surasak Taneeapanichkul⁷, Somkiat Sangwatanaroj⁸, Wasin Laohavijit⁹ & Jiraluck Nonthaluck⁹

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The prevalence and risk factors of musculoskeletal disorders among subcontracted hospital cleaners in Thailand

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