

Memorial

In remembrance of Emeritus Professor Makumkrong Poshyachinda, M.D.

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*Emeritus Professor Makumkrong Poshyachinda, M.D.
1934-2026*

Emeritus Professor Dr. Makumkrong Poshyachinda was a pioneering figure in Thai nuclear medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University. She passed away on January 26, 2026, at the age of 91. Over four decades of service in nuclear medicine, she contributed to clinical excellence, workforce development, radiation safety governance, and the international visibility of Thai nuclear medicine.

Brief biography

Dr. Makumkrong graduated with an M.D. degree in 1959 (B.E. 2502) and belonged to the 9th class of Chulalongkorn medical graduates. After graduation, she began her professional career in the Isotope Unit—an early service that later evolved into today's Nuclear Medicine Unit and ultimately the Division of Nuclear Medicine.

She is widely recognized as one of the early pioneers who established and advanced nuclear medicine within the Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University, working closely with Associate Professor Dr. Wichai Poshyachinda during the formative years of the field. Through sustained effort, she helped build the division's reputation to a level recognized nationally and internationally.

A hallmark of her leadership was strengthening international collaboration—especially with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). She helped position the Chulalongkorn nuclear medicine program as a trusted partner for training, capacity building, and research support, including equipment assistance, expert missions, research funding, and recurring hands-on training activities. The program also regularly hosted IAEA fellows and trainees, reflecting the confidence placed in the division she helped develop.

Dr. Makumkrong's administrative service was extensive and influential. She served as Head of the Nuclear Medicine Division (1979–1986), Vice Dean for Research (1985–1988), and Head of the Department of Radiology (1986–1990). She chaired the Faculty committee overseeing radioactive materials use (1981–1984) and led national specialist training and board-examination activities in nuclear medicine under the Medical Council of Thailand (1989–2001). She also served on national committees related to atomic energy in medicine and nuclear-facility safety. In professional societies, she held senior leadership roles, including Vice President of the Radiological Society of Thailand and President of the Nuclear Medicine Society of Thailand.

In recognition of her contributions, she received the “Distinguished Nuclear Professional” honor (นักนิวเคลียร์ดีเด่น) in 1996 (B.E. 2539) from Thailand's Office of Atoms for Peace.

Even after retirement, she continued to serve as a special lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University, and as a special physician at King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, while also acting as a consulting physician at the National Cancer Institute. Colleagues recall that she remained a steady advisor to departmental leadership, continued teaching medical students and residents, and sustained clinical service—particularly for thyroid patients—well beyond formal retirement. Her forward-looking vision also helped secure Thailand's first bone densitometer for teaching and patient care.

In addition, she authored the Thai-language textbook “การตรวจรักษาโรคของต่อมไทรอยด์ด้วยสารกัมมันตรังสี” (Diagnosis and Treatment of Thyroid Diseases with Radioactive Tracers), reflecting her enduring commitment to structured education and knowledge transfer in nuclear medicine.



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Words of remembrance

To her colleagues, Dr. Makumkrong is remembered as an architect of systems: she built services, strengthened governance, and created pathways for trainees to become confident specialists. Her career combined academic rigor with an uncommon willingness to assume responsibility.

To her trainees, she represented consistency and high standards. She taught not only by instruction, but also by example: the discipline of clinical decision-making, the seriousness of radiation safety, and the importance of serving patients with steadiness and competence. Even after retirement, her continued presence in teaching and thyroid care conveyed a simple message—that medicine is a lifelong duty rather than merely a job description.

Her legacy is visible in the national structures she helped shape for nuclear medicine training and professional governance, and in the generations of clinicians and technologists who learned under the standards she set. With gratitude and respect, we remember Emeritus Professor Dr. Makumkrong Poshyachinda for a life dedicated to patients, education, and the advancement of nuclear medicine in Thailand.

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