

## From The Editor

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# The first examination for professional license in medical physics in Thailand

Received 22 December 2022 ; accepted 22 December 2022  
doi:10.46475/aseanjr.v23i3.201

COVID-19 infections in Thailand appear to be on the rise again, especially among those who are unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated. Fatalities were mostly observed among the elderly or those with underlying health complaints. At the end of November, the BA.2.75 sub-variant of COVID-19 already accounted for as much as 58% of COVID-19 cases in the country. From January 1<sup>st</sup> to October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2,488,093 COVID-19 infections were recorded, of which 11,587 died [1]. The number was equal to the mortality rate of less than 0.5% in general. More people have been infected or developed familiarity with living with infected familial members or friends. The atmosphere in business, tourism and service sectors became almost the same as in pre-pandemic years. Thailand's Public Health Minister is confident that COVID-19 infections during the New Year celebrations will be kept under control.

The concern that the monkeypox outbreak will have a high chance of being prolonged in the same manner of HIV, despite not being as widespread as COVID-19, is relieved as there has been no report after the 12<sup>th</sup> case in October [2].

The Medical Council of Thailand, along with 16 other medical organisations including the Royal College of Radiologists of Thailand, have signed a petition seeking to limit the use of cannabis to medical purposes and firmly opposing its use for recreational purposes. Concerning negative consequences and feasible dangers from illegal cannabis that the current policies fail to consider allowing people to recklessly grow and use cannabis for treatment by themselves, five suggestions were held forth as follows [3]:

- The use of cannabis for medical treatment must be based on empirical evidence.
- Cannabis must be of high quality and must be used under Thailand's Drugs Act, to protect patients who are treated with such plants. Any cannabis or its extracts used for treatment must not contain any contaminants.
- Doctors and pharmacists must be trained on how to use cannabis and its extracts.
- All patients must be screened and evaluated before, during and after treatment with cannabis.
- Government authorities, such as the Thai Food and Drug Administration, should also regulate the use of cannabis for medical purposes.

Even though the Ministry of Health announced on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 that profession license was required to practice medical physics in Thailand, the first license examination eventually took place on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 under supervision of the Royal College of Radiologists of Thailand. The first seventeen medical physicists were licenced by the Department of Health Service Support on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 [3]. It is strongly believed that this important step will lead to safer and better qualified practice and patients' care in Radiology.



*Above: The first examination for professional licence in medical physics was organized by Department of Health Service Support, the Ministry of Health, under supervision of the Royal College of Radiologists of Thailand. Below: The first 17 licenced medical physicists in Thailand.*

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