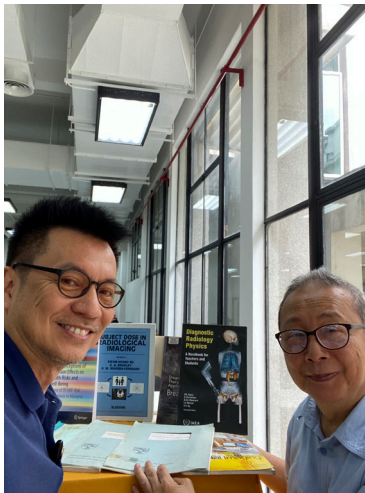


## From The Editor

# Returning to the pre-pandemic situation but still in the years of infections



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*The editor visited Honorary Professor Doctor Ng Kwan Hoong at the exhibition "From Darkness to Clarity: The Evolution of Medical Imaging Through Emeritus Professor Dr. Ng Kwan Hoong's Innovation" held during 7 June-7 August 2023 to honor him at TJ Danarag Medical Library, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Professor Ng is one of the remarkable medical physicists and in the editorial board of The ASEAN Journal of Radiology.*

In the aftermath of the Songkran celebrations in Thailand, which concluded on 15 April 2023, the number of Covid-19 inpatients and related deaths has seen a significant increase of 150% in just one week [1,2]. Similarly, COVID infections in Japan increased threefold after the government had eased restrictions on 8 May. However, in June, new COVID-19 infections in Thailand and other countries steadily fell, with fewer fatalities [3]. Death mainly occurs in the 607 group which includes patients over the age of 60 and those living with at least one of the seven chronic diseases. A key risk factor is either not having been vaccinated at all, not having received a booster jab or having received a booster for over three months. Having attended Japan Radiology Congress (JRC) in Yokohama, Japan in April, Eurasia Radiological Forum (EARF) in Astana, Kazakhstan in June, Malaysian Congress of Radiology (MCoR) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in July, and the Vietnamese Society of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine (VSRNM) in Da Nang, Vietnam in August, I perceived the return to the pre-COVID normal situation in those cities and the conferences in which there was no social distancing in both academic and social events. In addition, attendants were not required to wear face masks. People gathered to talk, drink, dine and sing as they did before the pandemic.



*Professor Pham Minh Thong, his family, and the editor at the Gala Dinner of VSRNM on 25 August 2023. Professor Pham Minh Thong is the president of VSRNM and in the editorial board of The ASEAN Journal of Radiology.*

Infections remain the rising health issue. From January to August 2023, the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand revealed that the cumulative total of dengue fever cases rose to 65,552, while the cumulative death toll is 58, of which 40 were older children and adults. Death mainly occurs because dengue fever patients often do not think they have caught this disease early on and take nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as aspirin and ibuprofen to reduce fever, but this leads to easy bleeding with a risk developing dengue shock syndrome [4]. On 14 August, Thailand reported its first monkey pox-related fatality, in a man who was also infected with HIV and syphilis. There had been a total of 189 monkey pox cases reported in Thailand in 161 Thais and 28 foreigners, 82 of whom were also infected with HIV [5].

Thailand lost its famous radiologist, Professor Emeritus Chaleow Piyachon, on 27 May 2023. One of the text books written by Professor Piyachon on emergency

radiology I read when I was a medical student in 1991, the year it was published, is one of my inspirations to become a radiologist. It is thin but clear and eye-opening. Our memory of his is commemorated in this issue.

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