

ASEAN Movement in Radiology

Report on the 2023 ASNR Osborn Professorship to Thailand

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Abstract

Professor Mai-Lan Ho reported on her two weeks of activities during 16 November –2 December as the 2023 Anne G. Osborn ASNR International Outreach Professor to Thailand, jointly supported by the American Society of Neuroradiology and Royal College of Radiologists of Thailand. Medical and radiological trainings in Thailand were summarized. Academic and social activities were described at three institutes in Bangkok and Chiang Mai.

Keywords: Advanced, ASNR, International, Neuroimaging, Neuroradiology, Outreach.

It was my great honor to serve as the 2023 Anne G. Osborn ASNR International Outreach Professor to Thailand, jointly supported by the American Society of Neuroradiology and Royal College of Radiologists of Thailand [1]. My visit lasted a total of two weeks, during which I gave 23 talks at three leading institutions, all videoconferenced to other hospitals across the country. My interests in advanced imaging, pediatric neuroimaging, and head & neck imaging aligned well with my host institutions, who each selected different topics for me to speak on during my visits.

Medical trainings and practices in Asia are very different from those practiced in North America. Medical schools begin directly after high school, including six years of integrated basic science and clinical training. Medical graduates are assigned to internships in rural areas of Thailand for 1–3 years. After completing their internships, medical doctors can continue working as general practitioners or choose to apply for subspecialty residencies. Radiology residency programs last for three years, with the number of available spots determined by the faculty: trainee ratio of 2:1. Radiology fellowships are two years long and lead to a subspecialty certification, which is required to interpret advanced imaging studies. Academics in the radiology faculty are supported to complete 1–2 years of overseas education, which greatly enhances their research skills and helps them to forge international connections during their careers. Patient records and radiology reports are typed in medical English, although verbal communication is mostly conducted in Thai.

My first stop was at Siriraj Hospital in Bangkok, which is the oldest and largest hospital in Thailand and a hub for medical tourism in Asia. I delivered nine lectures at Siriraj on different focus areas including advanced imaging, adult neuroimaging, pediatric neuroimaging, and head & neck imaging. In the afternoons, I attended multidisciplinary working conferences and interesting case presentations, during which referring clinicians and local radiologists presented challenging cases and unknowns from the past year. My input was requested for several unusual neurogenetic, metabolic, congenital, and parasitic disorders. We also discussed advanced topics including clinical protocoling, research technology, and artificial intelligence (Figure 1).



Figure 1. *Visiting with radiologists and clinicians at Siriraj Hospital.*

Next, I flew north to Chiang Mai, the second largest city in Thailand and formerly a separate country known as the Lanna Kingdom. The city's profound natural beauty makes it an international destination for remote workers or "digital nomads." At Chiang Mai University, I gave four talks and provided diagnostic and management advice on complicated cases of pediatric congenital malformations, tumors and tumor mimics, and inflammatory and metabolic disorders (Figure 2).



Figure 2. *Lecturing at Chiang Mai Hospital.*

Finally, I returned to Bangkok to visit Phramongkutklo Hospital, the largest military hospital in Thailand. Phramongkutklo is a rapidly growing academic center with strong government support and a burgeoning neuroradiology service. My ten lectures covered the breadth of neuroradiology practices and were well received by the faculty, trainees, and military physician leaders. I also liaised with referring neurology and ophthalmology clinicians on complex systemic, autoimmune, and parasitic conditions (Figure 3).



Figure 3. *Teaching at Phramongkutklo Hospital.*

Interspersed with the busy teaching schedule, my hosts found the time to take me to various tourist attractions including the Royal Palace, Loy Krathong festival, temples, museums, street markets, and shopping malls. There is an impressive melting pot of cultures, religions, and cuisines included within this part of Southeast Asia. Everyone I met was incredibly welcoming, curious, and enthusiastic to learn and collaborate in cutting-edge areas. My hosts and I plan to continue corresponding via multidisciplinary conferences, lectures, research, and exchange programs. I am incredibly grateful to ASNR and The Royal College for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and highly recommend the program to future applicants (Figure 4).



Figure 4. *Touring the Grand Palace in Bangkok.*

References

1. ASNR.Org [Internet]. Oak Brook (IL): ASNR; c2005-2023 [cited 2023 Dec 18]. Anne G. Osborn ASNR International Outreach Professor Program. Available from: <https://www.asnr.org/international-collaboration/anne-g-osborn-asnr-international-outreach-professor-program/>