Foreword
Toward the 90th Anniversary of the Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University

The Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University is proud to celebrate the 90th anniversary of our department. During the past 90 years, there has been an enormous growth and many developments as well as several physical and structural changes which have occurred in the Department of Medicine. The department is a leader in education, research and clinical services as evidenced by its more than 100 outstanding academic staff. The Department, composed of 18 academic divisions, has been one of the leading voices of internal medicine and also its subspecialties in the country. The Department started internal medicine residency training program almost 40 years ago and has produced more than 1,000 certified board of internal medicine personnel to serve the country and be leaders in the field. Subsequently, many subspecialty programs began under the leadership and scientific accomplishments of the academic divisions. Though the status of our department is rated as the oldest, largest and most industrious as you can expect, we emphasize the importance of integration between the arts and humanities and the practice of medicine. To this day, our Department’s motto is still completely confirmed. When you think of Internal Medicine, you indeed think of Internal Medicine Siriraj Hospital.

On the 90th anniversary of the Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, this special issue of the Siriraj Medical Journal has been published to celebrate this particular occasion by bringing together the recent studies done in our department. On behalf of the Department of Medicine, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to Professor Visanu Thamlikitkul, the reviewers, the authors and co-authors and the secretarial staff who have made such tremendous effort to ensure this special issue of Siriraj Medical Journal a success.

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Message from the Associate Editor of the Special Issue of Siriraj Medical Journal
On the Occasion of Toward the 90th Anniversary of the Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University

On the occasion of “Toward the 90th Anniversary of the Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital” in November 2006, it is a great honor for me to be responsible for organizing the academic activities to celebrate this special occasion. The major academic activities for the celebration of this occasion include a short course on “Updates in Internal Medicine 2006”, during November 6-10, 2006. The theme of the updates is “Landmark Discoveries and Recent Innovations in Internal Medicine”. In addition to the short course, the publications to commemorate this special occasion are 1) Toward the 90th Anniversary of the Department of Medicine, 2) a November 2006 supplement issue of the Journal of the Medical Association of Thailand, 3) a November 2006 special issue of Siriraj Medical Journal and 4) Proceedings of the short course on “Updates in Internal Medicine 2006”.

This special issue of the Siriraj Medical Journal is devoted to the articles contributed by faculty members of the Department of Medicine and the invited speaker. It includes an editorial article on the history and development of the Department of Medicine, 6 original articles, a review article, and 4 interesting special articles focusing on the process, outputs, outcomes and impacts of the researches contributed by members of the Department of Medicine and the article on quality improvement.

I would like to express my gratitude to the reviewers and the contributors who have made this publication possible.

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