

## CANCER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

### National Cancer Institute (NCI), Thailand

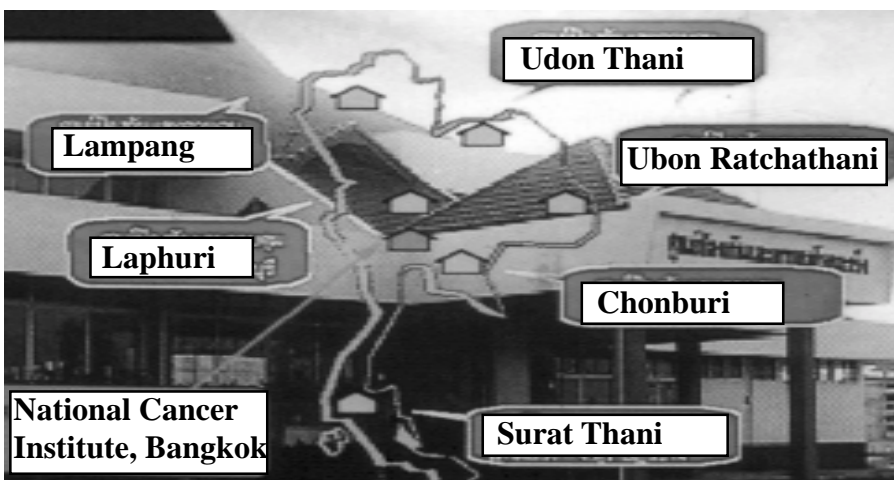
The National Cancer Institute (NCI) of Thailand, located in central Bangkok, or rather Krung Thep, the 'City of the Angels' as it is known in Thai, is one of the major comprehensive cancer centers in Asia. Originally established as a Research Institute on the 10th December, 1968, with His Majesty the King present at the opening ceremony. This is now celebrated every year as a National Anti-Cancer day. Demand soon required addition of a cancer hospital and a totally new center outside of Bangkok was also built, encompassing a hospice with a basic research center. Subsequently, a further 6 centers were set up in outside regions to allow coordination of efforts on a nationwide basis. The aims of the NCI were clearly stated from the onset:

1. Provide a center for early detection and treatment
2. Coordinate with other hospitals in general cancer therapy
3. Develop education relevant to cancer prevention and facilitate transfer of technology and sharing of experience
4. Provide a center for training of physicians and nurses
5. Conduct research into screening and intervention
6. Collect statistics for cancer in the whole of Thailand



**Dr Somyos Deerasamee**

The Director of the NCI, Dr Somyos Deerasamee, one of the Specialist Editors of the APJCP, reports to the Division of Medical Services, Ministry of Public Health, and provides active leadership to over 20 scientists in the Research Institute itself. In the hospital, in addition, an over 200-bed facility is supported by large number of specialists in various branches of oncology, including Radiology, Endoscopy, Pathology, Surgery and Internal Medicine. In addition there is a well-appointed



**Sites of Regional Subsidiary Centres of the NCI, Thailand**

Detection of Cervical Cancer in Nakornpanom province. Dr Somyos, with a background in Gynecology is also active in this, along with playing a major role as Assistant Secretary to the National Cancer Control Programme, with the Prime Minister as its Chairman. In Thailand, liver cancer is the most frequently encountered neoplasm in males and second only to cervical cancer in females, so that these two projects are of prime importance to the preventive effort across the country.

library, a computer center, an impressive conference room and Divisions for Health Education and Planning and Statistics.

Dr Petcharin Srivatanakul, Vice Director, is the Treasurer of the APOCP and is actively involved in very many research projects, co-ordinating many of her activities with Drs Parkin, Ohshima and Boffetta and other scientists at the IARC in France. In particular she is heading a project on the molecular epidemiology of liver cancer in Thailand, as well as implementing the Demonstration Project for Prevention and Early

Introduction of measures to reduce the associated patient burden is a high priority. Within the National Programme there are also focuses on lung and breast cancer, both of which have been demonstrating recent increase.

In the Research Division itself, headed by Wannai Kusamran, her own section working on Carcinogenesis and Chemoprevention, Danai Tiwawech, Head of Biology and Diagnosis, and are editorial board members of the APJCP. The other sections are active, for example, in natural product research, field studies, genetics, experimental oncotherapy and immunology, and there is a well-equipped facility for laboratory animal work.

Together with the efforts of the clinicians in their twin roles as diagnosticians and cancer therapists, the members of the different research groups, both within the central facility and the outlying centres are dedicated to developing new approaches to the flight against cancer. Their co-operation in primary and secondary prevention deserves particular support and commendation from the APJCP!



**National Cancer Institute of Thailand**