

**Development of pharmaceutical education emphasizing on
pharmaceutical care: Thailand experience**

**Paveena Sonthisombat¹, Pharm.D., BCPS, Sutthiporn Pattharachayakul², Pharm.D.,
BCPS, Chalerm Sri Pummangura³, Ph.D., B.C.P.**

¹ Naresuan University, ² Prince of Songkla University, ³ Mahidol University, Thailand

Three new pharmaceutical education programs have currently been established in Thailand to serve the pharmaceutical care development. Firstly, a six-year curriculum, leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree as the sole professional degree awarded in 1999 by Naresuan University. Students required to complete 6 clinical clerkship rotations in the final year of the program to assure that they will develop the technical skills, professional judgements and competencies necessary for entry into the pharmacy profession. In addition to Naresuan University, there are two more universities in Thailand that currently run this program. Secondly, Pharmacy Residency and Fellowship Training Program has been developed by The Pharmacy Council of Thailand since 2000 in order to provide intensive training in pharmaceutical care practice to the pharmacists. Prince of Songkla University and Naresuan University has currently adopted this program under supervision of The College of Pharmacotherapy. Area of Specialty that are available for training are internal medicine, infectious diseases, cardiovascular diseases, oncology, critical care and pediatrics. Lastly, the Pharmacy Council of Thailand has established the continuing pharmaceutical education program (CPE) since 2002 to ensure the competency of all pharmacists in Thailand to deliver the best knowledge and skills in pharmaceutical sciences in his/her specialties. The program allows a pharmacist to update his/her knowledge and skills by attending the pre-approved academic meeting or reading the pre-approved article-related to pharmaceutical sciences. At least 10 CPE hours yearly and a total of 100 CPE hours per 5 years must be achieved by a pharmacist prior to continue active status of his/her pharmacist license. Currently, at least 70-80% of pharmacists participated in this program. In conclusion, pharmacy profession has been changing towards the more responsibility on patient care. Several in-depth education or training programs are provided in Thailand to facilitate the pharmacist facing the tremendous changes.