



Mahidol University
Faculty of Medicine
Siriraj Hospital

Capacity Building and

Sustainable Research Network

What's best for ASEAN?



Manop Pithukpakorn, MD
Division of Medical Genetics
Department of Medicine

Changing landscape of medical research



Adams, J. et al. *Nature* 490, 335–336 (2012)

Challenges in International Research Network

- ❖ Driving forces have often come from expertise, funding, and ideas flowing from high income countries (HIC) to low/middle income countries (LMIC)
 - ❖ Prioritization may not match local needs
 - ❖ Objectives, goals and workflows often lack local input
- ❖ HIC often parachuting into LMICs to set up their own staffs and facilities and exploit local rich resources (Neo-colonialism)

Challenges in International Research Network

- ❖ Despite the capital inflows and research outputs, huge gaps remain in infrastructure, management systems, human capital, governance structures, and research institutes in LMICs

Benefit of Capacity Building at the Local/Regional Level

- ❖ Research capacity building in LMICs is pivotal in ensuring broad-based systems improvement – the key principles of scientific equity
- ❖ Practical benefits
 - ❖ Local people are better placed to define important issues to their populations than are people living in HIC who often fund research based on their own interests
 - ❖ Depending too long on HIC research teams causes lack of long-term investment in infrastructure and has made institutes and researchers in many LMICs ill-equipped to find local solutions to local problems
 - ❖ Local solutions are likely to have support from local policymakers, and this ownership should result in solutions that are more sustainable

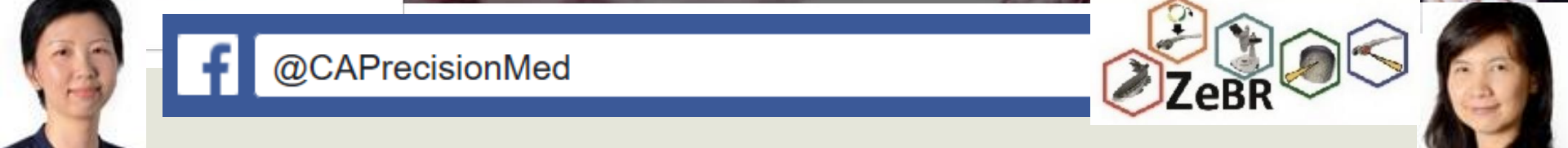


RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY
NETWORK
THAILAND

Health Cluster



CANCER
PRECISION MEDICINE



Capacity Building and Research Network

- ❖ Building trust and eliminating sense of benefit disparity
- ❖ **SEXY** way (**S**incerely, **E**qually, **eX**cellently)
- ❖ Understanding and respecting the different strengths and skills
- ❖ Employ different strength and expertise to create synergy, equal contribution does not mean each partner doing the same work in every step
- ❖ Transparency is important
- ❖ Ensure involvement in regular discussions

Approach to facilitate research network among ASEAN

❖ Researcher level

- ❖ Encourage group meeting, get to know each others, breaking barriers (social or informal activities)
- ❖ Share expertise; academic activities (talks), site visit
- ❖ Identify common ground of research interest

Approach to facilitate research network among ASEAN

❖ Institutional level

- ❖ Promote collaborative network policy, enhance culture of research across organizations and teams
- ❖ Matchmaking, mentoring and upskilling teams
- ❖ Create incentives; seed grant for research network
- ❖ Training courses; in-bound and out-bound
- ❖ Sponsor a scientific/research network meeting

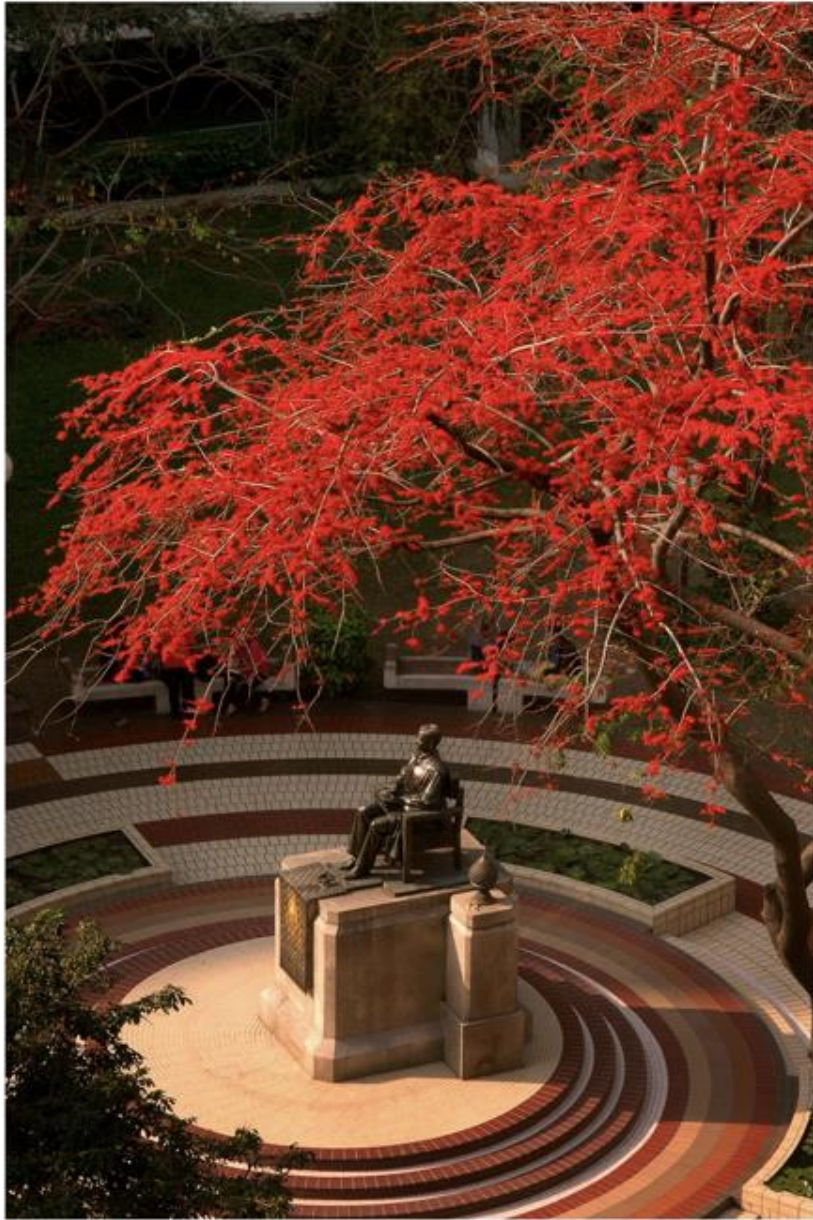
Approach to facilitate research network among ASEAN

❖ Institutional level

- ❖ Enhance lab/human resource capacity
- ❖ Identify/prioritize research topic
- ❖ Communicating research update to the executives and organization, assimilate information on research activity in every major communication platforms
- ❖ Inspiration and reward: recognition through various media outlet



Mahidol University
Faculty of Medicine
Siriraj Hospital



Questions & Answers