



Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University

Siriraj Resident/Fellow Exchange Program

To Beijing Children's Hospital, Capital Medical University

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Study Year: Fourth

Introduction

My name is Napasin Mapairoje, a 4th year pediatric surgery resident at Siriraj Hospital. I have been studying medicine since 2006 at Chiang Mai University. After Graduation I continued my study in family medicine for 3 years at Chiang Mai University. Then I moved to Bangkok to study pediatric surgery at Siriraj Hospital.

This is my first time to have a chance to visit pediatric surgery department in a foreign country.



Figure 1. Beijing Children Hospital

University Review

Beijing Children hospital is the biggest children hospital in the north of China. Then biggest children hospital in the south located in Shanghai. Each year, Beijing Children Hospital receives many complicated cases from many hospitals in northern area.

The department of pediatric surgery in this hospital consists of around one hundred staffs, not counting residents and other observing doctors. There are many sub-divisions, such as neonatal surgery, oncologic surgery, urology and plastic surgery. The sub-division I've visited is general pediatric surgery, which is also considered subspecialty in China.

The general pediatric surgery or Puwaike in Chinese consists of around twenty staffs, which divide into four teams, including emergency general pediatric surgery team. The head of the general pediatric surgery is Dr. Chen Yajun, who is also the head of the medical team I've stayed with. There are also other three doctors in the team. Dr. Pang Wenbo is the one who I've contacted most since her English was very fluent. Other two doctors were rotating in the emergency team and emergency department. There were also six residents rotating in the team I've stayed with.

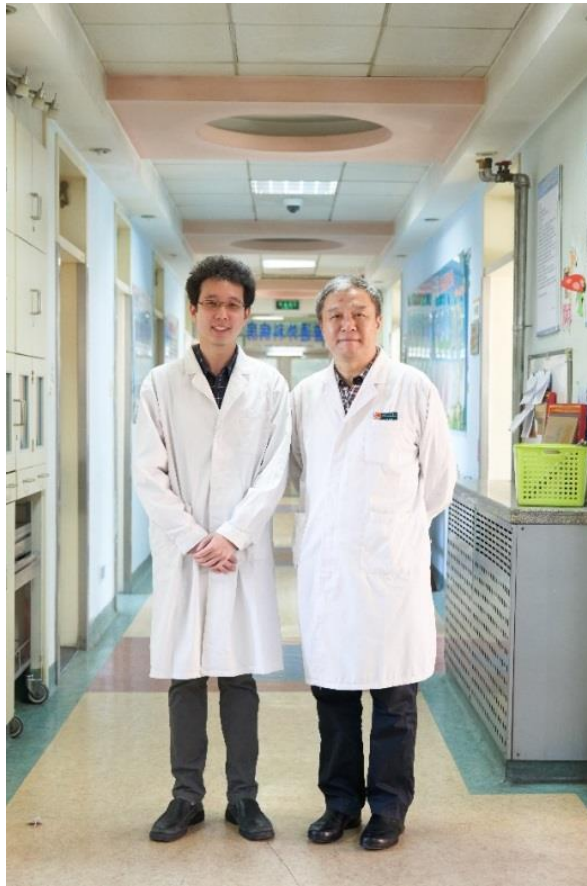


Figure 2. Pictures with Dr. Chen Yajun (right)

Expectation and Objectives

My expectation of this elective course is to gain experience living abroad and learn different operative techniques. Beijing Children Hospital is a very big and specialized hospital. A lot of operative techniques are different from hospitals in Thailand. Knowing many operative techniques can help me improve skills and share them when I come back to Thailand.

Knowledge/Experience gained

The founder of Chinese pediatric surgery, Dr. Zhang Jinzhe, used to be the director of pediatric surgery department at Beijing Children Hospital. Despite his age of 99 years old, he still works in this hospital. Throughout his career, he had developed many surgical techniques. One of the most prominent techniques is “spur valve” or “Zhangshiban” in Chinese, which is the anti-reflux procedure done in Kasai’s operation when treating biliary atresia patient. Recent data from Japan also proved the efficacy of his method. During my visit in China, I’ve seen spur valve technique many times. This operation was not performed in Thailand. Dr. Chen Yujun, the current director of pediatric surgery department, introduced me to Dr. Zhang Jinzhe. He also gave me his own-written textbooks, which is in Chinese.

When comparing Siriraj Hospital to Beijing Children Hospital, the main difference is the size of the hospital and the amount of doctors who work there. The medical team that I've stayed with is very specialized in treating patients with anorectal malformation and biliary tract abnormalities. There are about 70 to 100 cases of biliary atresia per year, compare to 10 to 20 cases at Siriraj Hospital. In one day the surgery team can perform about 20 cases of herniotomy, compare to 2-3 cases at Siriraj Hospital. There are a lot of minor details of surgery that are different from Thailand. Knowing many techniques can benefit my career in the future.



Figure 3. Dr. Zhang Jinzhe's gave me his own textbooks in his office (left to right): Dr. Napasin Mapairoje (myself), Dr. Zhang Jinzhe, Dr. Chen Yajun, Dr. Pang Wenbo, Dr. Zheng Qipeng

Dr. Pang Wenbo, who is also in Dr. Chen Yajun's team, is my main supervisor. She can speak English fluently. Since most of the staffs in Beijing Children Hospital cannot speak English, without her help I would have a hard time getting around in the hospital.

Benefits

The department of pediatric surgery in Beijing Children Hospital is much bigger when compare to Siriraj Hospital. In Siriraj Hospital, each staff will attend to his/her patients by oneself. In Beijing Children Hospital, a group of 2 to 4 staffs will form as one team to take care of each patient. There was also a separate team to take care of the emergency cases. The benefit of having more than 1 doctor in the team is when there is a complicated case, there would be a discussion about the most proper management in individual case. Also, the staff who just had night shift can take a rest on the day after, while other doctors in the team attend the patients. Another thing is that each team has its own specific field. For example, the team I've stayed with is very specialized in treating patients with anorectal malformation and biliary tract abnormalities. In my opinion, this has many advantages. Doctors in the team can be very specialized and have time to do research in his/her own field. Each year, doctors in Beijing

Children Hospital can publish more research articles when compare to pediatric surgery unit in Siriraj Hospital.

Life in Abroad

Since Beijing Children Hospital did not provide any accommodation, I had to rent a room quite far away from the hospital. Fortunately, the metro system in Beijing is well-covered. Compare to Thailand, the public transport is much better, and not that expensive. It is pretty easy to go from one place to one place. Despite its very cold temperature, most buildings and metro stations have heaters. I could wear a big winter coat and hang in the closet, provided by the hospital, before starting my daily work. Most of the food here tastes delicious, though a bit too oily. Food in Chongqing and Sichuan style are spicy, while food in Xinjiang style has a lot of spices.

Future Plan

After I had finished my training in Siriraj Hospital, I will go back to Chiang Mai, my hometown, to work as a pediatric surgeon in the public provincial hospital. Knowing many surgeons from Thailand and abroad help me have a good working connection.

Recommendations

The biggest problem during my visit in Beijing Children Hospital is the language barrier. Knowing basic Chinese can make life a lot easier. But if you want to understand all aspects of medicine, it's better to know the Chinese medical vocabulary, since all medical technical terms are translated into Chinese. Only few doctors in China can speak good English.