



Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University

Siriraj Resident/Fellow Exchange Program

Kyushu University Hospital, Japan
From 03/11/19 to 04/05/19



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Study Year: 2nd year Emergency Medicine resident

Overseas Clinical Elective Rotation Final Report

1. Introduction

My name is Thanaporn Pholchaniko. I am a 2nd year Emergency Medicine resident. I graduated from Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital in 2015. After that I worked as an intern at Queen Sirikit Hospital, Naval Medical Department and Songkhla Naval base hospital. I am also a lieutenant of Royal Thai Navy. My personal interests in emergency medicine are disaster medicine and emergency ultrasound.

2. University Review

Kyushu University Hospital is one of the largest national university hospital in Japan, has over 1,400 beds and more than 3,000 experts. Number of IPD cases are 418,000 per year and OPD cases are 724,000 per years. It is located in Fukuoka city, the largest city in Kyushu. It provides high standard medical services particularly in Cancer Genomic Medicine and transplant surgery. It also promotes clinical research and medical education. Moreover, there is a disaster prevention center in this hospital along with many experts. As an emergency medicine resident, I have great interest in disaster management and would like to gain more experience in this field, especially in Japan where the quality of disaster management system is extremely high and Kyushu University Hospital is one of the leading institutions in this specialty. So the reason of choosing this hospital is mainly because of its facilities in disaster medicine.

3. Expectation and Objective

- To gain more knowledge and experience in disaster medicine from the experts in the leading country
- To improve my ability in many aspects such as language, creativity, and self-esteem
- To learn about disaster management system and how to set up for our hospital and country
- To observe clinical care in emergency department and role of emergency physician in other country than Thailand
- To participate in academic activities and research opportunities provided by residents and staffs and



apply to our department

- To experience Japanese culture and lifestyles
- To keep good connection between two University hospitals and make new connection network for the future

4. Knowledge/Experience gained

My supervisor is Assistant Professor Takashi Nagata. He is not only in Department of Advanced Medical Initiatives, Faculty of Medical Sciences but also the Emergency and Critical Care center. His Field of Specialization are in emergency medicine and disaster medicine. He particularly is expertized in nuclear radiation disaster management. He also be one of a registered doctor for Japan Medical Team for Disaster Relief at JICA. He was in the medical response team in Fukushima nuclear power plant accident in 2011 and also in Kumamoto earthquake in 2016. His research papers are mainly in disaster medicine and emergency management. He becomes a consultant for national events such as Rugby World Cup 2019, Tokyo Olympic 2020 and many more to come.

Knowledge I have learned from this exchange program can be divided into 2 parts which are disaster medicine and emergency and critical care medicine. First, in disaster medicine, Dr.Nagata provided me the lectures in basic knowledge in disaster medicine, radiation incidence and management, tactical medicine, and his experience in Fukushima nuclear power plant accident. I also had the great opportunity to visit many cities with Dr.Nagata, to join the meeting for nuclear disaster network. I think the main difference in this field between Kyushu University hospital and our hospital is experience in real life situation and number of experts in this field. Because we have no nuclear power plant in Thailand, we are not familiar with the radiation incident and emergency preparedness. Although we have some experts in occupational medicine or toxicology about the radiation syndrome but the real expertise can provide so much more actual details. Moreover, the disaster plan for the radiation incident in Japan is wide-spread and practical. There are many disaster prevention units even in many rural hospitals. All staffs and personnel know and proceed to the plan effectively.

Second, I have observed routine works in emergency and critical care center in Kyushu University. Routinely the activities of residents and staffs are similar to our hospital except for emergency physicians have to take care of ER-ICU patients apart from emergency patients. That is a major difference from our hospital. Moreover, most of the patients who visit at the ED are

transferred from primary or secondary care hospital after staff consultation. That limits the number of cases and makes no ER crowding. Another interesting point is that all academic activities are in Japanese while, in our faculty, most of academic activities trend to be in English. I think this gives me big advantage to improve my communication skill to discuss cases fluently in medical terms.

5. Benefits

This resident exchange program provides many benefits not only for me but also for the Emergency medicine department and Siriraj hospital. For me, this is my very first time working as a doctor abroad. I have improve both of my clinical knowledge and language skills at the same time. I have learned many new things from those who are in the leading country. In the same time, I have shared our practice and experience in our emergency medicine which are also interesting for them too. Moreover, in the field of disaster management, I have more materials to create or develop the emergency preparedness plan which can be applied to our country's situation, for examples, natural disaster or political or terroristic attack. For my future career, I will be a part of Naval Medical Department. Because of this program, I could make consultation from my supervisor in case of national disaster in the future. I could also arrange the meeting between RTN DMAT and Japanese DMAT via my supervisor also. For the Emergency medicine department and Siriraj hospital, I have seen the medical system provided electronically such as e-medical record, laboratory machine and reports, patient monitoring and transfer data system, which I think it would be good for taking good care of our patients and it could reduce the work load of all team members. It may take times to change the whole system but I think we should make it better a little by little. Moreover, I make many good new friends and keep good connection between two leading institutes. It may help many other residents in the future to come

to Kyushu University Hospital and have a valuable experience like me.



6. Life in abroad

My stay in Japan was incredible. I luckily found a Thai Pediatric Surgery Resident from Siriraj Hospital who also joined exchange program in the same

period of time. So we went together to explore Fukuoka city and around in our free time. I have been to Japan before with my family for traveling. Japan is a wonderful country mixed with new innovation and technology along with conservative and traditional culture. I love the public transportation system which is convenient for self-travelers. Nowadays, Japanese people are more familiar with foreigners and use more English. Because of Tokyo Olympic 2020, the local government provides many of English signs and information for visitors. It is very easy to travel in Japan than before. When I went to the conference with my supervisor, I have a chance to visits many cities of Japan not only in Kyushu region. I went to Tokyo, Hiroshima, Kokura, Oita, and Nagasaki. Each cities have their own styles and attractions. So I think it was one of the most impressive trip for me.

7. Future plan

I will graduated from Emergency resident training in 2020. After that I will become an emergency physician at Queen Sirikit Hospital. Because I work for the Royal Thai Navy, My career is not only for medical services but also for the military mission. I may have an opportunity to join the military practice or training which I think my experience from Japan could be useful.

8. Recommendations

From my point of view, going abroad is one of the best way learning new things no matter where you go. I recommend Kyushu University Hospital for those who want to experience in disaster management and emergency response system particularly under supervised by Dr.Nagata. The oversea exchange center provides a good care of me. The facilities and accommodations are also very good. There is nothing to improve except for the period of the program is quite too short.

