



## **Training and education of laboratory professionals in Thailand**

### **Panutsaya Tientadaku, Nisarat Opartkiatikul**

*Department of Clinical Pathology, Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand*

Training for medical laboratory professionals in Thailand consists of three-year residency training program for clinical pathologist, B.Sc. for medical technologist (four years), M.Sc. and PhD in Medical Technology and other related fields. In the past, there was also two-year program for medical laboratory assistant, which gradually discontinued after the Professional Medical Technology Act had been enforced in 2004. However, there are special curricula in a few faculties of Medical Technology for medical laboratory assistants to develop into medical technologists. Currently, there are 12 institutes that have been accredited by the Medical Technology Council, and two new institutes with a special condition for accreditation, producing 911 medical technologists/year. All of graduate students have to take national license examination since 2006. Continuing Medical Technology Education (CMTE) was initiated in 2004. It was changed from voluntary to mandatory in 2013, when the Medical Technology Council determine that the medical technology license must be renewed every five year, using CMTE credit. Approximately 15,000 medical technologists have been registered, 3,800 of them work at Ministry of Public Health hospitals, estimating that 5,200 more medical technologists are needed to fulfill the public sector.

Thailand is also facing a shortage of clinical pathologist with a total of 108 physicians. There are five university hospitals that provide training for clinical pathologist based on curriculum content proposed by the subcommittee for training and evaluation, which working under the Royal College of Pathologists of Thailand (RCPT) and the Medical Council of Thailand. In addition, this subcommittee is responsible for board examination. Clinical Pathology (CP) specialty of Transfusion Medicine has just been established in 2017. Meanwhile, the Medical Council has a policy that 16 residency training program (including CP) will be audited in 2018 using World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) standard 2015. Therefore, RCPT is preparing for CP training reform this year (2017).