**Society Report**

**Initiatives of the Trai Association of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (TAGE)**

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Pradermchai Kongkam

**Internationalizations**

Over last 16 years since the Thai Association of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (TAGE) has been established, internationalization is one of the targets that we have been continuously focusing on. At the beginning years, only few international doctors and famous experts recognized the TAGE. In comparison with this era, the TAGE has become one of the well-known societies among international endoscopists. Our members and associates have worked hard to make the TAGE being internationally recognized. We have joined many international academic activities including participating events, giving lectures, performing live endoscopy demonstrations, submitting and presenting endoscopy researches, publishing medical literature in various international journals. We also organized annual live demonstration meeting in Bangkok, Thailand for 16 years. Many famous endoscopists come to our course and a lot of audiences learn many new endoscopic techniques and knowledge from international experts in the TAGE annual meeting. Besides that, TAGE has contributed organizing several world-class gastroenterology meetings that were organized in Thailand. Currently, TAGE has been internationally well known. However, we will keep going for international activity to enhance endoscopy knowledge of member of TAGE in Thailand and the region.

**Education**

Education is the core of the TAGE. Our past activities supported education of our members. Those activities include the annual TAGE international live demonstration that has been organized for 16 years. TAGE also has organized several domestic hands-on workshop annually to teach and transmit endoscopy knowledge to our members. These strategies has improved practice in endoscopy of our members over last several years.

**Research**

Member of the TAGE has increasingly performed their individual researches over last several years. Number of member's researches including international multicenter ones has been increasing particularly from several large academic centers. Several researches were published in many famous international journals. Nevertheless, number of multicenter researches among Thai’s member under TAGE’s umbrella is still low. Most of them are about prevalence and incidence of emerging and common diseases such as colon polyps. TAGE has organized many outdoor endoscopic activities such as performing screening colonoscopy to rural communities on the weekend by several volunteer endoscopists. These activities aimed to increasing awareness of preventable common diseases like colon cancer and also to make unity of our members. Informations from such activity were also collected and used for research purpose as well. In the coming years, TAGE will work harder to increase number of prospective studies among Thai members.

**What is focused on?**

In near future, the TAGE will focus on following topics.

1. Improve quality of endoscopy practice in Thailand of TAGE members by several strategies.
2. Enhance collaboration between TAGE and international academic centers to transfer and exchange knowledge of advanced endoscopy.
3. Create multicenter researches under umbrella of the TAGE to solve clinical endoscopic problems of Thailand and region.
Pradermchai Kongkam

Associate Professor Pradermchai Kongkam is an experienced endoscopist with special interest in EUS, ERCP, pancreatico-biliary disease and gastrointestinal oncology. Currently, he is the president of the Thai Association of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (TAGE). He has travelled to many places particularly in South East Asian (SEA) community to share and distribute knowledge of clinical endoscopy. Several Thai and international endosonographers from various countries were trained by him. They dedicated their time varying from weeks to year to be his fellows to learn advanced endoscopy, particularly EUS. He is one of editorial board members in a few medical journals and has several publications. His present interesting researches include EUS guided confocal laser endomicroscopy, EUS-guided forceps biopsy, EUS-RFA, EUS-guided biliary, pancreatic duct and pseudocyst drainage, EUS-guided diagnosis of peritoneal disease, and EUS-guided pancreatic cyst ablation. In this 2018 JGES meeting, he will share his experience in clinical application of EUS-RFA for malignant solid pancreatic lesions and president speech.