

## Letter to the Editor

12 December, 2001

Dear Editor,

Referring to the special article entitled "Paediatric Urology in Thailand" by PA Dewan, published recently in the Thai Journal of Surgery (2001; 22(2):39-42), there are some statements which distorted the fact of paediatric urology in Thailand. I appreciate in the good intention of the author to paediatric urology circle in Thailand. But his statement appeared in the article that "Paediatric Urology is a new subspecialty, with only one unit existing in the country" cant not be accepted to be true.

We all aware that therer is no single official Department of Paediatric Urology in Thailand, the care of such patients is under the responsibility of either urologist or paediatric surgeon. Being awarded British Council Scholarship, I got an opportunity to had paediatric urology training between October 1983 to October 1984 at Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London where DI Williams, the world renowned pioneer paediatric urologist and his successor, PG Rensley have made this institute the international Mecca of paediatric urologists from all over the world. After coming back to Thailand, I have engaged myself in paediatric urology field for more than 16 years. During the last 10 years at Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, more than 90 per cent of my work was in paediatric urology cases. At least, 2 days a week, one operating room is dedicated to padiatric urology patients. The operations mentioned in the article are not new at all. All of them have been performed in Siriraj Hospital for many years.

Many new and latest popular surgical techniques including epispadias repair: complete penile disassembly technique, single stage combined extrophy closure and urethral reconstruction and nerve

sparing clitoral reduction in patient with congenital adrenal hypoplasia, to name a few, are not referred to at all.

According to the facts mentioned above, the author's statement that Paediatric Urology is a new subspecialty, with only one unit existing in the country is groundless. A service of more than 10 years cannot be regarded as new at all. For correct understanding among the members of the Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand, I would like to ask you to bring this letter to public attention in the Thai Journal of Surgery.

Yours Sincerely,

**Phichaya Sujjantararat MD, FACS (T)**

The above letter was referred to the attention of the author of the said article, who offered the following reply.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for forwarding the letter regarding my article. I apologize for any error of fact in the article and I am delighted that the content of the paper has been scrutinised by someone with such insights. I would hope that the article and the letter both provide a stimulus to high quality Paediatric Urology service, which has obviously been in existence for much longer than I was aware.

Kind regards

**PA Dewan, PhD, MD, FRCS, FRACS**