In commemoration of
the 125th Anniversary of the Birth of
HRH Prince Mahidol of Songkla
and the 25th Anniversary of the Prince Mahidol Award

A Special publication of the Bangkok Post
The 1st of January marks the birthday anniversary of His Royal Highness Prince Mahidol of Songkla who is considered the Father of Modern Medicine in Thailand. More than 90 years ago, the Prince played an active role in laying foundations for public health and medical care in Thailand, with strong determination to raise the standard of living of all Thais. His life and work exemplify what we can do to help mankind and inspire people to give back to society.

Celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, the Prince Mahidol Award was created to reward efforts to develop medicine and public health—fields which the Prince made significant contributions to in Thailand. Some of his outstanding contributions included providing scholarships to study abroad for Thai medical and nursing students, personal funds to develop the country’s first hospital—Siriraj Hospital—on par with hospitals in developed countries, and efforts to coordinate assistance from the Rockefeller Foundation to develop Thai medicine. These are just a small part of what the Prince achieved for the benefit of Thailand.

Functioning without political affiliation, Prince Mahidol Award is a truly international award since it is given to individuals or institutions, regardless of race or nation. From 1992 to 2016, 74 individuals or institutions received the award for their beneficial accomplishments proven to improve lives across the world.

“True success is not in the learning, but in its application to the benefit of mankind,” as His Royal Highness Prince Mahidol of Songkla reminded us, perfectly summing up what the prestigious Prince Mahidol Award represents.

The legacy that the Prince left behind has had a great impact on public health and medicine in Thailand today. Let us carry on his legacy by doing good deeds and honouring those who work for the benefit of others to ensure a better, safer world.

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn
Chairman, Board of Trustees and President,
Prince Mahidol Award Foundation
Prince Mahidol Aduladej served at the Navy Ministry in 1915.

125th Anniversary of His Royal Highness Prince Mahidol of Songkla
His Legacy Continues On

His Royal Highness Prince Mahidol of Songkla was the 69th child of King Chulalongkorn and the 7th of Queen Savang Vadhana. The Prince was born on 1 January 1892 at the Grand Palace in Bangkok amidst significant changes in the Kingdom at a time when Thailand was in transition to keep up with developed countries.

When he was young, the Prince’s health was not good, probably due to over-crowdedness and poor air ventilation in the Grand Palace. He was very thin and fell ill several times in his childhood.

The Prince was sent to England to study at Harrow School in 1906 and to the Royal Prussian Military Preparatory College at Potsdam in Germany around a year later, following King Chulalongkorn’s wish to send his sons abroad to pursue their studies. The King intended them to return to Thailand to assume important positions in the government and contribute to their motherland.

After the Royal Prussian Military Preparatory College at Potsdam, the Prince moved to Berlin to study at the Royal Prussian Military College, Gross Lichterfelde, before continuing his military education at the Imperial German Naval Academy at Flensburg-Mürwik following the wish of his half-brother, King Vajiravudh from 1911-1914.

Since he was very young, the Prince was known for his down-to-earth attitude and benevolence. He gave a scholarship from his own money to a Thai student to study Medicine in Europe when he was less than 19 years old.

Prince Mahidol of Songkla returned to Thailand in 1915 shortly after World War I erupted to a commission in the Royal Thai Navy. While serving in the navy, the Prince saw nutrition-related problems of naval officers and became interested in public health – the field he later pursued vigorously. Just 10 months after joining the navy, the Prince resigned due to a conflict with senior naval officers.
Prince Mahidol of Songkla left the navy came to be interested in medicine and public health after Prince Rangsit, his half-brother who was close to him, invited him to observe Siriraj Hospital whose medical college was then supervised by Prince Rangsit. This medical college—the first one in Thailand—was still rudimentary and lacked proper infrastructure. When the Prince realised that the country was in dire need of knowledgeable personnel and funding for the development of medicine and public health, he was more determined to work in the fields and to raise the standard of life of Thai people.

“Public health is of great importance. It enhances the quality of life in the country and brings the benefit to mankind.”

The Prince prepared himself for medicine and public health by studying them in depth. At first he went to the University of Edinburgh to study public health but later changed to Harvard Medical School, Harvard University in the United States. The Prince’s determination to raise the standard of life of people in Thailand – the main reason he decided to pursue medical study – was evidenced in an interview he gave a reporter while he was staying in Gloucester.

“I think that the government’s budget should be spent for the benefit of the general public. I prefer building a hospital to a battleship. I have chosen to pursue my studies in public health because I think this field will open up opportunities for me to help people as much as possible.”
At Harvard Medical School, Prince Mahidol of Songkla was laying out plans to support the affairs of Siriraj Hospital and its medical college while studying hard. One of his early contributions was a scholarship program for medical and nursing students – one of them Miss Sangwan Talabhat who was his future wife and mother of two future kings of Thailand – King Ananda Mahidol (Rama VIII) and King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX). The Prince and his wife had three children:

- Her Royal Highness the late Princess Galyani Vadhana, Kromma Luang Naradhiwas Rajanagarindra (6 May 1923 – 2 January 2008)
- His Majesty the late King Ananda Mahidol, King Rama VIII (20 September 1925 – 9 June 1946)
- His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King Rama IX (5 December 1927 – 13 October 2016)

The Prince received a Certificate in Public Health in 1921 and graduated with a medical degree in 1928. After he returned to Thailand in 1928, he became active in the development of modern medicine and public health with an interest in the prevention of diseases which seriously affected Thailand at that time, including malaria, amoebic dysentery and pneumonia. The Prince was also the Director-General of the University Department under the Ministry of Education and taught basic sciences and medicine.

The development of Siriraj Hospital was probably the Prince's most prominent achievement. He sought support from and cooperation with the Rockefeller Foundation for the hospital and for the overall development of Thai medicine. The Prince even offered some of his private funds for the construction of new buildings on Siriraj Hospital's grounds according to sketches he made himself. A huge amount of his personal funds went to scholarships and salaries of medical personnel. It was estimated that the total funds the Prince dedicated to the development of the country's medicine and public health amounted to approximately 1.4 million baht at that time, equivalent to billions of baht today.

In 1929, the Prince was suggested by Doctor Cort, the director of the missionary-run McCormick Hospital in Chiang Mai, to conduct research into the diseases and work as a resident doctor. At the hospital, the Prince worked tirelessly and even intended to donate his blood to patients who needed it. However, he spent only three weeks working at the hospital before returning to Sra Pathum Palace where his chronic kidney disease aggravated shortly afterwards. The Prince spent his last months at the palace but never stopped working for public health and medical affairs in the country.

Prince Mahidol of Songkla passed away on 24 September 1929 at 37.
The Prince Mahidol Award was established in 1992 by royal permission of His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, or King Rama IX of Thailand on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Prince Mahidol of Songkla. The award has the objective to honour His Royal Highness and to recognise individuals or institutions with outstanding contributions in the fields of medicine and public health. The Prince Mahidol Award was the only award for which HM the late King personally presided over the award presentation ceremony almost every year.

The award is run by the Prince Mahidol Award Foundation established in 1991. King Rama IX graciously granted Royal patronage to the foundation, currently chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. The foundation is responsible for the Prince Mahidol Award as well as the promotion of the memory of Prince Mahidol of Songkla – the Father of Modern Medicine and Public Health of Thailand.

The Prince Mahidol Award is an international award given annually in two categories to international personalities or organisations, including:

1. In Medicine: for outstanding performance and/or research in the field of medicine for the benefit of mankind
2. In Public Health: for outstanding contributions in the field of public health for the sake of the well-being of the people.

The award consists of a medal, a certificate, and prize money (US$100,000).

An individual or group of individuals or an institution may be nominated by national medical or health authorities or by an individual or group of individuals in a nongovernmental capacity, as candidates for the award. The candidates are screened by the award’s Scientific Advisors and are then forwarded to the International Award Committee which comprises several world-renowned experts in the fields of medicine and public health. The committee will consider them and make recommendations to the Foundation’s Board of Trustees who will make a final decision.

From 1992 to 2016, 74 prizes were awarded, including 34 in medicine and 40 in public health.
In Memory
Of
His Royal Highness Prince Mahidol of Songkla

“Father of two Kings of Thailand”
and
“The Father of Modern Medicine of Thailand
and
The Father of Public Health of Thailand”

“ขอให้ถือผลประโยชน์ส่วนตนเป็นที่สุด
ประโยชน์ของเพื่อนบ้านขึ้นไปกว่าที่หนึ่ง
สุข ทรัพย์และภัยที่จะค่อยมาเท่านั้น
ท่านทรงทรงธรรมแห่งวิชาชีพไว้ให้บริสุทธิ์”

SIRIRAJ FOUNDATION: “FOR SIRIRAJ HOSPITAL”
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Faculty of Nursing, Mahidol University

With deep gratitude to His Royal Highness Prince Mahidol of Songkla
on the occasion of his 125th birth anniversary
and the 25th anniversary of the Prince Mahidol Award
IN MEMORY OF
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE MAHIDOL OF SONGKLA
‘FATHER OF TWO KINGS OF THAILAND’
AND
“THE FATHER OF MODERN MEDICINE
AND PUBLIC HEALTH OF THAILAND’
In memory of our beloved
Prince Mahidol of Songkla
on the auspicious occasion
of his 125th Birthday Anniversary
and the 25th Anniversary of
the Prince Mahidol Award

Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital
Mahidol University
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In memory of our beloved His Royal Highness Prince Mahidol…
Long may the kingdom continue to promote exemplary medical achievements.

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We would like to express our gratitude to His Royal Highness Prince Mahidol of Songkla.

Management and staff of True Visions Group Company Limited
In memory of our beloved Prince Mahidol...
May the medical fields continue in his footsteps.

In Memory of His Royal Highness Prince Mahidol
Long may the Kingdom continue
to promote exemplary medical achievements.

Roche Thailand Ltd.
www.roche.co.th
In memory of our beloved Prince Mahidol of Songkla on the auspicious occasion of his 125th Birthday Anniversary and the 25th Anniversary of the Prince Mahidol Award

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With deep gratitude to His Highness Prince Mahidol of Songkla,
The Father of Thai Modern Medicine and Public Health

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The Prince Mahidol Award Conference (PMAC) was first organised in 1998 to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the Prince Mahidol Award. It has been held annually to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the award and the 115th birthday anniversary of His Royal Highness Prince Mahidol of Songkla since 2007, as per the request of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, President of the Prince Mahidol Award Foundation. The conference is held in the final week of January, right after the Prince Mahidol Award Ceremony.

The PMAC has the main objective to address high-priority global health issues by seeking international advice from public health leaders while encouraging policymakers and stakeholders worldwide to include such issues in their agendas. The conference is hosted by the Prince Mahidol Award Foundation, the Royal Thai Government, the Thai Ministry of Public Health and Mahidol University. The conference is co-hosted by other global partners such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) the Rockefeller Foundation, the China Medical Board (CMB), and other related UN Agencies. Participants in the conference include ministers, senior government officials, intergovernmental organisations, international development partners, global health initiatives, health policy and health systems researchers and advocates, civil society organisations, and high-level stakeholders from developing and developed countries.

This year, the PMAC has “Addressing the Health of Vulnerable Populations for an Inclusive Society” as its theme, following the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) spearheaded by the United Nations. Thus, this year’s conference is aimed at understanding the situation, causes and consequences of excluding health of vulnerable populations in different contexts. The conference participants are expected to discuss indicators and measurements as well as monitor the progress of efforts to create social inclusion in the field of public health. They will also share their experiences in the implementation of policy/programmes to enhance social inclusion of vulnerable populations in different settings and groups. At the end of the conference, the participants will conclude with recommendations for the enhancement of social inclusion to achieve both the SDGs and universal health coverage.

The PMAC 2017 will be held in Bangkok from 29 January – 3 February 2017.

Past PMAC themes

1997: The International Conference of Science and Health
2002: Medicine and Public Health in the Post-Genomic Era
2007: Improving Access to Essential Health Technologies: Focusing on Neglected Diseases, Reaching Neglected Populations
2008: Three Decades of Primary Health Care: Reviewing the Past and Defining the Future
2009: Mainstreaming Health into Public Policies
2010: Global Health Information Forum
2011: 2nd Global Forum on Human Resources for Health
2012: Moving towards Universal Health Coverage: Health Financing Matters
2013: A World United against Infectious Diseases: Cross-Sectoral Solutions
2014: Transformative Learning for Health Equity
2015: Global Health Post 2015: Accelerating Equity
2016: Priority Setting for Universal Health Coverage
Prince Mahidol Award
Youth Program

Prince Mahidol of Songkla once said that “true success is not in the learning but in its application to the benefit of mankind.” This is what he strongly believed and put into practice throughout his life. To carry on the Prince’s altruism and legacy, the Prince Mahidol Award Foundation under the Royal Patronage initiated the Prince Mahidol Award (PMA) Youth Program on 20 November 2008. The programme is aimed at inspiring and facilitating young Thai medical students to pursue their studies abroad for the benefit of mankind, following the footsteps of Prince Mahidol of Songkla.

Applicants qualifying for the scholarship should currently study in the 5th year of medical school at any university in Thailand, with the age of less than 30 years old. They must be proficient in English and able to spend one year abroad. Most importantly, they must have a determination to dedicate their life to solve pre-specified Thai health problems of interest. They should feel the need to obtain significant study/research experience abroad that will help their work in the future.

Each year, the programme’s steering committee, the working committee, and the selection committee will select up to five qualified applicants and nominate them for the scholarship. The Board of Trustee of the Prince Mahidol Award Foundation, chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, will make a final decision.

The successful candidates will be granted a scholarship for training or studying abroad with full support from the foundation for 12 months. Their training/studying period abroad is considered as a part of their three-year contract time after they graduate from a medical school.

The PMA Youth Program scholars will be taken care of by the formally arranged international mentor once they start their training/study abroad. The scholars are required to send back their progress report every six months and after they complete their training/study. After they return to Thailand, they will present their projects at the PMA Youth Program Conference, scheduled to take place in January each year in parallel with the PMA Conference.

Another invaluable benefit of the scholarship is lifetime mentoring from their international and Thai mentors with strong support from the working committee.
On 16 November 2016, the Prince Mahidol Award Foundation announced the winners of the Prince Mahidol Award 2016 at Siriraj Hospital. The award was given to Sir Gregory Paul Winter from the United Kingdom in the field of medicine and Professor Vladimir Hachinski from Canada in the field of public health. There were 59 nominations from 24 countries this year.

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, representative of His Majesty the King, will preside over the presentation ceremony of the Prince Mahidol Award 2016 at the Chakri Throne Hall on 31 January 2017 at 17.30 hours.

Prince Mahidol Award Laureates 2016

For development of Humanised Therapeutic Antibody Technology

Sir Gregory Paul Winter has been recognised by the Prince Mahidol Award judging committee for his invention of techniques to humanise antibodies for therapeutic uses, which later led to the creation of cutting-edge therapeutic drugs. The advances in the use of humanised antibodies as therapeutic drugs have provided new ways to prevent and treat several diseases, including immune disorders, degenerative diseases, and different types of cancer.

Sir Gregory Paul Winter is now the master of Trinity College, University of Cambridge. He is one of the most successful academic entrepreneurs by establishing biotech companies; Cambridge Antibody Technology, Domantis and Bicycle Therapeutics.

For major contributions in the areas of vascular cognitive impairment, stroke, and brain-heart interactions

Professor Vladimir Hachinski has been selected as the winner in the field of public health for his work to delay and/or prevent cerebrovascular disease and cognitive decline. Professor Hachinski, along with John W. Norris, established MacLachlan Stroke Unit, Canada’s first acute stroke unit which is regarded as the most effective way to treat stroke patients of all ages, severities and types. The practices initiated by Professor Hachinski were so successful that they have now become the standard of healthcare worldwide.

The doctor’s discoveries of the relationship among stroke, degenerative dementia, and multi-infarct dementia have opened a new frontier for the treatment and prevention of the diseases.

Professor Hachinski is Distinguished University Professor at University of Western Ontario, Canada.

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Professor Hachinski is Distinguished University Professor at University of Western Ontario, Canada.
Pioneering work on the rehabilitation of people addicted to morphine and heroin, by using a chemical opium analogue.

Recognised contribution to the understanding of the pathogenesis of the HBV infection, a major and widespread cause of chronic liver disease and hepatocellular carcinoma.

Role in the discovery of ivermectin and for the free contribution of ivermectin to treat blindness in Africa and Central America.

Supplementation of Vitamin A, leading to a reduction in child mortality in Indonesia.

Supplementation of Vitamin A, leading to a reduction in child mortality in Guatemala and other Central American countries.

Pioneering role in the development of coronary artery bypass surgery.

Non-invasive thrombolytic treatment of the coronary artery of the heart.

Rapid identification and understanding of the biology of the influenza virus H5N1, following the outbreak of influenza in children in Hong Kong.

Leadership in the control of the outbreak of H5N1 influenza in Hong Kong.

Recognised contribution to the understanding of the pathogenesis of the HBV infection, a major viral infection of the liver in hundreds of millions of people in different parts of the world.

In recognition of outstanding research, leading to the improvement of health in tropical countries.

For his strong commitment and selfless dedication to a special programme for research and training in tropical disease, which became the embodiment for the hopes and survival of millions of people in tropical areas.

The first to demonstrate the effect of subclinical iron deficiency on the cognitive performance of young children.

Showed that people who have a low birth weight or who are thin or stunted at birth, have a high rate of coronary diseases and related disorders of strokes, diabetes and hypertension in adult life.

His work persuaded doctors to use tamoxifen in the treatment of breast cancer. His work also influenced national policies against smoking and its effect on brain and spinal cord development in children has improved the health of people throughout the world.

His contributions on subclinical lead poisoning and its effect on brain and spinal cord development in children has improved the health of people throughout the world.

His contribution to work on air pollution has led to great public health effects around the world.

Recognised for his role in the discovery and purification of erythropoietin, a hormone that stimulates the human body to make red blood cells.

Discovery of human papilloma virus HPV 16 and HPV 18 and contribution to the development of vaccines against cervical cancer. He later received a Nobel Prize in medicine in 2008.

Conduct research on sodium absorption by mammalian intestine and epithelial transport which led to the discovery of Oral Rehydration Therapy.
Public Health
David R. Nalin
USA
Successful test of efficacy of an oral glucose-electrolyte solution, later known as oral rehydration solution (ORS), to be used instead of intravenous fluid for the treatment of patients with severe cholera.

Public Health
Richard A. Cash
USA
Contributions to work on the application of oral rehydration solutions in the treatment of severe diarrhoea worldwide.

Public Health
Dilip Mahalanabis
India
Contributions to work on the application of oral rehydration solutions in the treatment of severe diarrhoea worldwide.

2007
Medicine
Axel Ullrich
Germany
The new concept of targeted cancer therapy offers better efficacy in killing cancer cells while doing less harm to normal cells and therefore, reducing the side effects of cancer chemotherapy.

Public Health
Basil Stuart Hetzel
Australia
Recognised for his role in increasing awareness of “Iodine Deficiency Disorders” by demonstrating harmful effects of iodine deficiency on brain function rather than endemic goiter. He is also a key figure in promulgating global action to control of iodine deficiency disorders.

Public Health
Sanduk Ruit
Nepal
Outstanding works in development of an effective safer-less operation technique that allows operations to be performed in a large number of underprivileged patients in remote locations.

2008
Medicine
Sergio Henrique Ferreira
Brazil
Discovery of a peptide found in the venom of a Brazilian snake which led to development of the drug ‘captopril’, widely recognised for its antihypertensive efficacy especially in diabetic patients with inflammatory and kidney diseases.

Public Health
Michihisa Takahashi
Japan
Discovery of the varicella vaccine led to its worldwide use of the vaccine to prevent chicken pox.

2009
Medicine
Yu Yongxin
China
Contribution to research and development of the JE encephalitis vaccine, an effective application of economic tools to improve the development and use of vaccines for malaria to cover various strain variations.

Public Health
Ruth F. Bishop
Australia
For the discovery of Rotavirus vaccine protecting childhood diarrhoea throughout the world.

2010
Medicine
Nicholas J. White
United Kingdom
Discovery of the treatment of malaria, especially on the use of artemisinin-based combination therapies.

Public Health
Arun Virdi
India
Initiator of the “100% Condom Use Programme” which has been recognized worldwide as one of the most successful HIV/AIDS prevention tools.

Public Health
Mechal Viravaiya
Thailand
Tireless proponent of the use of condoms to prevent pregnancy through unique communication campaigns, demystifying condoms, previously a taboo subject, to become a commonly-used item.

2011
Medicine
Kevin Marsh
United Kingdom
Pioneer in the study of immune epidemiology of malaria that showed the importance of strain-specific immunity in malaria, thereby providing the basis for the development of vaccines for malaria to cover various strain variations.

Public Health
Ananda S. Prasad
USA
Devotion to studies showing that additional zinc supplementation helps decrease the incidence and severity of diarrhoea and pneumonia, especially in children.

Public Health
Robert E. Black
USA
Long-standing works on the importance of childhood nutrition significantly contributing to the wide application of zinc supplementation.

Public Health
Aaron T. Beck
USA
For the development of cognitive behavioral therapy in the treatment of mental illnesses.

2012
Medicine
Sir Michael David Rawlins
United Kingdom
For his pioneering work on using evidence-based approach for evaluating the usefulness and appropriateness of medical treatment.

Public Health
Uche Veronica Amazigo
Nigeria
For her leading role in the establishment of community-directed treatment model.

2013
Medicine
David D. Ho
USA
For his pioneer work on using Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy for HIV-infected patients.

2014
Medicine
Akiro Endo
Japan
For the discovery of the first antichoesterol statin leading to the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular diseases.

Public Health
Donald A. Henderson
USA
For his leadership in smallpox eradication.

2015
Medicine
Morton M. Mower
USA
For the invention of automatic implantable cardioverter defibrillator and cardiac resynchronization therapy saving million of lives worldwide.

2016
Medicine
Baron Peter Piot
Belgium
For his leadership in 3 by 5 initiative to get universal access to anti-retroviral therapy for HIV/AIDS patients.

2017
Medicine
Jim Yong Kim
USA
For his leadership to get universal access to anti-retroviral therapy for HIV/AIDS patients.

Public Health
Sir Michael Gideon Marmot
United Kingdom
For his pioneer work on social determinants of health and health equity benefit to the million of lives worldwide.

2018
Medicine
Anthony Fauci
USA
For his pioneer work on using Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy for HIV-infected patients.

Public Health
Sir Michael David Rawlins
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For his pioneer work on using evidence-based approach for evaluating the usefulness and appropriateness of medical treatment.

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True success is not in the learning but in its application to the benefit of mankind

“I don’t want you to be only a doctor, but I want you to be a man.”

“My ambition is to lead a life of usefulness.”

Mahidol Wongkela, M.D.