

## **JSPS-NRCT Core University Program on Natural Medicine in Pharmaceutical Sciences**

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This program was launched in 2001 as a new 10-year project under the support of both the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT). It aims to facilitate collaborative researches between Japanese and Thai universities and institutions in pharmaceutical science fields where scientists of both countries had shared common research interest focusing on the contribution of natural medicine for public health and wellness. Japanese coordinator of this program is Dr. Ikuo Saiki (University of Toyama), whereas Thai coordinators are Dr. Pornpen Pramyothin (Chulalongkorn University) and Dr. Somsak Ruchirawat (Chulabhorn Research Institute).

Traditional medicines have a certain role to treat many patients with diseases, which are difficult to be cured by Western medicines and also those who are scared by adverse reactions of these medicines. Therefore, we need the scientific backup on the efficacy of traditional medicines. This program is running the 5 research subjects under a key word of natural medicine which are related to i) aging-related diseases, ii) allergy and cancer, iii) hepatitis and infection diseases, iv) structure, synthesis, and bioactivity of natural medicines, and v) molecular biology of Thai medicinal plant components and database assembling of Thai medicinal plants.

Our research collaboration through this program would encourage members to strengthen related research activities, to share advanced academic and scientific knowledge on natural medicines, and also promote the communication of cooperated research outcomes and the research network activity together with the depth of research studies.