

Overview of Activities of Steering Committee 2011-2014

Following the 2011 success of using a Steering Committee to continue the work of the Consortium between meetings, a group was formed in 2012. Steering Committee members were added to assure a balance of US and Thai and basic sciences and clinical sciences faculty members. Surakit Nathisuwan from Mahidol University and Melody Ryan from the University of Kentucky were named co-chairs of the Committee.

At the conclusion of the 2011 Consortium Meeting, participants were encouraged to sign up for working groups of interest. There were a total of 19 proposed workgroups including: curriculum planning between countries and within countries; combined PharmD/PhD program; translational research collaboration; short (0.5-1 year) research programs in the US; establish equitable promotion criteria for clinical and basic science faculty; foster research collaboration; teaching certificate program; create short-term visiting scholar model program in the US; create extended-time visiting faculty scholars model program in Thailand; create self-help program for residencies; facilitate Fulbright scholars (including Fulbright seniors program); residency accreditation process for Thailand; sharing e-learning opportunities; research fellowship for Thai PharmD faculty; financing international experiences for students; create model collaborative research projects; identify capabilities, willingness and needs for collaboration at all levels; establish models for residency funding; and skills development for pharmacists. The Steering Committee felt that this number of workgroups would be inefficient and consolidated the number to five, incorporating most of the original workgroup topics into the charges of the smaller number of workgroups. The following workgroups were formed and two chairs were named for each workgroup, one from Thailand and one from the US. The charges to each workgroup were approved by the Steering Committee and presented to the co-chairs.

Workgroup	Co-chairs	Charges
Education	Sawaeng Watcharathanakij (Ubon Ratchathani University) Earlene Lipowski (University of Florida)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explore shared e-learning opportunities between US and Thai institutions 2. Determine extent of curriculum mapping in Thailand; compare curricula between Thai schools; compare Thai curricula to US accreditation standards 3. Determine steps needed to develop a combined PharmD/PhD program in Thailand
Research Collaboration	Paul Jungnickel (Auburn University) Surachat Ngorsuraches (Prince of Songkla University)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a method for translational research collaboration (sharing basic and clinical sciences) between US and Thai institutions 2. Develop a methodology to standardize short (0.5-1 year) research programs in the US 3. Determine ways to foster research collaboration 4. Create model collaborative research projects
Residencies	Suphat Subongkot (Khon Kaen University) Michael Katz (University of Arizona)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create self-help program for residencies 2. Explore necessary steps to develop a residency accreditation process for Thailand 3. Establish models for residency funding 4. Develop a model for international residencies for Thai candidates in the US

Workforce Development	Gary Oderda (University of Utah) Sirada Maphanta (Naresuan University)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine what skill development is needed for Thai pharmacists 2. Explore methods of establishing a teaching certificate program 3. Determine steps needed to establish research fellowships for Thai PharmD faculty 4. Suggest model equitable promotion criteria for clinical and basic science faculty
Exchanges	Thitima Watanavijtkul (Chulalongkorn University) Connie Kraus (University of Wisconsin)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a model for short-term visiting scholar programs in the US 2. Develop a model for extended-time visiting faculty scholars program in Thailand 3. Determine ways to facilitate Fulbright scholars (include Fulbright seniors program) 4. Explore ways to finance international experiences for students

The workgroups have been populated with faculty from both the US and Thailand and have begun initial meetings. Their work is expected to continue during the Consortium meeting. Additionally, the Exchanges and Residencies Workgroups have developed breakout programs for the 2014 meeting.

At the 2011 meeting, the deans of all member schools established criteria for US schools wishing to join the Consortium. The Steering Committee operationalized these criteria and two schools, Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy and West Virginia University School of Pharmacy, were welcomed into the Consortium.

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Consortium, the Steering Committee undertook developing a comprehensive listing of the achievements of the Consortium. A survey was developed and distributed to member schools. The data collection is nearly complete and an interim report will be presented at the 2014 meeting.

The majority of the efforts of the Steering Committee went into planning the 2014 Consortium Meeting. The University of Maryland Baltimore was chosen as the host institution. A diverse and robust set of topics was chosen for the program with speakers from Consortium member institutions and American and international associations. The Committee looks forward to the 2014 meeting as a time to work toward our common goals and renew relationships.

Submitted by
 Melody Ryan and Surakit Nathisuwan
 Steering Committee Co-chairs