

## Message from President of GAT 2015-2016



**Dear GAT Members**

First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all committee members who have contributed endlessly to the Gastroenterological Association of Thailand (GAT). It has been my greatest honor and pride to serve this organization over the past many years, having seen the development and progress of the association until we have come to this point. We now have received international recognition and established our international connections in all fields of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. This has allowed the international academic exchange and provided opportunities for our young colleagues to further their trainings in many specialized centers worldwide.

The GAT board committee has visions to maintain gastroenterological academic standard. We emphasize on the standard of our training program and support research training of our GI fellows by providing research grants and funding to publish and present their works at the international conferences. We will continue to arrange academic meetings at least 2 times a year to update new knowledge in Gastroenterology and Hepatology. It is our plan to expand our meeting to be more open for internists and general practitioners in order to benefit our Thai medical colleagues. Furthermore, GAT will promote international academic events by collaborating with other international organizations. This will serve an opportunity to exchange the knowledge and experiences with experts from other countries and promote our Thai colleagues to be well-recognized worldwide.

We also extend our services to the community by supporting GAT members for health service activities, including medical mobile units for endoscopic survey and knowledge dissemination to the community. We tend to focus on the underserved areas in some provinces in Thailand. In addition, we will be a center that helps to coordinate and support all GAT members in terms of patient care.

All the policies that I mentioned above can only become successful by the co-operation from our members. This will expedite Thai gastroenterological advancement not only knowledge but also patient care standard. I would appreciate any comments and suggestions from our members to further improve the qualification of our association to become a reference of excellence.

**Professor Varocha Mahachai, M.D., FRCP(C), FACG, AGAF**  
*President of the Gastroenterological Association of Thailand*