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The cleft lip-cleft palate and craniofacial deformities are the congenital deformities involving various problems and complexities which affect physical and mental health of the patients, their parents and gradients as well as national economic losses. After birth, ideally the newborn infant with a cleft should be evaluated by a cleft team since the first week of life. The multidisciplinary management with continuity and long team follow up is the key for cleft lip-palate care. Coordinate care should be provide by interdisciplinary team to optimize treatment outcome with longitudinal care from birth to adulthood and outcome evaluation should be performed according to the critical period of age group according patient development until adulthood at the age of 18 years. Cleft coordinator is an important team member who serves to coordinate among all specialties of interdisciplinary team as well as with the patients and their families, communities, referral and hospital system.

The implementation activities by the interdisciplinary management team of Khon Kaen University are conducted in association with the project named “Tawanchai Project” which was obtained the mercy confer of the permission to be the Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn’s birthday cerebration on the occasion of turning her full age of 48th. Center of Cleft Lip-Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Deformities, Khon Kaen University has obtained the royal mercy please for Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn to come presiding over the opening of “Center of Cleft Lip-Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Deformities, Khon Kaen University” at Khon Kaen University on Monday, December 20th, 2004. And in the fiscal year of 2006, the center had obtained the approval from Khon Kaen University turning to be a specialized research center of Khon Kaen University named “Research Center of Cleft Lip-Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Deformities, Khon Kaen University in association with Tawanchai Project” following the announce of Khon Kaen University, issue 85/2007 regarding “The establishment of research group and specialized research center of Khon Kaen University of the year 2006”, announce on January 19th, 2007.

This issue of Journal of Medical Association of Thailand contains 14 original articles from Associates of Tawanchai Cleft Center which included methodologies and techniques to improve care of these patients which may be adapted in other countries as well as be beneficial for use as future references.

Professor Bowornsilp Chowchuen
Director of “Research Center of Cleft Lip-Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Deformities, Khon Kaen University in association with Tawanchai Project”
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(continued)
A guide for authors (continued)

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