

MUPY partners with the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) on a \$160 million USD project to promote quality medicines



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As official delegation representing MUPY, Assoc. Prof. Satit Puttipipatkachorn and Prof. Leena Suntornsuk actively took part in the launch event and technical workshops of the “Promoting the Quality of Medicines Plus (PQM+)”, a 5-year, \$160 million USD cooperative agreement led by the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) and funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The event was held at the United States Pharmacopeia’s headquarter in Rockville, Maryland, USA during February 24-26, 2020. PQM+ aims to sustainably strengthen medical product quality assurance systems in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC), particularly in Africa and Asia. This is to ameliorate the global issues of poor-quality medical products that put millions of people living in LMIC at increased risk of illness or death and waste precious health system resources. The operators of this project are the Faculty of Pharmacy and the WHO Collaborating Centre (WHO-CC) for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) of the Faculty of Medicine at Siriraj Hospital. The key goals of this project are 1) to strengthen governance for medical product quality assurance systems 2) to improve regulatory systems related to the quality of medical products 3) to optimize the allocation and use of resources 4) improve the supply of quality-assured medical products 5) to advance the global learning, policy, and operational agenda for medical product quality assurance. The PQM+ consortium includes core partners IntraHealth International, IQVIA Government Solutions, Panagora Group, and African Union Development Agency–New Partnership for Africa’s Development (AUDA-NEPAD); as well as locally based partners Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences; Center for Drug Discovery, Development and Production at the University of Ibadan; Addis Ababa University School of Pharmacy-Regional Bioequivalence Center; Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network; Mahidol University; and Association of Southeast Asian Nations Network for Drugs, Diagnostics and Vaccines Innovation (ASEAN-NDI); as well as several technical resource partners. The roles of Mahidol University are to provide technical assistance on Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP), regulatory science of medicinal products, quality control and quality assurance, antimicrobial resistance surveillance and management. The expected targets of our coverage are LMIC countries in Asia. This project will help increase Mahidol University’s international visibility especially in the area that threaten the issue of global health like quality of medicinal products and antimicrobial resistance. In addition, another key benefit is to increase the capacity of the university to be able and eligible to secure USAID funding directly in the future after the completion of the PQM+ program.