

National

CU partnership to boost Thai research reputation

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Chulalongkorn University has joined hands with Ecron Acunova CRO to build an even stronger partnership for contract research organisation in Thailand.

The partnership will expand medical research work in Thailand while creating new knowledge and academic work and developing the university's personnel and Thai research work system, Prof Kua Wongbunsin, the rector for research operations, said at the recent contract-signing ceremony.

Operating under university-affiliated Chamchuri Innovation, the newly established Chula Clinical Research Centre will take on research work assigned to it by Ecron Acunova, especially from research centres in many Southeast Asian countries.

Given the university's own experience in CRO and its integral start-to-finish responsibility for those projects, Chulalongkorn had looked for the best partner, and found Ecron Acunova CRO an ideal match, he said.

DA Prasanna, founder of Ecron Acunova CRO, said Southeast Asia was an important market for CRO, especially after leading pharmaceutical firms included the region in their areas of interest for medicine development. Thailand stood out in a Princeton University study for CRO work among many countries including Malaysia and Singapore, he said.

Research by the university, conducted by Professor Yong Phooworawan, on preventive and remedial measures for avian influenza and the 2009 influenza, had proved effective and had been recognised worldwide, he said. It was testimony to Chulalongkorn's proven success in its CRO activities.

Chulalongkorn was ready to provide equipment and manpower support for the new CRO business. A Bt380-million guinea pig research building is near completion while a Saraburi-based laboratory for primate genus test animals and a similar lab for larger animals in Nakhon Pathom are already in place, he added.

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