

Editorial

# Medicine Southeast Asia: Advancing Contextualized Medical Science from the Region for the World

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Southeast Asia represents one of the most diverse and dynamic regions globally in terms of population structure, infectious disease burden, non-communicable disease transition, environmental exposures, and health system capacity. Yet, despite its epidemiological importance, scientific evidence originating from the region remains under-represented in the global medical literature. *Medicine Southeast Asia* is established to address this gap.

This inaugural issue marks the launch of a peer-reviewed medical journal dedicated to disseminating high-quality biomedical, clinical, and translational research rooted in Southeast Asian contexts. The journal is founded on the principle that regional evidence is not peripheral, but essential, to advancing global medical knowledge. Diseases manifest differently across populations; therapeutic responses are shaped by genetics, nutrition, comorbidities, health infrastructure, and sociocultural determinants. Capturing these realities requires platforms that value contextualized science.

The scope of *Medicine Southeast Asia* spans basic science, clinical medicine, public health, and health systems research. We welcome original research, systematic reviews and meta-analyses, short communications, case-based discussions, and policy-relevant analyses. Particular emphasis is placed on infectious diseases, emerging and neglected tropical diseases, chronic disease epidemiology, immunology, diagnostics, and therapeutics—fields in which Southeast Asia plays a pivotal role.

Importantly, this journal is not confined to regional readership. By upholding rigorous standards, *Medicine Southeast Asia* aims to produce evidence that is both locally grounded and globally relevant. Studies conducted in resource-limited settings often generate innovations in diagnostics, task-shifting, implementation science, and cost-effective interventions—insights that are increasingly valuable worldwide.

The editorial vision also prioritizes capacity building. We recognize the challenges faced by early-career researchers, clinicians, and scientists in navigating academic publishing. Through constructive peer review and clear editorial guidance, the journal seeks to function not only as a dissemination platform but also as a developmental space that strengthens research quality across the region.

This first issue symbolizes a collective commitment—to scientific integrity, regional representation, and equitable knowledge production. We invite clinicians, researchers, and policymakers to contribute, critique, and collaborate. By amplifying voices from Southeast Asia and fostering interdisciplinary dialogue, *Medicine Southeast Asia* aspires to become a trusted forum where regional data inform global medical practice. The journey begins here.

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