

# Newsletter

Volume 5

February 2025

## PANDASIA collects human blood samples as year 2024 ends

The PANDASIA's Work Package 3 (WP3) team, led by Prof. Dr. Chamsai Pientong from the Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University (KKU), collected blood samples from community members and village health volunteers (VHVs) in 35 villages across Soi Dao and Pong Nam Ron districts in Chanthaburi province from December 4–12, 2024. The villages selected represented a diverse range of settings, such as urban communities, villages bordering forested areas, and those located close to the border of Cambodia. The sample sites were small and large villages, reflecting the unique geographical and demographic characteristics of the province.



In collaboration with the Work Package 1 (WP1) team and the PANDASIA's principal investigator, Dr. Hans J. Overgaard, the WP3 team worked closely with local organizations, village leaders, VHVs, and other relevant stakeholders with prominent presence in these villages. A key factor that contributed to the smooth execution of this fieldwork was the invaluable support from village leaders and community organizations. They facilitated communication with residents, enabling the WP3 team to get the support and cooperation of community members and VHVs, hence, completing the collection of 417 blood samples.



The PANDASIA's WP3 is tasked to identify previously unrecognised pathogens with spillover potential, specifically targeting viral groups in vertebrate animal hosts for which there is strong precedence for viral occurrence and emergence in the region. The human blood sample collection marked a significant step in PANDASIA's effort to gather comprehensive data, study the immune responses, and integrate these findings into the broader research framework of the project. In this regard, Prof. Dr. Chamsai Pientong guided this fieldwork to ensure smooth coordination and communication between the WP3 team and among community members, VHVs, and other local stakeholders.

