

Biobank upgrades to research hub

POST REPORTERS

»Prince of Songkla University (PSU) plans to upgrade its biobank into a medical research and testing centre, which it hopes will become a model for other human tissue repositories across the country.

PSU's Faculty of Medicine recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the medical schools under Ramathibodi Hospital, Chiang Mai University and Khon Kaen University to develop its biobank, said the dean of PSU's Faculty of Medicine, Dr Roengsak Leetanaporn.

He said the faculty hopes to turn the

biobank into a hub for research, testing and treatment of complex diseases, such as genetic conditions, emerging diseases and cancers. The plan to upgrade the biobank entails mainly systematising ethical sample collection methods for in-depth molecular biology research.

Dr Surasak Sangkhathat Na Ayutthaya, assistant dean of research at PSU's faculty of medicine, said the upgrade will help push the country's biobank standards to gain international recognition. PSU's human biobank opened in 2016 under the university's Translational Medicine Research Center.