

SPRING 2002

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PROJECT VIETNAM

American Academy of Pediatrics California Chapter 4



Project Vietnam is a non-profit humanitarian program which provides healthcare assistance to children at-risk, and to poor rural communities in Vietnam.

SPRING TRIP MARCH 21-31, 2002

Itinerary: 3/21: Departure LAX-HongKong-Hanoi

3/23: Arrival Noi Bai airport & drive to Hoa Binh city, visit to Hoa Binh General Hospital

3/24: Visit to Muong village & Dan Hoa commune & school

3/25: Specialists working at National Institute of Pediatrics, Institute for Protection of Mother and Newborn & ENT Institute (Neonatologists, Geneticists, Pediatric Infectious Disease, Obstetrician, Audiologist, Pediatricians, Pediatric Surgeons & Anesthesiologist) Team working at Dan Hoa school on Dental Hygiene & Survey on Nutrition status

3/26: Teaching rounds at Hanoi Hospitals, Library visit & Dental Hygiene teaching at the National Institute of Pediatrics.

3/27 & 3/28: Perinatal Seminar for 185 pediatricians and obstetricians from 40 provinces

Continued Dental Hygiene teaching & refurbishing of a Playroom for the Hematology unit at the National Institute of Pediatrics.

3/29 & 30: Visit to Quang Binh province & Quang Trach District hospital

3/31: Return to the US for most of the group. *For more details, visit www.projectvietnam.net*

Hoa Binh Hospital follow-up visit

Upon pick-up at the airport, the bus brought the group of 30 people straight to Hoa Binh city where the Health Bureau and Hospital officials had been waiting for our arrival. Warm greetings and reports followed and patients were examined: operations were successful with great results. Dr. Binh and the ophthalmologists had done 6 strabismus surgeries with less satisfactory outcomes. They expressed much eagerness for further training and our decision to return was enthusiastically received.

The new Emergency department had been completed and looked like a beautiful empty shell although in operation: a few beds with our donated oxygen concentrators, a suction machine, serving trauma patients and children with seizure or respiratory problems. We plan to help set up and equip the emergency department with intensive training in November 2002.

Jim Brennan went to the hills in search of some of our plastic surgery patients, however was unable to bring Bo (with face tumor) back because the local airport was closed due to weather conditions. He documented a striking transformation in the life of Dat Bui, 10 yo.



Dat Bui November 01, 01 March 02 after surgery

Weighing a wasted 6yo

Participants of the Spring trip

Richard Boles, MD	Jim Brennan, PharmD	Terry Buchmiller, MD
Kirk Evans, Engineer	Margaret Foytik	Art Grix, MD
Linda Grix, Med.Lib	Jack Farrell	Mark Horton, MD
Jane Jablonski, DentHyg	Charles Kawada, MD	Janet Kawada
Chan Kieu, MD	Quynh Kieu, MD	Chinh Le, MD
Jeraldine Le	David McPherson, PhD	Diep Nguyen, NP
Nhuan Nguyen-Tong, MD	Thinh Nguyen, Engineer	Steven Ringer, MD
David Rubenstein, MD	Constance Rubenstein RN	Rachel Rubenstein
Peter Rubenstein	Jennifer Rubenstein	Charles Stolar, MD
Carol Stolar, RN	Jacob Stolar	Tara Tanaka, MD

Dan Hoa School & Commune

Returning at the site where a November 01 survey found virtual growth arrest for students 6-9yo, the team conducted a dental hygiene instruction day with Jane Jablonski, a dental hygienist from Wichita delivering an animated presentation to an enthusiastic young crowd of 200 followed by individual sessions. Dr. Nhuan Nguyen supervised an updated growth survey of the children and worked with the commune health personnel.

We have come to an agreement with the Health Bureau and the commune & school authorities on *A nutrition support project aimed towards delivering protein source to 200 malnourished elementary students as nutrition drinks dispensed at the school everyday. The product is being ordered from Saigon and will start with next school year. The children's growth will be carefully monitored, while a microloan program is under review to assist families on longterm basis.

*Hypertension early detection and treatment for the 15% of adults at risk. The commune health personnel will screen all 2,000 commune adults, who will be referred for workup to Hoa Binh hospital. Working with the Medical unit at the hospital, Public health to devise education, and the Commune Health center, our Primary care team led by Thuy Nguyen, MD aims to set up a comprehensive integrated system from prevention and public education to treatment with basic drugs. The first phase has been initiated with donation of much needed equipment to the commune health center, and current development of materials. Malnutrition in children and Hypertension in adults are top prevalent problems in Vietnam, and we hope that the pilot programs will develop into a replicable successful approach.



A spellbound audience listening to the Dental Hygiene demonstration

Students are shown dental flossing by Carol Stolar, & given supplies

AAP CA-chapter 4 Project Vietnam welcomes your tax-deductible contributions, for details visit www.projectvietnam.net

First National Perinatal Conference in Hanoi March 26-28, 02

By invitation of the National Institute of Pediatrics and the Institute for the Protection of Mother and Newborn, our training team presented the first Perinatal seminar to bring together obstetricians and pediatricians from 40 provinces of Vietnam. The US experience was shared in the fields of Prenatal care and diagnosis, Fetal monitoring and Prematurity, Neonatal Resuscitation and Respiratory distress, Perinatal and Neonatal infections, Obstetrical Anesthesia, Genetics and Metabolic disease, Neonatal screening for hearing loss, and Neonatal Surgical emergencies.

The participants practiced enthusiastically Neonatal resuscitation and showed much interest in the model for Continuous Positive Airway Pressure built with local parts by our engineer Kirk Evans and Neonatologists. Along with the use of Steroids for the mother, this respiratory aide can be truly an inexpensive life-saving device for the many babies born prematurely in the rural areas.

Recommendations from our team spanned use of Folate early in pregnancy to prevent birth defects, a birth defect registry in provinces with high incidence, a survey for metabolic diseases, use of ultrasound for antenatal diagnosis in high-risk cases, expanded prenatal screening to include perinatal infections, prevention of transmission for HIV and Hepatitis B, targeted hearing screening...

Alongside the seminar, our Pediatric surgeons Drs. Stolar and Buchmiller worked in the operating room, other specialists visited with their counterparts, many additional presentations were requested by staff at both institutes, and Linda Grix discussed with the medical librarian at the NIP. Dental hygiene became very popular with the patients thanks to Ms. Jablonski and her team, and the playroom for patients on the Hematology ward was completely refurbished under the direction of Carol Stolar. Connie Rubenstein from New York stated "we received much more than we gave, through the joy and gratitude of the children and their families".

Important dates

June 23: Project Vietnam meeting
July 28: Loading of cargo shipment to Hoa Binh province.
August 1: Application & deposit (\$200) for trip due.
October 1: Passport & final payment of travel cost (\$1,800) due.
October 27: Medical Mission team predeparture meeting
November 5: Departure from LAX
November 7: Arrival in Hanoi
November 9-16: Work in Hoa Binh province
November 17: Return flight to LAX

Medical Mission November 5-17, 2002

Goals

1. Update physicians in Hanoi at national institutes on Obstetrics, Oncology, Pediatrics & specialties, Pathology, Surgery.
2. Provide Reconstructive & Ophthalmic operations to needy patients in Hoa Binh province, and update local doctors in various medical specialties.
3. Assist Hoa Binh provincial hospital in setting up their Emergency room.
4. Evaluate disabled patients and provide them with wheelchairs & assisted devices, train local staff and families in patient therapy & chair maintenance.
5. Treat patients at commune clinics & rural schools, carry out survey for prevalent primary care problems, update commune health personnel.
6. Develop pilot programs to reduce Malnutrition for elementary school children and Hypertension screening and treatment at Dan Hoa commune.
7. Present a conference at Saigon Medical school to update pediatricians in the southern provinces (Neonatal & Pediatric Resuscitation, Neonatology, Emergency and Critical care, Child Development).



Who can participate? Physicians and healthcare personnel (nurses, therapists), engineers, technical people and handymen, volunteers with humanitarian passion. Please log in at the website to download an application, send back with a Resume (if applicable), and contact the coordinator for an interview. Knowledge of Vietnamese is not a requisite, and referrals from past participants receive first priority. Early registration is recommended. All-inclusive travel cost is \$1,800 from Los Angeles.

What kind of work can non-medical volunteers do? Because of the diversity of areas of assistance, volunteers are needed to help the various teams in management tasks, patient relations, supplies control & distribution, support work and translation if Vietnamese-speaking. Because of the absence of resource locally patient transport, registration, instruction etc...are all done manually and offer opportunities for wonderful interactions with the children and their families.

How can I contribute? Project Vietnam is non-profit and your financial contributions are tax-deductible: \$70 supports an operation for an indigent child, \$100 provides diagnostic tools for a commune health center, \$150 buys nutrition supplements for 5 malnourished children for 10 months at school, \$200 gives essential medicines to a commune health center for 1 month...

Medical equipment, supplies and books within the last 7 years are also collected, soft toys and games, school supplies would support our projects at poor rural communes & schools. For all donations and contributions please contact: Quynh Kieu, MD (714)641-0850, fax (714)434-6158
Checks should be made out to : AAP Chapter 4 Project Vietnam tax ID#33-3731523 at 12377 Lewis street #103, Garden Grove, CA 92840



Whether in surgery, at the commune health clinics or elementary schools, Our volunteers make a difference, comforting, teaching and simply caring.

**Please help a child like this one
live a better future
www.projectvietnam.net**