

### **Dien Bien Province - Education for health professionals (Professor Elizabeth Elliott)**

Dien Bien Province, in the remote, mountainous north-west of Vietnam, is home to 21 ethnic minority groups with low literacy levels and poor access to health care. The province has one of the highest rates of maternal (4 per 1000) and infant (>35 per 1000) mortality in the world. However, health professionals have few educational opportunities and limited equipment.



A multi-disciplinary group from Sydney conducted an educational needs assessment in 2005. The group subsequently developed and delivered a tailored, interactive, skill-based, small group education programs to clinicians throughout Dien Bien Province (60 doctors and nurses in 2006- 2007) using the SCORPIO



(Structured, Clinical, Objective-Referenced, Problem-oriented, Integrated, Organised) method. Diagnosis and management of conditions most commonly responsible for disease and death in mothers and babies in Vietnam (including infection, post-partum haemorrhage, anaemia, and inadequate or inappropriate resuscitation) are targeted by this program. Donations of equipment valued at \$A3,636.00 were made to the Dien Bien Provincial Health

Department in 2007

The Học Mãi Foundation, through the Dien Bien Phu Project, has provided educational opportunities not otherwise available for doctors and nurses in Vietnam, documented gains in knowledge and skills among course participants and increased use of evidence-based practices in Dien Bien Province. Our trainees' skills have been recognised in Vietnam, where two trainees reached the finals of a National competition for Excellence in Nursing contested by over 40,000 nurses. Midwife Hoang Thu Ha, who won first place, said "I owe my achievement and success especially to your (Học Mãi's) contribution".

### **'Train-the-Trainer courses' (Professor Heather Jeffery)**

In Hanoi in 2007, a team of Health professional and medical educators trained 80 clinical leaders in Vietnam in teaching methods. This activity was funded in part by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on the basis of the Học Mãi Foundation track record in education. Subsequently, the UNFPA adopted the SCORPIO method for use in seven of Vietnam's poorest provinces. Our interpreter program strengthened collaboration with the National Institute of Paediatrics (Hanoi Medical University), the National OBGYN Hospital Hanoi and Tu Du Hospital in Ho Chi Minh City and provided opportunities for clinicians to improve their use of the English language and their teaching skills.



### **Other 2007 achievements**

- Our activities have been publicised in Australia and Vietnam, in the Dien Bien Provincial newspaper and television and through presentations at scientific meetings, at one of which Dr Foster was awarded a prize for best presentation.

- Prof Jeffery won the 2006 Học Mãi Australia Vietnam Foundation Chair's Award for Achievement and Dr Kirsty Foster & Louise Cocoran won the 2007 Học Mãi Australia Vietnam Foundation Chair's Award for Achievement and for contribution to the project
- Dr Lahra won a scholarship from the Royal Australasian College of Physicians to evaluate pathology services in Dien Bien Province.
- One of our interpreters (Dr Phuc) won a Hoc Mai Foundation Scholarship (AusAid funding) for 3 months in Australia.
- Medical student Elizabeth Pearce (supervised by Prof Jeffery) completed a research project and presentation to identify gaps in use of evidence-based interventions in perinatal management at Tu Du Hospital, Ho Chi Minh City on a Hoc Mai student scholarship and Dr Hirst undertook a clinical exchange at Tu Du Hospital to complete a research project on *Perinatal Outcomes for Preterm Premature Rupture of Membranes*.

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### **Team members 2007:**

- Prof Elizabeth Elliott
- Prof Heather Jeffery
- Prof Jonathan Morris
- Dr Kirsty Foster
- Dr David Hill
- Dr Jane Hirst
- Dr Girvan Malcolm
- Dr David Osborn
- Dr Dilhani Bandaranayake
- Ms Cathy Adams
- Ms Louise Corcoran
- Ms Janice Sim
- Ms Jan Polverino

### **Interpreters 2007:**

- Dr Nguyen Thi Thu Ha
- Dr Tran Duc Hau
- Dr Nguyen Xuan Hoi
- Ms Pham Thi Mai Huong
- Dr Le Kien Ngai
- Dr Nguyen Tien Dzung
- Dr Vo Thi Kim Hue
- Dr Phan Huu Phuc
- Dr Le Thanh Hai
- Ms Pham Thi Mai Huong.