

HOC MAI NEWS

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SARS Satellite Session

About 200 senior medical staff and students crammed into the Norman Nock Lecture Theatre at Royal North Shore Hospital for a tele-medicine session on SARS – Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. The third in a series of six pilot tele-medicine programs received widespread publicity, both here and in Vietnam.

Professor Aileen Plant of the World Health Organisation, who led the task-force that ensured Vietnam was the first country to be declared SARS free, spoke live via satellite from the Global Distance Learning Centre at the World Bank in Hanoi.

Professor Plant explained how government departments had worked closely with the Hospitals and the community to ensure Vietnam became SARS free.

During the satellite link Professor Chau, who treated 53 SARS cases at Bach Mai Hospital discussed two case studies. He explained how staff at the Franco-Vietnam and Bach Mai Hospitals rapidly identified cases, put patients in strict isolation and turned off air-conditioning in their rooms.

Prof Bruce Robinson said this tele-

medicine link was important in refining Australia's own preparedness for a SARS outbreak.

The next satellite session will be held at the end of July, and will focus on HIV/AIDS.

The tele-medicine program is funded by a University of Sydney International Development Fund grant.

VIỆT NAM TIẾP CHỨNG SARS HIỆU QUẢ
VIỆT NAM NHẬN 29/5/03

HÀ NỘI — No further cases of SARS have been detected in Việt Nam since April 8, while all previously suspected SARS carriers have returned home after an isolation period.

The National SARS Prevention Steering Committee made the announcement in Wednesday, saying it has asked the medical sector to strictly quarantine any suspected cases at six international border checkpoints.

The committee noted that five infra-red thermal imagers purchased from Canada to detect Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome are now installed at Nội Bài, Tân Sơn Nhất and Đà Nẵng airports, and 400 ear thermometers to measure high body temperature imported from the Republic of Korea have been distributed to border gates.

Meanwhile, Australian students and physicians will discuss Việt Nam's successful containment of SARS in a satellite link-up between the countries.

Organiser Professor Bruce Robinson of Sydney's Royal North Shore Hospital said that the discussion will be a valuable opportunity for Australian medical workers to confer on Việt Nam's SARS experience and the ways the country minimised its death toll.

In Hong Kong, Vietnamese Consul General Nguyễn Hồng Hải responded to local media questions about the reasons SARS was contained in Việt Nam.

Hải explained that when the first SARS case was diagnosed at the French Hospital in Hà Nội, Vietnamese leaders took immediate measures to prevent its spread by working with the World Health Organisation (WHO), France and Japan; using traditional and western medicines to treat SARS isolating patients in hospital and installing infra-red thermal imagers at airports and check points as soon as they were available.

Last Tuesday, WHO reported total SARS cases a 7,919, with 662 death worldwide.

WHO confirmed that no new SARS cases transmitted through air travel have been detected since March, since their warnings to all countries and the global aviation industry to give medical check-ups to crews and passengers before each flight and according to their analysis, SARS carriers on planes only transmitted the virus to people who sat in the row in front or behind

News clipping from *Vietnam News* (24/05/03)



Photo: Med. Illustrations.RNSH.

The "live" SARS teleconference broadcast from RNSH to Vietnam, May 20, 2003.

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Two-way Exchange of Teaching and Learning in Action

2003 Travelling Scholarships

Six visiting medical professionals from Vietnam arrived at Royal North Shore Hospital on 11 May. The five doctors and one senior lecturer in nursing are here for a three-month term, currently studying in various departments of the hospital.

- Dr Vo Kim Dien, a cardiologist whose work is being overseen by Dr Greg Nelson and Prof Helge Rasmussen
- Dr Nguyen Dinh Minh, a radiologist working with Dr Steven Blome
- Dr Do Thi Mai Dung is working in the Haematol-

ogy Department with Dr Chris Arthur

- Dr Dao Tien Luc, a cancer surgeon whose work is being supervised by Dr Tom Hugh & Dr Greg Gard
- Dr Vo Van Quy is working in the Urology Department with Dr Harvey Alexander and Dr Justin Vas
- Ms Nguyen Lan Anh, a senior lecturer in nursing whose program is being managed by Ms Eileen Anderson

Hoc Mai wishes our visitors a productive and enjoyable stay.

First Impressions of Australia

Anh is a senior lecturer in nursing at Hanoi Medical University. She holds a Bachelor degree in Nursing and a Masters in Primary Health Care Management.

Doctor Quy has studied medicine at Thai Binh Medical College and at Hanoi Medical University. He holds a Masters degree and specialises in Laparoscopy.

What was your first impression of Royal North Shore Hospital?

Anh: There are many more nurses per patient here than at hospitals back in Vietnam, which means that in Australia nurses are able to give patients a higher quality of care. Nurses at RNS are always smiling.

Quy: I've found everyone here to be warm and friendly. The RNS Urology department also has more equipment than our department at Viet Duc.

How do you think the Hoc Mai program will help you professionally?

Anh: The Hoc Mai program is wonderful. This is a great experience for me. Having the opportunity to work here in Australia has taught me that it is important to take the time to give the best possible care.

Quy: My main goal in coming here is to specifically learn as much as I can about conducting laparoscopies. I've already learnt so much from Dr Justin Vas in the short amount of time that I've been here.

How do you think the Hoc Mai program serves to benefit the Vietnamese people?

Anh: When I go back to Vietnam after my three-month stay here, I can stand in front of my class and teach them what I have learnt from my experience



Dr Vo Van Quy

Ms Nguyen Lan Anh

with the Australian nursing system. It's a step towards improving the nursing system in Vietnam.

Quy: When I return to Viet Duc Hospital, I will be reporting back to other professors and doctors in Urology there regarding what I have learnt here. We can then begin to develop these new techniques at our hospital. We can then teach other doctors once we have perfected these techniques.

Hoc Mai to Welcome Special Guests

Dr Dang Van Duong, Senior Lecturer in Pathology at Hanoi Medical University and the Hoc Mai co-ordinator in Vietnam, will be visiting from 22 to 29 June with Professor Tran Viet Nghi, Director of the National Institute of Mental Health in Vietnam.

Professor Nghi who is coming to observe mental health services provision in Australia and discuss mental health services in Vietnam, will be looked after by Dr Victor Storm at Rozelle Hospital.

They are to be hosted by Hoc Mai and will be staying on Level 13 at Royal North Shore Hospital. A full program has been organised for them, including a Vice-Regal lunch at Government House, a cocktail party hosted by the Northern Clinical School, a dinner with the medical students and a dinner with the "Royal North Shore Club".

RNS Teams Head for Hanoi

Hoc Mai has funding for three specialist nurses to go to Hanoi. The nurse managers who will be imparting their expert knowledge to colleagues in Vietnam are Jane Etchell, a specialist in spinal injuries, Rhonda Glasson, a specialist in dialysis and Jan Darke, a specialist in wound care from the Burns Unit. They will be travelling in October.

The Hospital's chief radiographer, Mrs Kay Collett who has worked in Vietnam will also be going to Hanoi to look at the radiology systems at Bach Mai and Viet Duc Hospitals in order to assess their needs.

In addition, an orthopaedic/trauma team will go to Hanoi in December. Professor David Sonnabend, Dr Michael Ryan and Assoc Prof Les Schrieber will work and teach at Viet Duc Hospital. They will be accompanied by Trish Evans, a senior physiotherapist who has experience in post-traumatic injury.

VIP Visit to Government House



Staff from Royal North Shore Hospital and the visiting Vietnamese scholars were invited to a special reception at Government House to welcome Ms Tran Trung Chien, the Vietnamese Minister for Health, who was in Australia.

The Hoc Mai program was singled out for mention by both the Minister and the Governor.

The visiting Vietnamese scholars who had only just arrived in Sydney were given a warm welcome by the Governor who spoke of the importance of the Hoc Mai program on Australia-Vietnam relations.

E-health Success

The on-line consultation service, Medgnosis, pioneered by Dr Dov Hersh for Hoc Mai is going from strength to strength. Doctors from three major teaching hospitals in Vietnam have posted a total of 20 cases in one month using the system. Medgnosis enables doctors in Vietnam to consult doctors in Sydney about their more difficult cases.

In one recent case, a hand surgeon in Hue sought advice from his Australian colleague about treatment of a severely damaged arm as a result of a bullet wound 40 years ago. The e-health advice given back from Sydney meant the surgeon in Hue was able to repair a major deformity that had existed for 40 years.

Each doctor who comes to Sydney under the Hoc Mai scholarship program is trained in using the E-health link so that when they return to Vietnam, they can carry on consulting with their colleagues back here.

Dr Hersh is running teaching sessions in the Norman Nock Lecture Theatre for senior clinicians wishing to be involved in the E-health link.

Diary Dates

Vice Regal Dinner

The annual gala fundraising dinner will be held at the Art Gallery of NSW this year on Friday, November 7th. The dinner will be attended by the Patron of Hoc Mai, The Governor of NSW, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC.

We are anticipating 300 guests will attend the Vietnamese theme dinner in the Gallery foyer. Talented young pianist Lukas Opacic, a pupil at Shore School, has been invited to play on the night. Lukas recently returned from Kiev where he made his international debut and was placed 4th among 38 contestants in the Horowitz piano competition.

For tickets or information about the dinner, call 9926 6408.

Harbour Fundraiser

The second annual Hoc Mai Sailing Regatta will be held on Friday, December 5.

Any company or individual who wants to take their staff or clients sailing for the day and help Hoc Mai at the same time, please call 9926 6408.

HOC MÃI

Please complete for your receipt (BLOCK LETTERS).

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Hoc Mai (the Australia Vietnam Medical Foundation)

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