



ANNUAL REPORT

VG-CARE

2024

Vietnamese-German Center for Medical
Research, Hanoi, Vietnam



Universitätsklinikum
Tübingen

2024 WAS A YEAR OF A DEEPER UNITY OF PURPOSE – CONSOLIDATING VG-CARE’S POSITION AS A LIGHTHOUSE HUB FOR COLLABORATIVE HEALTH RESEARCH ACROSS ASEAN AND BEYOND.

We are pleased to present the VG-CARE 2024 Annual Report – a year marked by strengthened partnerships, heightened visibility, and impactful research achievements. In 2024, we reinforced VG-CARE’s role as a dynamic bridge between Vietnam - Germany, ASEAN and our global partners. Through evidence-based research and targeted training activities, we strengthened regional capacities and our shared mission with unity of purpose. These achievements reflect the deep trust built over years of collaboration, and we look forward to building on this momentum in the years ahead.

DIRECTORS' WELCOME



Prof. Dr. Le Huu SONG

Prof. Dr. Thiru. P. VELAVAN

Prof. Dr. Le Huu SONG

Prof. Dr. Thiru. P. VELAVAN

OUR STRUCTURE

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- Dr. Nguyen Duy Truong
- Dr. Nguyen Van Tuan
- Nguyen Van Thai, MD
- Dr. Vu Viet Sang
- Pham Van Chung, MD
- Le Thi Van, MD
- Nguyen Thi Hiem, MD
- Dr. Do Van Dong

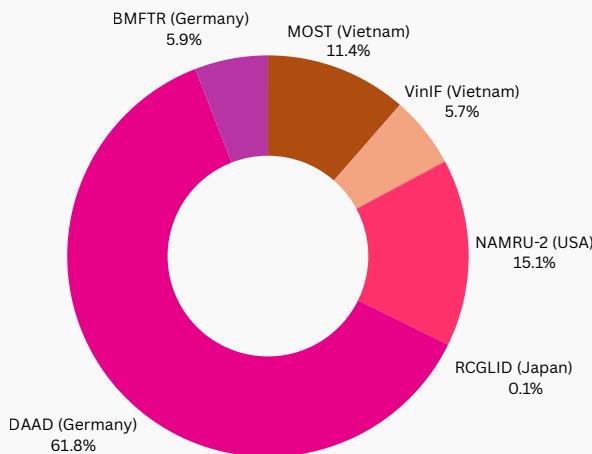
VG-CARE operates with a transparent and robust governance structure comprising two Directors, nine Research Group Leaders, a Scientific Advisory Board, and an independent Scientific Review Committee. The Advisory Board provides strategic scientific guidance, while the Review Committee ensures the quality and integrity of research. Clinical research is overseen by the Ethics Committees of the 108 Military Central Hospital and VG-CARE, with additional support from the UNESCO Chair of Bioethics.

RESEARCH GRANTS

In 2024, a total of **nine** major research projects were conducted, funded by **six** funding bodies from **four** countries. Their aggregate funding allocation amounts to approx. **6 million USD** for the full duration of the respective project periods.

Research Funding by Funding Body 2024 (%)

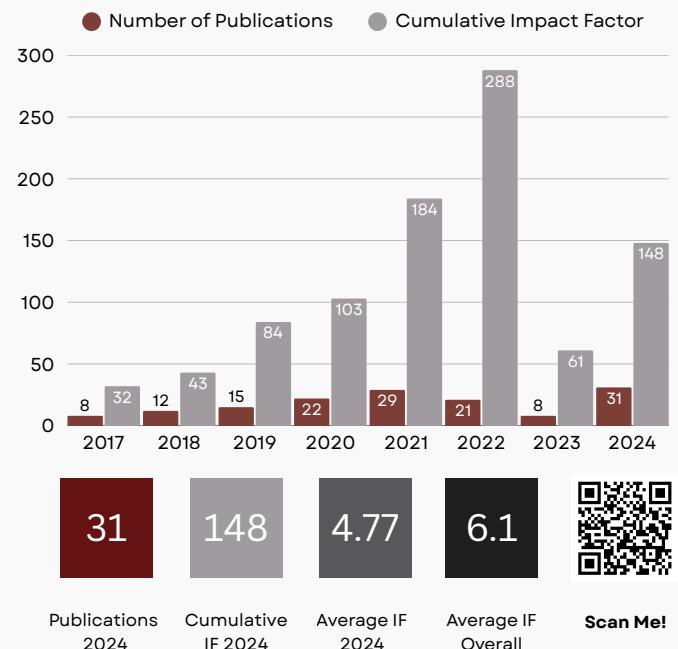
DAAD: German Academic Exchange Service | BMFTR: Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space | MOST: Ministry of Science and Technology | RCGLID: Research Center for Global and Local Infectious Diseases | NAMRU-2: Naval Medical Research Unit Indo Pacific



PUBLICATIONS

The year 2024 was marked by the highest number of publications to date (n=31) and high cumulative impact factor of 148.

No. of Publications and Cumulative Impact Factor (2017-2024)

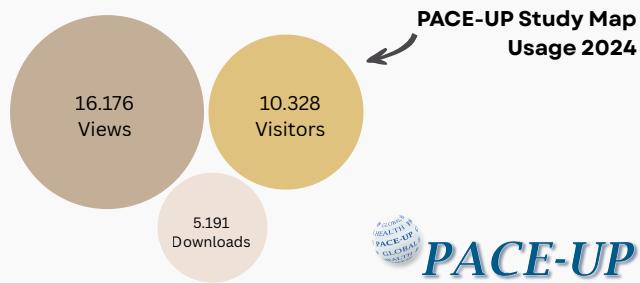


ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS 2024

1. PAN ASEAN Coalition for Epidemic and Outbreak Preparedness (PACE-UP), Phase I (2021-2025) - DAAD / Germany
2. Safety, Tolerability and Pharmacokinetics of Tafenoquine after Weekly and Escalating Monthly Doses of Tafenoquine in Healthy Vietnamese Volunteers (2021-2026) - NAMRU-2 / USA
3. Interventions to decrease CRE colonization and transmission between hospitals, households, communities and domesticated animals (2022-2025) - BMFTR / Germany (EU-JPIAMR)
4. Discovery of novel biomarkers to monitor the progression of hepatitis B virus related chronic liver diseases and early diagnosis of hepatocellular carcinoma (2021-2026) - VinIF / Vietnam
5. Production and efficacy evaluation of adhesin-coated, linolenic acid containing liposomes as a new delivery system for Amoxicillin against Helicobacter pylori (2020-2025) - MOST / Vietnam
6. Clinical significance and molecular characterization of hepatitis E and hepatitis D virus among high risk populations in Vietnam (2021-2026) - MOST / Vietnam
7. Development of a multiplex Real-time PCR KIT and an Antigen Microarray for the diagnosis, genotyping and prognosis of Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (2021-2026) - MOST / Vietnam-Israel
8. Pharmacogenetic characteristics of forms of drug-induced liver injury in Vietnamese patients (2021-2024) - VinIF / Vietnam
9. Helicobacter pylori-related gastroduodenal diseases; Virulence factors of helicobacter pylori; Immunology of gastroduodenal diseases; Gastric cancer; Capsule endoscopy (2024) - RCGLID / Japan

DIGITAL TOOLS

Launched on December 5, 2023, the PACE-UP Interactive Study Map, enables users to filter publications by region, pathogen and article type, becoming a key resource for researchers and policy makers. In parallel, a secure data-sharing platform was implemented to streamline collaboration and data integrity between international partners.



PAN ASEAN Coalition for Epidemic and Outbreak Preparedness (PACE-UP)

PACE-UP is a Global Center for Pandemic Prevention in Asia, led by a multidisciplinary consortium fostering North-South and South-South collaborations. Funded by the German Academic Exchange Service and Federal Foreign Office of Germany, it builds individual and institutional research capacity for epidemic preparedness across ASEAN, through targeted training programmes and international research networks.

[PACE-UP \(https://paceup.org/\)](https://paceup.org/)



ACADEMIC CAPACITY BUILDING

Within the Framework of PACE-UP

5 PhD Candidates



5 Students
Master Thesis



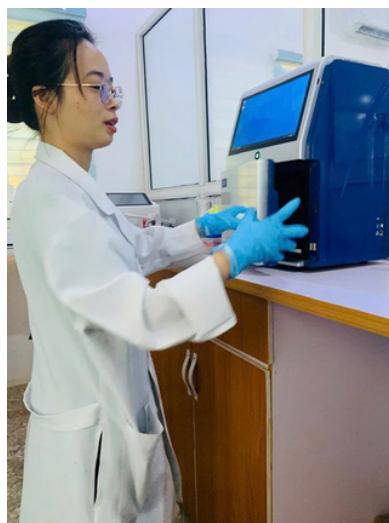
4 Scientists
5-month Internship



All **five** PhD students (4 Vietnamese, 1 Cameroonian) who are enrolled in the **PhD program** for Experimental Medicine at the University of Tübingen have completed 30 ECTS and are on track to defend by Q3/Q4 2025. Their scientific findings were presented at several conferences, including poster presentations at the World Health Summit (Oct 13–15, Berlin) and oral presentations at the DAAD Global Centres Conference (Sep 10–12, Berlin).

Five master's students completed their theses (defense in 2025). Three students were supervised at VG-CARE focusing on hepatitis B virus (HBV), occult hepatitis B infections (OBI), and sepsis. At VGU, Dr. Khanh and Prof. Reichenbach co-supervised two students researching mosquito species identification and AI-SEIR dengue.

As part of the **5-month sandwich internship** program across Africa and Germany, **four** young scientists engaged in hands-on public health research and training. During the first two months, they were placed at partner institutions: a Vietnamese female at CERID-AVH (Nigeria), a Vietnamese male at KCCR (Ghana), an Indonesian male at University Hospital (Zambia), and a Ghanaian female at Hue University (Vietnam). This was followed by a three-month research placement in Germany, where they continued to build their skills and deepen their international collaboration experience.



“

I am grateful for the opportunity to strengthen both my scientific and intercultural skills. The intensive training in Germany and Nigeria has deepened my understanding of infectious diseases as a global challenge and underscored the value of international exchange.

Ms. Dao Thi Huyen

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WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Expert Seminars & Workshops on Emerging Infections & Biosafety

The University of Jember (UNEJ), Indonesia hosted PACE-UP's two-part workshop on *Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases and Biosafety Principles* from April 23–30, 2024. The training engaged **62-72 postgraduate participants**, including physicians, veterinarians, and epidemiologists from Indonesian universities, along with 81 international attendees from **28 countries** who joined online. Upon successfully completing the modules and written evaluations, participants were awarded 8 SKP-IDI credits per module, officially accredited by the Indonesian Medical Association.

Seminar Locations



Expert Seminars on GCP/GCLP, Ethics & Regulatory Concepts

From 29th- 31st of October, VG-CARE welcomed **40 participants** across **Vietnam and Indonesia**. Experts from Europe and African Member States offered training on GCP/GCLP, strengthening ethical and regulatory frameworks in emergency research and, promoting cross-disciplinary collaboration. All international participants successfully earned a certification from the Global Health Network with a two-year validity.





HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024

PARTNERSHIPS & NETWORKS

In 2024, VG-CARE expanded its networks by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Thái Nguyên University of Medicine and Pharmacy (TUMP)**, on the 31st of January 2024. On June 26th, 2024, a second MoU was signed with the **College of Health Sciences at VinUniversity**, a private, non-profit institution in Hanoi dedicated to advancing health sciences education and research. These partnerships expand collaborations in northern Vietnam to support joint research, training, and internships, with a focus on engaging ethnic minority students and advancing health science education.



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- 27 Jun. 2024 • The **3rd Joint Committee Meeting** between Germany and Vietnam on Science and Technology (S&T) Cooperation - Berlin, Germany.
- 28 Jun. 2024 • **German Alliance for Global Health Research (GLOHRA) Meeting** - Berlin, Germany.
- 1-2 Jul. 2024 • **Policy Workshop: 'Advancing the Development of and Access to Diagnostics and Therapeutics Across Southeast Asia'** - Dialogue with stakeholders from academia, private sector, and health ministries across 10 ASEAN countries - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- 20-22 Aug. 2024 • German-Latin American Centre of Infection & Epidemiology Research & Training (GLACIER) Symposium - Halle, Germany.
- 10-12 Sept. 2024 • **DAAD Global Centres Conference: 'Global Actions for Sustainable Health for People and Planet'** - Berlin, Germany.
- 13 Oct. 2024 • **Stakeholder Workshop** on 'Climate and Health: From Science to Social Innovation' - Organized by AVPN and BAYER together with BMGF and FIND - Berlin, Germany.
- 14-15 Oct. 2024 • **World Health Summit 2024** - Berlin, Germany.

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

We celebrated the announcement of the **official co-optation** of **Prof. Dr. Le Huu Song**, Director of VG-CARE and the 108 Military Central Hospital, as a **Professor at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Tübingen**. Prof. Song's outstanding leadership and commitment to medical research reflects the transformative impact and values of equitable, cross-border cooperation—driving innovation and shaping the future of global health and policy.





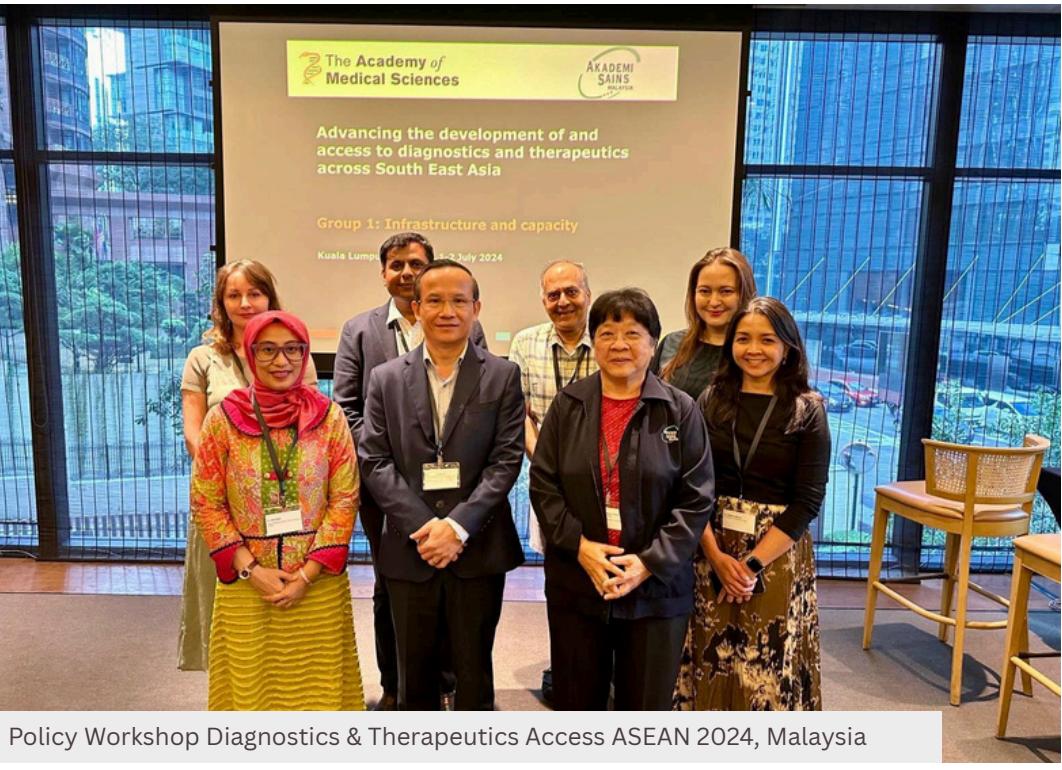
GLACIER Symposium 2024, Germany



World Health Summit 2024, Germany



DAAD Global Centres Conference 2024, Germany



Policy Workshop Diagnostics & Therapeutics Access ASEAN 2024, Malaysia



3rd Joint Committee S&T Meeting, Germany

World Health Summit 2024, Germany



DAAD Global Centres Conference 2024, Germany



Vietnamese-German Center for Medical Research (VG-CARE)

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