

RESEARCH
EDUCATION AND TRAINING
PATIENT-CARE



VG-CARE: WHO WE ARE

VG-CARE is the Vietnamese-German Center for Medical Research in Hanoi, Vietnam. The center was founded based on the long-established cooperation of scientists and physicians of both countries. Research focuses on various aspects of tropical but also ubiquitous infectious diseases, always with the aim of better understanding basic pathophysiological mechanisms and optimizing diagnostics - and thus also targeted therapy.

The vision of VG-CARE is to conduct basic and applied clinical research on infectious diseases in Vietnam and to broaden and strengthen competences in the health care system by establishing sustainable education and training as well as advanced research and service structures.

In November 2017, VG-CARE received the official status of an independent, non-profit legal entity following a decision by the Vietnamese Ministry of Defense. Founding parties are the 108 Military Central Hospital in Hanoi and the Institute of Tropical Medicine of the Eberhard-Karls University in Tübingen. The center is located at 108 Military Central Hospital in Hanoi, which is one of the largest hospitals in Vietnam.

VG-CARE is networked not only nationally but also internationally with leading researchers and scientists, medical and research institutions, but also with private sector companies. We cooperate in teaching and research, carry out joint projects and clinical trials and develop and establish modern molecular diagnostic procedures. A number of projects are funded by public institutions in both Germany and Vietnam.



OUR GOALS

- Insights from basic research and clinical studies, in particular in the field of tropical infectious diseases, but also in areas such as antibiotic resistance, parasitology and oncology;
- Development and implementation of modern diagnostic procedures;
- Strengthening the research competence of all cooperation partners within the framework of continuous education and training programs;
- Development of VG-CARE as a leading research unit in the conduct of medical research in Vietnam and its establishment as one of the reference centers in Asia;
- To ensure sustainable cooperation and knowledge transfer through the development of VG-CARE into a research, education and training center for scientists, young scientists and medical staff.

OUR STRUCTURE

VG-CARE has an open and transparent structure consisting of the Scientific Advisory Board, the Directors and Vice-Directors and an independent Scientific Review Committee. The operational management of the center is subject to the two directors, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Le Huu Song (Deputy Director of the 108 Military Central Hospital, Hanoi) and Prof. Dr. Thirumalaisamy P. Velavan (Institute of Tropical Medicine, Eberhard-Karls University, Tübingen), who are also responsible for the management of their own research projects. The Scientific Advisory Board shapes the scientific profile of VG-CARE. The Scientific Review Committee ensures that only scientifically relevant and high-quality research projects are carried out. Patient safety in conducting clinical trials is ensured by the assessment of trial proposals by the Ethics Committee of the 108 Hospital and the Independent Ethics Committee of the VG-CARE. Concerning ethical questions, there is a close cooperation with the holder of the UNESCO Chair of Bioethics at the Medical University of Vienna.



OUR ACTIVITIES

Basic research:

Research scientists, doctoral candidates, junior researchers and medical students conduct joint research on viral hepatitis, parasitological infections, septicaemia and antibiotic resistance. Other focal points are colorectal and hepatocellular carcinomas as well as human genetic epidemiology and the molecular basis of interactions of pathogens and hosts.

Clinical Studies:

With support of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the Vietnamese-German Centre for Excellence (VG-EXCEL) was established as a center for clinical trials. VG-EXCEL can be used as a platform in a large number of clinical and scientific studies in the substantial patient population of the 108 Military Central Hospital in Hanoi. These include vaccination studies, diagnostic, interventional and observational studies and studies on the use of equipment and standardized procedures, based on the concept of the "Lean Laboratory". VG-EXCEL will further be expanded as a central platform for joint clinical studies of various German and Vietnamese, but also international institutions. Furthermore, the center is now represented in numerous international consortia and congresses.

To date, VG-EXCEL is the only institution in Vietnam capable of performing ICH (International Council for Harmonization)-conforming clinical trials. Clinical trials are always conducted according to international GCP/GCLP standards. For each study, a Data Monitoring Board is established and we use REDCAP, OpenClinica and other internet-based databases for study management and collection, storage and processing of all collected data.

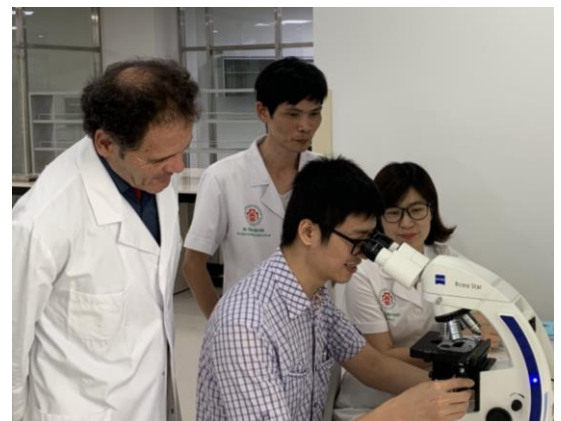
Establishment of modern diagnostic technologies:

We help to establish various infectiological diagnostic procedures in Vietnam. One focus is on microscopic direct detection methods, cultural techniques and molecular genetic diagnostic methods.

Scientific publications:

Our scientists publish scientific publications on clinical and basic research in international peer-reviewed journals. The number of publications is rapidly growing.

(<http://www.vgcare.org/publications/>)





Education and Training:

Our staff, as well as scientists and technical assistants from other institutions in Vietnam, are trained in laboratory methods, infection control, ethical behaviour in study and in the handling of subjects, clinical trial control, and the handling of equipment and modern research techniques. In addition, with the support of the Vietnamese government, it is planned to train coaches for the sustainable establishment of good clinical research according to standard GCP/GCLP guidelines; This will enable a nationwide transfer of such diagnostic procedures to other hospitals. All established procedures are validated and performed according to standard operating procedures (SOPs) adapted to VG-CARE specific circumstances, if required.

WHAT EXCELS US

Both the German and the Vietnamese partners can pursue individual interests as part of the VG-CARE activities. The resulting added value for both sides is a guarantee for successful cooperation. Our interdisciplinary team consists of qualified working personnel who work in a coordinated fashion towards a common goal for the improvement of patient-care.

Of particular importance is the transfer of scientific knowledge with maximum benefit for patients. In doing so, the economic conditions of the respective health systems must be taken into account.

We help shape the internationalization process in science and research by cooperating internationally and being globally networked.

We think and act sustainably and align our cooperation and research activities on a long term. We support young scientists and students towards career development. Young scientists are the future multipliers and carriers of medical progress!

We always strive for innovation, quality assurance and quality improvement in our projects. We see our task in contributing to the advancement of medicine and to the improvement of patient care.

We are always open for cooperations and collaborative research. Universities, research institutions and companies are expressly invited for joint projects, but also to ensure the sustainability of the institution and to promote the infrastructure.

Contact

Prof. Dr. Thirumalaisamy P. Velavan
Institute of Tropical Medicine
Universitätsklinikum Tübingen
Wilhelmstr. 27
72074 Tübingen
Germany
Phone: +49-7071-2985981
Fax: +49-7071-294684
Email: velavan@medizin.uni-tuebingen.de

Director
Vietnamese-German Center for Medical Research
N 1, Tran Hung Dao Street
Hai Ba Trung District
Ha Noi, Vietnam
Phone: +84(0)368166159
www.vgcare.org

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Le Huu Song
Vice Director
108 Military Central Hospital
Head – Faculty of Infectious and Tropical Diseases

Director
Vietnamese-German Center for Medical Research
N 1, Tran Hung Dao Street
Hai Ba Trung District
Ha Noi, Vietnam
Phone: +84(0)974845270
Email: lehuusong@108-icid.com
www.benhvien108.vn
www.vgcare.org



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