



## Workshop to Develop Pilot Bachelor in Vietnam

Development of Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) in Vietnam continues to advance with the Central Vietnam city of Danang hosting a range of stakeholders participating in the October workshop aimed at developing the training framework and subject outlines for the pilot Bachelor of Rehabilitation Techniques in SALT. This will be offered in 2019 from the Danang University of Medical Technology and Pharmacy (DUMTP). TFA Director, Professor Lindy McAllister, facilitated the workshop for about 25 participants from four Vietnamese universities, the Ministry of Health, VietHealth and local NGO MCNV, who manage the development project.

Participants were presented with the draft of the Bachelor training framework by Dr Cao Bich Thuy (Head of Rehabilitation at DUMTP) and subject outlines (by Lindy) on which syllabus materials will be developed. Participants engaged in robust conversations about the materials and provided relevant broad and specific feedback for the project development team. Professor Lindy will continue to work with Dr Thuy (DUMTP), Ms Sarah Day (SP Advisor – Australian Volunteer, DUMTP) and MCNV staff in the coming months as the team works towards finalising the training framework and syllabus outlines for the Bachelor. Timetabling for the Bachelor will then begin, with TFA looking for clinical educators to support implementation of training over the coming three years.

*If you are interested in volunteering see [further information about volunteering](#) available on our website or email [volunteers-tfa@trinhfoundation.org](mailto:volunteers-tfa@trinhfoundation.org)*



## Success of the Beyond Borders Skype Mentoring Program



Thank you, Speech Pathology Australia, volunteer mentors, interpreters and Vietnamese speech therapy mentees for your support and involvement in the Beyond Borders Skype Mentoring Program (BBSMP). What a success with lots of positive feedback from all participants (the biggest challenge was time)! Over the last 9 months, 22 mentors, 29 mentees, and 19 interpreters have been involved in 126 online mentoring sessions supporting the professional development of Vietnamese trained speech therapists. As part of the project

support by Trinh Foundation Australia (TFA), the BBSMP also enabled delivery of 2 workshops to train new interpreters, additional professional development support and workshops for mentees. The final sessions will be completed by November 2018 and many partnerships, with the ongoing support of TFA, will continue into 2019. A formal evaluation of the program is also being developed.

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## **STOP PRESS**

TFA in partnership with Speech and Language Therapy Ghana (University of Ghana, School of Biomedical and Allied Health Sciences, Department of Audiology and Speech and Language Therapy) and The Speech and Hearing Project – Cambodia, have funding success!

In 2019, a Speech Pathology Australia Majority World Countries and Developing Communities Grant will support the implementation of a project to develop resources for ethical speech pathology practice in majority world countries. Further details to come in 2019.

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## **Oncology Hospital Benefits from Volunteers Dream**



*Lauril Sachet reports on her volunteering experiences in Vietnam...*

"It's hard to believe that a month ago I was madly dashing around Albuquerque, New Mexico preparing to leave for Vietnam. Packing up the apartment, selling the car, getting vaccinations, and transferring my case load of primarily head and neck cancer patients. My husband and I have always dreamed of travelling and working abroad. When we learned about Trinh Foundation of Australia's program in Vietnam, we leapt at the opportunity. The TFA

coordinators worked diligently to find a setting that matched my skillset. I had the great fortune to be placed with two of their graduates Dr Cuong and Dr Thao at the Oncology Hospital in Ho Chi Minh City. They are truly pioneers in the field of Speech Therapy in Vietnam and I am honoured to be a part of their work.

So far, I have learned about the cricothyroidoepiglottopexy or “CHEP” partial laryngectomy surgery and the resulting voice complications as we work to develop a therapy protocol for these patients. We’ve had lots of fun with the Nutrition department testing out different foods for the International Dysphagia Diet Standardisation Initiative (IDDSI). We’re compiling resources for pre-laryngectomy counselling, and we look forward to focusing future efforts on bringing awareness to radiation associated dysphagia.

My husband is becoming proficient in the art of scooter driving (mastery requires transporting a dog, a tree, and/or a family). We are now equipped with the proper, and very fashionable, rain/sun/pollution protective gear. The phonetics geek in me is loving taking Vietnamese classes. We are definitely indulging in the fresh fruits and delicious foods. Prior to coming to Vietnam, I participated in TFA’s Beyond Borders Skype Mentoring Program, and one of the biggest highlights has been meeting my triplet - mentee Ms Hang, and interpreter Ms Sa! Everyone here is exceptionally helpful and friendly, and we are incredibly grateful to have this opportunity."

### ***Mentee Triplet Meet***

*Ms Hang Tran reports on meeting Lauril after working together over 4 months during their monthly mentoring sessions:*

"After having to look at each other via Skype from half a world away it was very exciting to meet for a face to face session... I feel I have learned so many new things and have been able to reflect on the things that I need to improve. I am grateful to TFA for providing this program and to my wonderful mentor, Ms Lauril. Thanks also to Y Sa, our wonderful interpreter for supporting our group."



## Finding Speech Therapy by Chance



*After completing the 2016-17 Paediatric Speech Therapy course it was by chance that Doan Lan Oanh discovered a new passion and moved back to her home town Tam Ky City, Quang Nam Province to begin her speech therapy clinic. She had realised children in remote areas had great difficulty accessing these services. She reports:*

"After working here for a year and two months, thanks to the support and cooperation of the Children's Hospital of Quang Nam, the referrals of colleagues in Danang, many children now have access to services. Also due to the sharing of their experiences by parents and families the community now knows more about the profession and the difficulties these children face.

Currently, I am providing individual intervention for 10 children, including children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Developmental Language Disorder, Cleft Lip and Palate, hearing aids and speech sound disorders. I have also been fortunate to continue to receive help from TFA through the Beyond Borders Skype Mentoring Program. I have learned a lot from my mentor Jodie May being well supported by our interpreter. Jodie has shared the way she operates her clinic, as well as the difficulties and the needs of children and parents for a family-centred practice.

The road ahead in my home town is long and challenging. I believe through my persistence and through the colleagues of the ST team in Vietnam with TFA's support we can continue to achieve results. The biggest motivation for me was the carefree smile of the children, the perseverance of the young parents during the times they happily showed off their child's progress."

*This is an extract...see our web page for [her full report](#).*



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*Trinh Foundation Australia is proud to be a partner for Project J594 Vietnam Speech-Language Program with Global Development Group. GDG (ABN 57 102 400 993), an Australian DFAT approved Non-Government Organisation [NGO] carrying out quality humanitarian projects with approved Partners*

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