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Course News

Tele-supervision for MSALT students in Vietnam



The continued closure of international borders means that international speech and language therapists (SLTs) still cannot travel to Vietnam to supervise students in the master and bachelor degrees in Vietnam. Under the leadership of TFA Director Dr Marie Atherton and Volunteer Coordinator Carla Mira we have developed a tele-supervision model, which we will pilot in May 2021 with the support of our partners MCNV, children's hospitals and clinics and their local Vietnamese SLTs, and master students undertaking their final paediatric placement. Students will receive up to 4 hours per day of tele-supervision each day for their 4 week placement from an international SLT, together with supervision provided by the local Vietnamese SLTs. We are very grateful to the international SLTs who have embarked on this journey with us: Natalia Henderson-Faranda, Karina Sandweg and Sharon Broadmore, who will be supported by our tele-supervision project coordinator Esther Hoh (see photograph). As it happens, all four are based in New Zealand.

If feedback about this pilot is positive, we hope to use it in future placements in the master and bachelor degrees in Vietnam and will be seeking more people to take on this tele-supervision role.

Clinical practice is an important component of the BSALT and MSALT courses that are part of the SALT in Vietnam Project. TFA manages the program in partnership with MCNV and finance partially supported by USAID.

TFA News

Special Project and Collaborative Team Evolving



Lauril is pictured with Ms Hang and Ms Sa when they met in Vietnam in 2018

Thanks to TFA's Beyond Borders program, a special project and collaborative team has evolved. Vietnamese Speech Therapist Ms Hang Tran of Cho Ray Hospital has teamed up with interpreter Ms Y Sa, TFA mentor Lauril Sachet, CCC-SLP of the USA and her colleagues at the University of New Mexico, Dr. Phyllis Palmer, PhD SLP and graduate student clinician Jacob Graves. Their aim is to improve access to ST services for patients undergoing head and neck cancer (HNC) treatment at Cho Ray hospital. Ms. Hang has worked to establish a referral pathway with the hospital's radiation, surgery, and oncology departments to better capture patients at risk of developing dysphagia while undergoing HNC treatment. Mr. Graves has initiated literature reviews to identify current evidence based practices surrounding exercise protocols for this unique population. To better address need of high volumes of patients, the team is developing a series of instructional videos targeting oral care, dysphagia awareness, and swallow exercises to better support safe and efficient swallowing for patients with head and neck cancer. According to Lauril Sachet, "The potential impact of this project is very exciting and I'm grateful to TFA for their support and ability to continue collaborating with Ms. Hang."

Collaboration with Humanity and Inclusion: Encouraging the use of digital technologies in speech therapy in Vietnam



The above picture shows Kate Margetson and Dr. Cao Bích Thủy (Head of Rehabilitation Department, Da Nang University of Medical Technology and Pharmacy) with the TalkTablet AAC app, 2015

The ongoing collaboration between TFA and HI facilitated a needs assessment of AAC in Vietnam. Based on the results of the needs assessment, a report was prepared. Since then, HI have been acting on the recommendations from the report. These include the translation of apps into Vietnamese, training in high tech AAC for professionals and family members, and developing networks of support for professionals.

- Talk Tablet app has been translated into Vietnamese and was launched in November 2020
- Since the launch, training workshops have been provided by experienced speech and language therapists
- Once having attended the training, participants are provided with a code to access the app. This ensures that only trained personnel can access the technology. The app is now being used in several hospitals across Vietnam
- Information about the app is continuing to be rolled out in an awareness building campaign.
- The second app Alpha Topics from Tactus therapy was translated into Vietnamese and released in March 2021. This app will be offered with the same processes; attendance at training will allow participants to access the app.

Journal Article Published About Typically Developing Children's Speech Acquisition in HCMC



In 2017 The Trinh Foundation supported Mrs Xuan Thi Thanh Le to work with Professor Sharynne McLeod and Dr. Ben Phạm to study Southern Vietnamese children's speech acquisition.

The research involved testing 132 children aged 3;0–5;11 living in Ho Chi Minh City. The children's consonants, semivowels, vowels, and tones were assessed using the Vietnamese Speech Assessment (VSA) and the Intelligibility in Context Scale (ICS). The journal article written to document this research has just been published in the journal *Speech, Language and Hearing*. Here is the reference and link:

- *Le, X. T. T., McLeod, S. & Phạm, B. (2021, in press). [Consonant accuracy and intelligibility of Southern Vietnamese children. Speech, Language and Hearing.](#)*

The article complements the other articles that have been published about Vietnamese children's speech acquisition. [Read more and see links on our website.](#)

Vale Kieran Coop



It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the sudden passing of our friend and great supporter of TFA, Kieran Coop.

Always the helper and the embodiment of kindness, Kieran supported the work of his adored partner of over 30 years, Bron, in her role of Chair of the Board of TFA. Over the years, Kieran developed strong bonds with the Vietnamese people through his many trips to Vietnam.

We would like to thank all those who so generously donated to Trinh Foundation Australia in Kieran's memory. He will be greatly missed.

TFA's 13th Birthday



TFA would like to acknowledge and congratulate all who have assisted us over the years. Our fantastic volunteers, as well as those who have provided vital financial assistance, have enabled us to continue to assist the early growth of the speech and language therapy profession in Vietnam. This continued sharing of knowledge and resources is effectively capacity building and having a positive impact on those in the Vietnamese community who experience communication and swallowing disorders. We would particularly like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our Vietnamese partner, MCNV in the delivery

of the first government approved Masters and Bachelor degree programs. A special thanks also to those who have been so flexible with the uncertainties we all faced this past year.

Welcome to Liz Weston



Liz is pictured (left) outside Small Steps School when volunteering in 2014 with the students, she was working with then.

Welcome to Liz Weston who has been assisting Carla Mira in the Project Officer (Volunteering) role and now covering while Carla is on leave from the position for the next few months. Liz has had lots of volunteering experience in Vietnam volunteering in 2014 and 2015. She has maintained her links with TFA volunteering as a mentor in the Beyond Borders Mentoring Program the past two years. We are pleased that she will be able to use her prior knowledge to support our volunteers in this role.

Supporting TFA

Whilst volunteering in Vietnam has been put on hold for the moment, if you are interested in volunteering in the future or would like to find out more about volunteering, please email Carla or Liz at volunteers-tfa@trinhfoundation.org





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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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