Vietnamese-German Centre for Excellence in Medical Research

(VG-EXCEL)

www.vgcare.org

PD Dr. Velavan Thirumalaisamy
1997-2013: Five MD-PhD physicians graduated at University of Tübingen

2011-2013: DFG supported the initiation of bilateral cooperation

2014: MoU signed between Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), Vietnam and University of Tübingen

2015: Support from National Foundation for Science and Technology Development (NAFOSTED), Vietnam

2011-2017: Thematic focus on infectious diseases; esp. on infections caused by hepatitis B, hepatitis D and hepatitis E viruses

2011-2017: >40 original articles published in peer reviewed journals

2015-2018: DAAD-PAGEL (Partnerschaften für den Gesundheitssektor in Entwicklungsländern)
Purpose of Research Presence

- 108 Hospital; one of the four largest hospitals in Vietnam,
- Largest hospital in Northern Vietnam,
- Facility with 2500 beds, treating 3000 in-patients and 3500 out-patients per day,
- Structured clinical departments; centralized facilities and laboratories,
- Unrestricted availability of well characterized and documented biological samples of diseases which are not present in European environments,

- Established Hanoi Network (HANNET) cooperating with various Vietnamese institutions,
- Institute of Tropical Medicine Tübingen considerably invested in resources and equipment,
- UK, Sweden, Belgium and France: Strong presence with regard to biomedical research in Vietnam. (e.g. Oxford University Clinical Research Unit).
...envisage the firm establishment of a clinical trial site (VG-EXCEL)

- To conduct clinical trials according to Standard Operating Procedures (SOP),
- Establishment of a state-of-the-art facility for delivering high quality clinical research,
- Advanced diagnostic systems primarily related to infectious diseases,
- Intensify cooperations between Germany and Vietnam, but also with institutions from other countries,
- A Phase II trial (artesunate as an adjunct treatment of colon cancer) ClinicalTrials.gov ID: NCT03093129
  - Phase II Randomised, Double Blind, Placebo Controlled Trial of Neoadjuvant Artesunate in Stage II/III Colorectal Cancer in Vietnamese patients [NeoART-v trial].
Staff and Infrastructure

MD Physicians - infectious diseases (5); research scientists (2); clinical laboratory staff (4) 800 sq.m laboratory space and 100 sq.m for patient care; offices, furniture and laboratory benches as well as small instrumentation provided.

Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST- Vietnam) pledges support for bilateral projects on international cooperation between Vietnam and Germany.

National Foundation for Science and Technology Development (NAFSOTED- Vietnam) support with travel funds for Vietnamese scientists visiting Germany.

Ministry of Defence, Vietnam

cleared VG-CARE to be a legally independent entity.
- with a sustainable German presence in Vietnam,
- providing an open platform and hub for international clinical research projects,
- international cooperations strongly encouraged (academic and industrial partnerships)
- increasing the visibility of German scientific excellence, but also international research in Vietnam.
Expected outcomes and possible obstacles

- Firm establishment of a clinical trial site (VG-EXCEL) with modern and advanced diagnostic and research facilities,
- Laboratories accredited to international standards,
- Referral centre for advanced diagnostics,
- Engaged in care of patients with hepatitis, viral/bacterial meningitis/encephalitis, dengue, malaria, respiratory and diarrhoeal diseases and other bacterial/viral/parasite infections.
- Increase the staff for GCP/GCLP-ICH compliant trials and establishment of a platform for clinical trials, including Phase I-IV vaccination trials, diagnostic studies, interventional and observational studies and trials for the usage and application of devices and procedures.