



Cities Where Global Medical Volunteers have been, indicated in red

# GLOBAL MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS Newsletter 2013 (Formerly Milphap-19)



## Global Medical Volunteers Establishes Surgical Teaching Program In Hanoi



Doctors at the Entrance of Viet Duc Hospital

In March of 2013 global medical volunteers conducted a teaching symposium at the Viet Duc hospital in Hanoi and the Nha Trang provincial hospital in Vietnam. I was accompanied by Dr. Elizabeth Kavalier and Dr. Seth Cohen.

Dr. Kavalier is a urologist and chief of uro-gynecology at a major hospital in New York City. Dr. Cohen is a gastroenterologist expert in minimally invasive surgical procedures on the intestinal tract and the biliary duct system.

**MILPHAP-19** was the unit I was assigned to in Vietnam during the war. This is the reason that I gave my foundation this name. It is apparent that most of my supporters had trouble making this connection. This year I have changed the name of my foundation to: *Global Medical Volunteers* and have decided to expand our activities to different countries.



*Chief of Surgery at Morning Grand Rounds*



*Resident Physicians and Medical Students*



*Dr. Zelikovsky Purchasing Supplies for Public Orphanage*

I purchased food, diapers, and all other items needed to care for these children. I never give money to these institutions but provide goods and services. I am in the process of trying to arrange ongoing funding for this orphanage.

For future trips I'm planning on continuing our association with the Viet Duc hospital providing experts in different surgical specialties. We are also in the process of establishing a prostate cancer center in Nha Trang which could provide diagnosis and treatment in the central part of Vietnam.



Once again, I want to thank all my friends for their support. I now have a website!

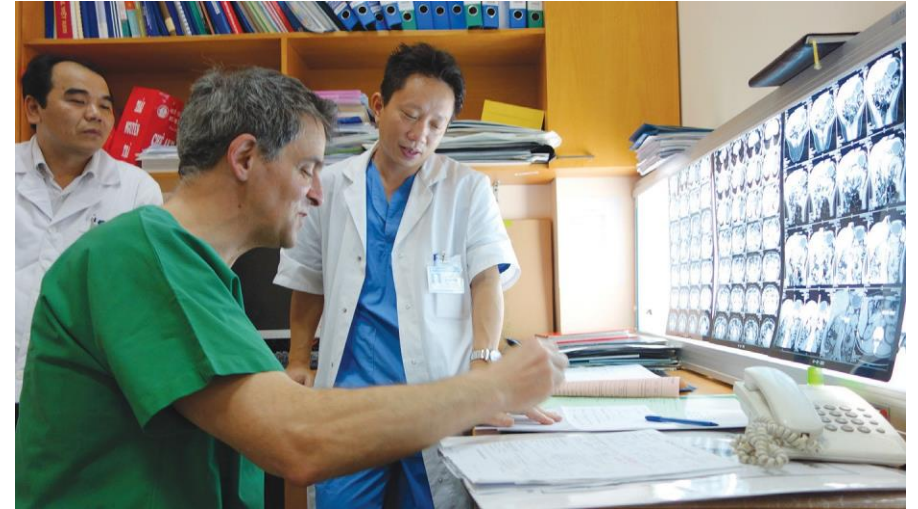
[www.globalmedicalvolunteers.com](http://www.globalmedicalvolunteers.com)

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization  
Tax deductible contributions can be made online.

You may also mail your contribution to:  
**Global Medical Volunteers**  
c/o Gerald Zelikovsky, MD  
5 East 84<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10028



*Dr. Zelikovsky & Dr. Seth Cohen Donating Medical Equipment in Hanoi*



*Dr. Cohen reviewing difficult cases with Vietnamese Physicians in Hanoi*

**T**he Viet Duc hospital is the main surgical referral center of the entire northern half of Vietnam. They train medical students, surgical residents, and provide surgical assistance and training in all the remote province hospitals in the northern part of the country. They perform over 40,000 major surgical procedures a year.

**L**ast year they contacted me and asked if I could bring with me surgeons who perform the most sophisticated procedures in their specialties. We decided to initiate this project with two surgical specialties and selected gastroenterology and uro-gynecology.

**D**r. Cohen worked with the head of gastroenterology and performed numerous cases involving the latest technology. These procedures require expensive disposable accessories that the Vietnamese hospitals cannot afford. We donated approximately \$50,000 worth of surgical accessories and instruments.



*Dr. Zelikovsky & Dr. Kavalier Reviewing Cases in Nha Trang*

**D**r. Kavalier's area of expertise is in correcting female pelvic disorders that result in the inability to control urination (urinary incontinence) or abnormal communication between the bladder and other pelvic organs. These are extremely difficult operations that most urologists do not like to perform. Dr. Kavalier is one of the leading authorities in correcting these conditions.

**D**r. Kavalier performed several of these procedures with the doctors at Viet Duc Hospital. We visited the Women's Hospital in the area. We met the medical director whom was overjoyed to meet Dr. Kavalier because, being a woman's hospital, he had numerous patients that required this expertise and had no one on staff familiar with her surgical techniques. We did several cases with the surgeons demonstrating the procedures and are making arrangements to establish a teaching program at this hospital in the future.



*Dr. Zelikovsky, a Priest, and the children at the Catholic Orphanage in Nha Trang*



*A Public Orphanage in Nha Trang*

**T**he private orphanage accepts newborns and cares for them until age five. The children are then transferred to a catholic orphanage. The program started with a young Vietnamese man who was appalled by the number of newborns left in churches and on steps of the hospital. He with his sister and local volunteers take excellent care of the children. Adoption is not a realistic option in Vietnam.



*Dr. Kavalier Working with the Doctors at Nha Trang Hospital*



*Playtime for the Children in the Public Orphanage*



*Dr. Kavalier, Dr. Zelikovsky with Vietnamese Doctors in Nha Trang Province Hospital*



Our next stop was another provincial hospital in Nha Trang. Once again, Dr. Kavalier was very well received. We did two very complicated cases of pelvic fistula with a vaginal approach. Dr. Son, who is the senior urologist, had no idea on how to do these procedures or correct female incontinence. One young woman had five separate abdominal operations to try to correct her fistula with no success. This was successfully repaired with Dr. Son assisting and he was then capable of doing next case.

It bears repeating that our objective is not to do a lot surgical procedures, but to teach the local surgeons the techniques that they can continue to use in the future.

The city of Nha Trang has three orphanages, one public, one private, and one Catholic. Over the years we've furnished supplies and equipment according to their needs. The public orphanage had no hot water for showers so we purchase and installed individual water heaters. Years ago we had purchased a washing machine and a water filtration and purification system for the Catholic orphanage. All this equipment had broken down over the years and they have been replaced.