

# MILPHAP-19 (Vietnam, MD) News Letter 2010



## Milphap Continues Surgical Education in Vietnam and Plans for Future Expansion



Milphap hospital programs established in cities indicated in red

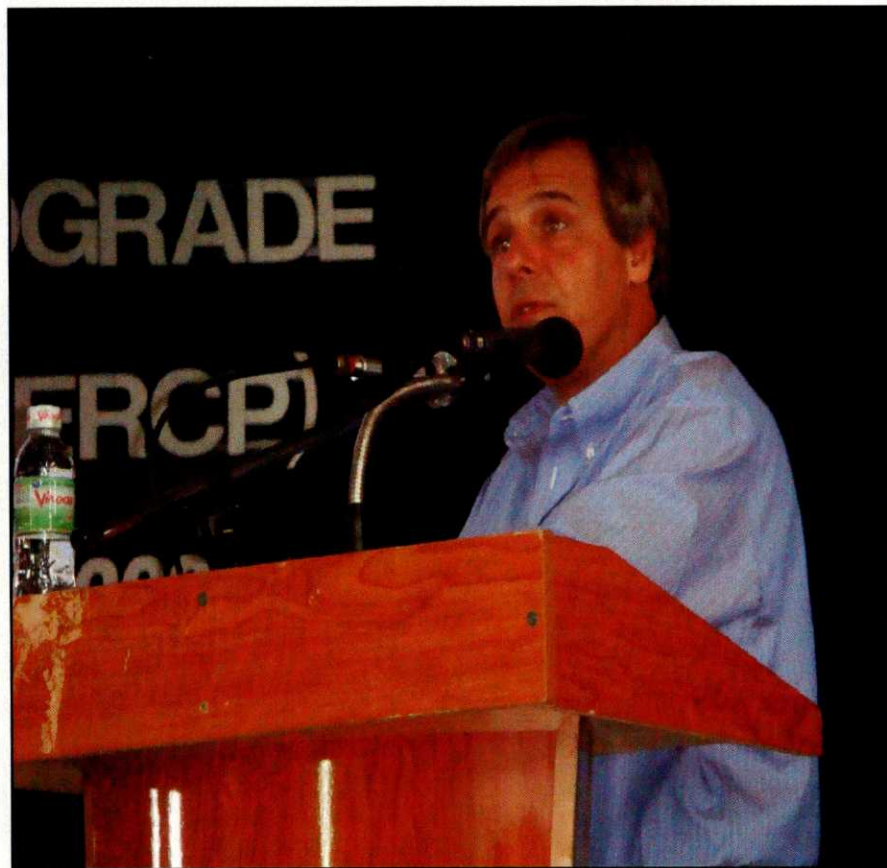


Medical Conference in Nha Trang arranged by Milphap



**I**n November of 2010 we had a very successful medical visit to Vietnam! On this trip I was accompanied by Dr. Robert Hanchey, a neurosurgeon from Louisiana, who had spent a year in the central highlands of Vietnam from 1970 - 1971. I was also accompanied by Dr. Franklin Kasmin who is an expert in the most sophisticated procedures associated with Gastroenterology and Endoscopic procedures on the stomach, the small and large intestines and the biliary system.

**W**e spent one week in Ghia Nghia, which is a very remote village on a mountain top, overlooking the Cambodian border. During this week Dr. Hanchey made rounds with a local neurosurgeon, teaching him how to diagnose various conditions, indications for surgery and surgical techniques, and when to avoid surgery.



*Dr. Franklin Kasmin lecturing at Nha Trang Conference*



**Milphap  
program in  
Loa Cai  
provided  
medical care  
to the Black  
H'Mong  
ethnic  
minority**







*Orphanage in Buon Ma Thuot received aid from our foundation*



*Dr. Zelikovsky with the Director & Vice-director of Daknong Provincial Hospital*

**D**r. Franklin Kasmin donated a complete endoscopic system manufactured by Olympus. This system is a state-of-the-art tool and has a value of over sixty-thousand dollars. Dr. Kasmin also did various procedures with the local gastroenterologist, helping him improve his technique.

During this week, I performed a series of operations of the prostate with the local Vietnamese doctor, improving his technique and his capabilities for these types of surgeries.

**W**e then went to Nha Trang, which is a hospital on the South China Sea and there we established our programs for many years. Once again, Dr. Hanchey made rounds with their local neurosurgeon, advising him on diagnostic and operative techniques.

**I** had previously trained a local urologist, Doctor Son, who has now become an excellent prosthetic surgeon. Vietnam is known as the "stone belt", which means that there are an exceptionally large number of patients with



*Medical equipment donated to hospital in Ghia Nghia*





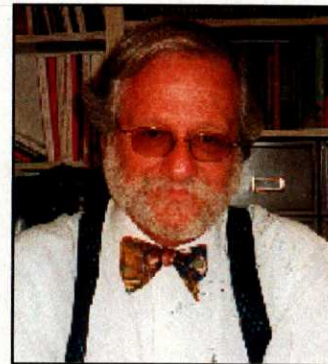
*Hospital ward in Ghia Nghia*

urinary stones. I donated a ureteroscope to the hospital, which is an instrument that allows you to see into the bladder and up into the kidney. I also donated a portable lithotripter, which is a machine that can break down stones using sound waves. These are very sophisticated methods and have enabled Doctor Son to treat stones of the bladder and the upper urinary tract by pulverizing the stones with this equipment and therefore avoiding open surgery.

**D**r. Kasmin had previously introduced the sophisticated techniques in operating on the gall bladder and the biliary system to Nha Trang. At this time the local hospital had arranged for a two-day symposium with Vietnamese gastroenterologists from all parts of Vietnam to attend a lecture series hosted by the province



*Dr. Bob Hanchey, a neurosurgeon, examining ward patient*



All contributions  
can still be made to:  
**MILPHAP-19**  
c/o Gerald Zelikosky, MD  
5 East 84th Street  
New York, NY 10028





*New hospital in Ghia Nghia which opened January, 2010*



*Dr. Kasmin examining patient in the old hospital*



hospital and conducted by Dr. Kasmin.

This is the first time that a national conference of this sort had been conducted in Vietnam. This program will be expanded in the future.

**I** have been in contact with the Health Minister in Laos and Cambodia and I am arranging a visit to these capitols to establish a similar program in February or March of 2011. I have also

been contacted by the Minister of Health of Bhutan and will plan a visit there in the future.

**G**hia Nghia had been working in an old hospital, built in 1920 which was very inadequate. The new hospital has now been completed and we will be returning in November of this year to help them move into the new facility.



I will be accompanied by Dr. Kasmin, and Dr. Ronald Chamberlin, chief of surgery at St. Barnabas Hospital,

**I** have been a little slow in establishing a web site, but I am in the process of doing so. I want to thank all my friends for their financial and moral support and hope that this will continue in the future.



*MNONG woman, ethnic minority in Daknong Province*