
Royal Children's Hospital International

A department of the Royal Children's
Hospital Melbourne, Australia

www.rch.org.au/rchi/index.cfm?doc_id=803

About RCH

- The premier children's hospital in Victoria
- Established in 1870 (and rebuilding)
- 250 beds, 280,000 patients treated each year (32,000 inpatients)
- Co-located with
 - the University of Melbourne Department of Paediatrics
 - the Murdoch Children's Research Institute
- Links to other universities eg Latrobe

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RCH International

- Department established 1998
- Links with
 - Vietnam (Hanoi, HCM City, Danang, Hue)
 - Indonesia (UGM in Yogyakarta and through them, to Meulaboh in Aceh)
 - India (SGPGI, Lucknow; SMF, Chennai)
 - Laos (Vietnam-Australia Paediatric Program in Laos)
 - Cambodia

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RCHI: role and mission

- Role is to coordinate projects where we share our knowledge.
- Not-for-profit - all projects are funded from external sources.

Mission

- To improve the health of children and adolescents everywhere, particularly in resource-poor countries in our region
- To create new opportunities for the staff and students of the Royal Children's Hospital to contribute to international child health programs
 - Education & training
 - Collaborative research
 - Technology transfer
 - Specialized consultancies
- To build links with hospitals and health professionals in under-privileged countries

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Recent projects

- Train the trainer programs
 - Advanced paediatric life support (Vietnam, Cambodia)
 - Paediatric nurse training curriculum (Hanoi)
 - Paediatric ICU Nurse training (India)
 - Infection control (Hanoi)
- Health services plan for the rebuilding of the National Hospital of Pediatrics in Hanoi
- Research projects – intussusception, Vit K

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Current projects

- Supporting human resource development and health services reconstruction in Aceh Barat and Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam Province (Indonesia)
- 5-year Master Plan of staff training for NHP, Hanoi
- Training of 111 staff for new cardiovascular centre in Hue, Vietnam

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Links to internet

- RCH links to AARNet via University of Melbourne (principal Internet Service Provider)
- 100 Mb link between RCH and U of M
- From U of M to WWW, our connection drops to 10 Mb.

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Plans for using telemedicine

- Multi-disciplinary teleconference with Vietnam about current epidemic of deltoid muscle fibrosis
- Video conference to plan our next paediatric nursing course
- Video conference to plan Hanoi's first paediatric bone marrow transplant, prior to consultant visit
- 3-way demonstration video conference between Japan, Vietnam and Australia

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Plans for using telemedicine (2)

- Interactive segment between Hanoi and Melbourne as part of Annual Vietnam-Australia Scientific Conference
- Teach some modules of Advanced Paediatric Life Support and Paediatric Nurse Training courses
- Case conferences
- Post-operative follow up

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Plans for using telemedicine (3)

- Extend training begun on location in Melbourne using net-based teaching and supervision after return home.
- English language teaching, especially medical English (rarely taught in country)
- To link parent and patient support and advocacy groups between countries
- Clinical skills training

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Plans for using telemedicine (4)

- Extend clinical links between UGM Faculty of Medicine, Yogyakarta and RCH Melbourne
- Research capacity building activities

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Questions

- Our hospital is rebuilding. How should the IT infrastructure be designed to ensure maximum capacity to use the network in the future?
- What is the most effective way of teaching using this medium?
- What will it cost us to use the network?

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