

Welcome to the Sydney Vietnam Academic Network's Newsletter

Featuring some of our current research projects, achievements, opportunities,
news, past and upcoming events



Convenor's Message

2023 has been a year of incredible success for the [Sydney Vietnam Academic Network](#) (SVAN). The 50th anniversary celebrations of the diplomatic relationship between Vietnam and Australia this year have brought the depth of our partnerships in Vietnam into sharp focus.

The University's research partnerships have also strengthened significantly this year, with:

- The Australia Vietnam Innovation Symposium, hosted by the University of Sydney in August.
- Major new research projects funded in One Health, agriculture, economics, and tuberculosis vaccines.
- New Vietnamese PhD students have started at the University, working on projects in Vietnam.
- An exciting Australia Awards Fellowship program in Health Security brought 15 emerging leaders from different sectors across Vietnam to Sydney for 6 weeks.
- Four new university-wide partnership agreements with leading Vietnamese Universities.



[Professor Greg Fox](#)

The establishment of the [Sydney Vietnam Institute](#) (SVI) in August was a major highlight and a watershed for the University's engagement in Vietnam. I am delighted that [Professor Thu-Anh Nguyen](#) has commenced as the Executive Director and Head of Research in November. Thu-Anh leads a newly established team to realise the Institute's vision.

The SVI will have facilities in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, providing a platform to support the University's academic engagement across the country. The SVI will be officially launched in mid-2024 (planned for the week of 3 June 2024), so save the date!

In this final newsletter for 2023, we are pleased to bring you news and updates from across our network. Thank you for your support over the past 12 months. Wishing you a happy, safe, and restful festive season!

Professor Greg Fox

Convenor of the Sydney Vietnam Academic Network



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NEWS

Australia Awards Fellowship on Health Security concludes successfully in Hanoi

The University of Sydney's Australia Awards Fellowship program, titled "Strengthening Health Security Capacity in Vietnam," celebrated its successful conclusion on 1 November 2023, in Hanoi.



Australia's Ambassador to Vietnam, His Excellency Andrew Goledzinowski, attended the graduation ceremony, where he congratulated the 15 Fellows on their remarkable achievement. The Fellows represented a variety of multidisciplinary organisations, including the Vietnam Ministry of Health, University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Ho Chi Minh City; Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry; Hanoi University of Pharmacy; Can Tho University of Medicine and Health, and others.

This prestigious eight-week Fellowship program was sponsored by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and delivered by the Sydney Vietnam Academic Network. The facilitators were a group of research, industry, and policy leaders from across the university and Australia, including Prof Greg Fox and A/Prof Justin Beardsley (program co-leads), Prof [Joel Negin](#), Prof [Thu-Anh Nguyen](#), Prof [Tiho Ancev](#), Prof [David Guest](#), Prof [Ben Marais](#), and [Leanne Howie](#). The program was skilfully overseen by the Program Manager Xing Jin. [Read More >](#)

Outstanding Recognition for Professor Tiho [Ancev's](#) Impactful Work in Vietnam



We are thrilled to announce that [Professor Tiho Ancev](#) has been honoured with the FASS Research Impact Award 2023 for his outstanding contributions to economic policy in agriculture in Vietnam from 2018 to 2023.

The FASS Research Grants and Awards Committee was deeply impressed by Tiho's research impact case study and his innovative approach to creating lasting change. The committee specifically highlighted the remarkable and sustained impact of his work in Vietnam.

In the award letter, the committee praised Tiho's clear evidence of impact across diverse communities and commended his sophisticated approach to gathering evidence of impact and engagement. This recognition underscores the significance and effectiveness of Tiho's research, making a substantial impact on economic policy in the agricultural sector of Vietnam.

We extend our congratulations to Tiho for this well-deserved acknowledgment of his dedication, expertise, and positive influence on communities in Vietnam. His commitment to impactful research reflects the core values of the SVAN and contributes significantly to the University's global reputation for excellence.

Professor Elizabeth Elliott Receives Alumni Award for Professional Achievement

Congratulations to [Professor Elizabeth Elliott](#) for being awarded the University of Sydney's 2023 Alumni Award for Professional Achievement. As a distinguished Professor in Child and Adolescent Health at the Faculty of Medicine and Health, Elizabeth has made significant contributions to shaping policy, improving health outcomes, and securing a brighter future for disadvantaged children.



Over the last four decades, Elizabeth has accumulated a range of extraordinary experiences, including working in remote Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander communities, teaching in Dien Bien Province in far northwest Vietnam, and consulting for the Australian Human Rights Commission in the 2014 Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention. In 2018, Elizabeth received the Australian Medical Association (AMA)

Excellence in Healthcare Award for her pioneering research, advocacy, and clinical work in Fatal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

Crossing Borders in Harmony: Sydney Conservatorium of Music's Jazz Journey in Vietnam



This October, the Sydney Conservatorium of Music's renowned lecturer, [Dr. Steve Barry](#), orchestrated a musical journey as he led a group of emerging jazz talents to Vietnam.

Immersing themselves in a 10-day residency at the Vietnam National Academy of Music, the group of jazz students embarked on a cultural exchange to commemorate the 50-year

diplomatic relations between Australia and Vietnam.

Adding a note of celebration, the ensemble actively participated in the 10th-anniversary festivities of VNAM's jazz department. The crescendo of their involvement reached its peak with a grand concert, broadcast on Vietnam's largest TV network. Moreover, the talented group showcased their original compositions at the illustrious Binh Minh's Jazz Club in Hanoi, leaving an indelible mark on the Vietnamese jazz scene.

Sydney Vietnam Academic Network End-of-Year Members Gathering

On 11th December, the Network concluded its activities for the year with a productive Executive Committee meeting, followed by a delightful End-of-Year Networking event at the Chau Chak Wing Museum. This event was open to all Network members and served as a wonderful opportunity for us to express our gratitude to our facilitators and guest contributors who played pivotal roles in the Australia Awards Fellowship program.



This event provided a vibrant platform for networking among colleagues. The Chau Chak Wing Museum offered an inspiring backdrop for our gathering, creating a relaxed atmosphere for meaningful connections and discussions.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all attendees for their active participation throughout the year. We look forward to more exciting initiatives in the coming year.

Save Sight Institute Prepares to Welcome 5th Cohort of Ophthalmology

Maestros from Vietnam

In a groundbreaking initiative to elevate eye health standards in Vietnam, the [Save Sight Institute](#) and the Specialty of Clinical Ophthalmology and Eye Health are gearing up to receive their 5th cohort of postgraduate coursework students from the Southeast Asian nation. Following in the successful footsteps of ten trailblazing graduates, this new cadre of ophthalmology trainees is set to embark on their Master of International Ophthalmology (Vocational Stream) journey, commencing in the first semester of 2024

The program runs over two years at a level equivalent to a fellowship program or junior consultant. There are six units of study, four of them are delivered online, the academic team then go to Vietnam and deliver two practical units in person. The comprehensive and demanding curriculum is structured to cater for the specific diseases and pathologies commonly found in Vietnam and is designed to supplement and enhance the existing ophthalmology training programme. The course progressively builds confidence and skills in academic writing in English culminating in a supervised research project with a view to obtaining a publication in a peer-reviewed journal. So far, five projects have been published in peer-reviewed journals and many of our graduates have moved into leadership positions in Vietnam.

The programme aims to build healthcare capacity in Vietnam and to improve eye health outcomes for patients. [Learn more here>](#)



2019 Graduate Duong Hoang Pham undertaking community outreach work at a public provincial hospital in Hai Duong, Northern Vietnam.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF GRANTS

New ACIAR for Evidence-Based Agricultural Policies in Viet Nam

The [Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research](#) (ACIAR) has awarded \$500,000 for the "[Evidence-Based Policies to Support Viet Nam's Agricultural and Rural Development](#)" project. Led by Chief Investigator [Tiho Ancev](#), Professor of Agricultural and Resource

Economics at School of Economics, Executive Committee member of Sydney Vietnam Academic Network. This initiative aims to develop economic policies fostering productivity growth and rural economic development in Viet Nam.

Partnering with the Institute for Policy and Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Development (IPSARD), the project targets challenges faced by small-scale farmers in emerging rural economic dualism. It seeks to empower these farmers by formulating policies enabling participation and benefits from commercial agriculture.

Tiho emphasises the project's goal to contribute to a knowledge base shaping inclusive agricultural policy. The collaboration anticipates generating insights for evidence-based policies, fostering sustainable practices, and uplifting rural communities in Viet Nam.

Advanced ACIAR-Funded Project for Agricultural Innovation in Cambodia and Vietnam

[Professors Daniel Tan](#) and [Professor Salah Sukkarieh](#) are in the final design stage of a ground-breaking project funded by the [Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research](#) (ACIAR). The initiative focuses on the Electrification and Smart Mechanisation of 2-Wheel Tractors, coupled with the development of basic field robotics in Cambodia, with planned expansion to Vietnam.

Anticipated to be launched by mid-2024, the project aims to revolutionize agricultural practices, introducing innovative technologies to enhance efficiency and productivity in the region.



Animal disease detectives to be trained across South-East Asia & Pacific

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, a consortium of veterinary scientists has been established to train a new generation of 'animal disease detectives' in 11 countries across Southeast Asia and the Pacific. The \$4.3 million program ran for three years in Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

The program has been funded by the Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security at the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

[Associate Professor Navneet Dhand](#), School of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney has led the regional research project. The scientific consortium includes experts from veterinary schools across Australia and the Asia-Pacific. The consortium will engage with government animal health authorities and educators in the Asia-Pacific region to strengthen the capacity to detect, respond, control and prevent animal disease outbreaks that could affect human health, animal health and farmer livelihoods.

UPCOMING GRANTS

NHMRC-GACD Funding Call 2024

NHMRC is considering supporting Australian researchers for the [Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases](#) (GACD) Ninth Funding Call: **Implementation research for management of multiple long-term conditions in the context of Non-Communicable Diseases**.

Anticipated to bring forth groundbreaking insights, the initiative aims to advance the understanding and implementation of strategies that enhance the management and care of individuals grappling with multiple long-term health conditions. The detailed guidelines and particulars for submission will be disclosed in 2024.

For those eager to delve into the specifics, additional information can be accessed here: [NHMRC/GACD 2024 Call for Research](#).



MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

Dr Pheobe Williams

[Dr Phoebe Williams](#) is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine and Health. Phoebe is a Consultant Paediatrician and Paediatric Infectious Diseases Staff Specialist working at [The Sydney Children's Hospital Network](#) and [National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance](#). Phoebe completed her PhD in Clinical Paediatrics at The University of Oxford (UK) Tropical Medicine Network and is an NHMRC Emerging Leader Fellow at The University of Sydney, undertaking research focused on preventing and managing infections in newborn babies, particularly in resource-constrained healthcare settings.

Following an undergraduate degree in development economics, Phoebe has a strong interest in global health and is the coordinating principal investigator of the international multicentre 'NeoSEAP' (Neonatal Sepsis in Southeast Asia and the Pacific) study, a collaboration of ten clinical units across the region, including in Vietnam (Da Nang, Nha Trang and Dong Thap). This collaboration evaluates the changing epidemiology of antimicrobial resistance in neonatal sepsis and identifies strategies to reduce the unnecessary morbidity and mortality caused by infections in babies. Phoebe is also a member of the [World Health Organization Paediatric Drug Optimisation Committee](#) (PADO), working to enhance research and development on antibiotics necessary to treat multidrug-resistant infections in infants and children.



MEMBER SPECIAL OFFER

Learn Vietnamese in Friendly and Supportive Online Classes

Academics from across the University have been participating in an innovative online Vietnamese language program. Applications are now open for 2024 Vietnamese language classes. Up to 20 hours of subsidised classes are available, delivered through our in-country language partner “Tieng Viet Oi.” Classes occur on Zoom around twice a week with expert teachers from Vietnam.



Whether you are a beginner, intermediate, or advanced learner, we can help you find a class and teacher suited to your level. Past students have found them a fantastic way of building confidence in their speaking and listening skills while gaining a window into Vietnamese culture.

Sydney Vietnam Academic Network members and affiliates of the University of Sydney are invited to apply. Fee support is based on group class attendance rate. These classes are run in collaboration with the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre.

Express interests via email to: Sydney-vietnam.network@sydney.edu.au

Something about Vietnam/Australia you should know...

Vietnam, a country with rich biodiversity

Do you know that Vietnam ranked 16th globally for biodiversity, stands as one of the ten most biodiverse regions worldwide? Spanning 15 latitudes across the eastern Indochina Peninsula

(1,650 km), the country boasts diverse ecosystems, encompassing forests, streams, lagoons, and coral reefs.

Terrestrial biodiversity in Vietnam encompasses over 15,900 flora species (10% endemic) and around 10,000 fauna species, including over 100 endemic bird species and 78 endemic mammal species. Interior wetlands host more than 3,000 aquatic species.

The tropical marine area in Vietnam features over 20 ecosystems, sheltering 11,000 marine species, including 2,458 fish species, 653 seaweed species, 657 zooplankton species, 537 phytoplankton species, 94 mangrove plant species, and 225 shrimp species.

These rich biodiversity resources have sustained livelihoods across generations, offering food security and healthcare. Particularly, communities in remote areas, reliant on resource exploitation, directly benefit from these natural assets.

Explore further details by reading [this](#).



*** As an SVAN Member you will be the first to know of our events, grants and receive tailored information related to our activities in Vietnam.**

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