

## MEDICAL EDUCATION

# Joint international post-graduate training program in pediatrics between Hai Phong University of Medicine and Pharmacy and Australia

Nguyen Ngoc Sang\*, Dang Van Chuc, Do Thi Hoai, Dinh Duong Tung Anh, Pham Van Linh, Nguyen Van Khai

### ABSTRACT

Hai Phong University of Medicine and Pharmacy was the first Vietnam institution collaborating with the Westmead Children's Hospital and the University of Sydney, Australia to organize the International Postgraduate Pediatric Certificate (IPPC), which was later renamed as Sydney Child Health Program (SCHP). The IPPC/SCHP framework is comprised of 9 modules, with over 100 online English lectures. The IPPC/SCHP was a highly valuable course since it not only increased students' English ability, particularly medical English, but also helped them to ameliorate their capacity to diagnose, treat, and take better care of children's health. By December 2022, seven IPPC/SCHP training courses were completed, and 36 students were graduated from the Program.

**Keyword:** *International Postgraduate Pediatric Certificate, Hai Phong University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Sydney Child Health Program, The University of Sydney, Westmead Children's Hospital*

*Hai Phong University of  
Medicine and Pharmacy, Hai  
Phong, Vietnam*

### \* Corresponding author

Nguyen Ngoc Sang  
Email: [nnsang@hpmu.edu.vn](mailto:nnsang@hpmu.edu.vn)

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

In 2010, the Department of Pediatrics, Hai Phong University of Medicine and Pharmacy (HPMU) was the first institution in Vietnam to cooperate with Westmead Children's Hospital and the University of Sydney, Australia to organize the International Postgraduate Pediatric Certificate (IPPC), which was later renamed as Sydney Child Health Program (SCHP).

During the implementation of this course, to establish further arrangements between Sydney Children's Hospital Network (SCHN) and HPMU for the provision of education, teaching, and research activities in the area of pediatric medicine, including the administration of the IPPC, HPMU, and SCHN signed a Memorandum of Understanding in March 2016. HPMU was responsible for coordinating education and training events and activities at HPMU with SCHN in association with this Memorandum. The SCHN developed and facilitated learning opportunities for IPPC Participants of HPUMP, leading to achievement of learning objectives of IPPC. Learning opportunities may occur through the following modalities: webcasts from Sydney experts (online or DVD) including recorded lectures, notes, self-assessment questions and learning outcomes, updated annually; online resources including monthly newsletters with

instructional cases, pediatric prescribing courses, journals, and fact sheets to support parent communication; assessment including case reports (to encourage further reading and reflective learning) and summative assessment comprising a written and oral examination.

Prof. Nguyen Ngoc Sang and Assoc. Prof. Dang Van Chuc were invited to be clinical lecturers in the IPPC/SCHP program. Prof. Nguyen Ngoc Sang was invited to be an Honorary Associate Professor of the University of Sydney.

By December 2022, seven IPPC/SCHP training courses were completed, and 36 students graduated from the International Postgraduate Pediatric Program (IPPC/SCHP). Figure 1 was the graduation ceremony of the class 2013.



**Figure 1:** 2013 IPPC Graduation Ceremony

Assoc. Prof. Kathryn Currow served as the IPPC program's director from 2010 to 2018 (Figure 2). Dr. David Lester-Smith and Leanne Howie served as the IPPC's acting directors from 2018 to 2020 (Figure 2). Dr. Annemarie Christie has been the program's director since 2020 (Figure 3).



**Figure 2:** Assoc. /Prof. Dr. Kathryn Currow – Director of IPPC/SCHP program (2010-2018)



**Figure 2:** Acting Director of IPPC/SCHP program (2018 - 2020)  
*Left photo: Dr. David Lester-Smith*  
*Right photo (third person from right): Dr. Leanne Howie*



**Figure 3:** Dr. Annemarie Christie, director of IPPC/SCHP from 2020 to present

The IPPC/SCHP was a highly valuable course since it not only increased students' English ability, particularly medical English, but also helped Vietnamese doctors to ameliorate their capacity to diagnose, treat, and take better care of children's health.

Through this program, the learners can interact with international co-workers and share professional experiences. In accordance with the Australian Leadership Awards Fellowship (ALAF) of Australia Government, there were 9 faculty members and students from Hai Phong University of Medicine and Pharmacy took part in seminars, training sessions, and skill updates on clinical teaching and pediatrics approaches. They were Prof. Nguyen Ngoc Sang, Assoc. Prof. Dang Van Chuc, Prof. Pham Van Thuc, Trinh Thi Thuan, Chu Thi Ha, Dr. Tran Thi Tham, Pham Thi Huong, Duong Van Linh, Pham Van Tuan.

## **2. IPPC/SCHP STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**

The IPPC/SCHP framework is comprised of 9 modules, with over 100 online English lectures, as follows [2]:

### **Learning modules**

Over 100 Webcasts form the core of the program content. The table shows the nine modules and the recommended time it takes to complete watching the webcasts.

### **1. Neonates and newborn**

9 webcasts, 8 hours

- Examination of the Newborn
- Graduates of Neonatal Intensive Care
- Neonatal Jaundice
- Health Issues in Disadvantaged Children
- Immunization
- Apnea in Infants & Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
- Lactation and its challenges
- Infant Nutrition and Toddler Feeding
- Issues in Infancy: Crying, Sleeping and Family

### **2. Behavior & development**

14 webcasts, 13 hours

- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Developmental Growth & Assessment
- Behavioral Problems in School Age
- Children/Infants/Toddlers
- Speech and Communication Problems in Children
- Health Issues in Indigenous Children
- Common Problems in Children with Disabilities
- Child Development and the GP
- Failure to Thrive
- Role of Culture in Child Health and Development
- Engaging Children
- Behavior and Attention
- Overview of Child Protection
- Child Physical Abuse
- Child Sexual Abuse

### **3. Cardiology, ENT and Respiratory**

13 webcasts, 10.5 hours

- Cardiac Disease of the Newborn
- Pediatric Cardiology
- Ear Nose and Throat 1 – Pediatric Upper Airway
- Ear Nose and Throat 2 – Outer and Middle Ear Conditions
- Hearing Loss and Deafness in Children
- Pneumonia
- Acute Asthma – Parts 1 & 2
- Cases of Asthma or not Asthma
- Pediatric Asthma Management
- Chronic Asthma

- Acute Upper Airway Obstruction
- Bronchiolitis
- Chronic Suppurative Lung Disease in Children

#### **4. Gastroenterology and Infectious Diseases**

9 webcasts, 7.5 hours

- Chronic Diarrhea
- Gastroenteritis
- Liver Disease in Children
- Recurrent Abdominal Pain in Children
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Antibiotics and Resistance
- Exanthems
- Meningitis
- Tuberculosis in Children

#### **5. Dermatology, Nephrology, Oncology, Palliative Care, Rheumatology, Allergy, and Immunology**

18 webcasts, 15 hours

- Atopic Dermatitis
- Birthmarks
- Pediatric Skin Infections
- Rheumatic Diseases in Children
- Arthritis in Children
- Approach to Childhood Malignancy
- Pediatric Pain Management
- Pediatric Palliative Care
- Urinary and Fecal Incontinence in Children
- Hematuria and Proteinuria
- Hypertension in Children
- Urinary Tract Infection and Vesico Ureteric Reflux
- Anemia
- Bruising and Bleeding in Children
- Neutrophil and Platelet Disorders
- Allergy and Allergic Diseases
- Allergy and Immunology
- Anaphylaxis Management

#### **6. Endocrine, Genetics and Metabolism**

9 webcasts, 7.5 hours

- Demystifying Inborn Errors of Metabolism
- Genetic Tests in Pediatrics - Choices and Challenges
- Normal Puberty and Disorders of Puberty
- Nutritional Rickets in Children
- Growth Disorders in Children

- Diabetes Mellitus
- Pediatric Endocrine Emergencies
- Disorders of Sex Development
- Obesity

## **7. Neurology and Rehabilitation**

9 webcasts, 7 hours

- The Fitting Child
- Childhood Epilepsy
- Seizure Mimickers in Children
- Approach to the Child with Weakness
- Headaches in Children
- Neural Tube Disorders
- Understanding Neurosurgery for General Practitioners
- Brain Injuries
- Cerebral Palsy

## **8. Emergency Medicine**

20 webcasts, 17 hours

- Pediatric Dentistry
- Common Eye Disorders in Childhood
- Approach to the Febrile Child
- Pediatric Resuscitation
- Acute Abdomen
- Burns
- Common Surgical Problems ‘North’
- Common Surgical Problems ‘South’
- Intussusception and Bowel Obstruction
- Pediatric Trauma
- Abdominal Imaging
- Chest Imaging
- Pediatric Musculoskeletal Imaging
- Nuclear Medicine
- Bone and Joint Infections
- Childhood Fractures
- Postural Problems in Childhood
- The Limping Child
- Toxicology
- Child Mortality and Injury Prevention

## **9. Adolescent medicine**

12 webcasts, 9.5 hours

- Difficulties Dealing with Parents
- Adolescent sexuality and sexual Health: Beyond Biology
- Approach to Adolescents



- Chronic Illness in Adolescents
- Eating Disorders
- Acute Mental Health Assessment of Children
- Anxiety Disorders in Children and Adolescents
- Child Mental Health for Pediatricians & General Practitioners
- Mood Disorders and Suicide
- Pediatric Sports Medicine
- Concussion
- Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology

### 3. IPPC/SCHP RESULTS

**Table 1:** List of 36 Australian Postgraduate Pediatric Graduates (IPPC/SCHP)

No.	Class	Name	Affiliation
1.	I (2012)	Tran Thi Tham	Master of Pediatrics at Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
2.		Trinh Thi Thuan	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
3.		Duong Van Linh	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
4.		Pham Thi Huong	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
5.	II (2013)	Nguyen Thu Ha	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
6.		Nguyen Hung Tien	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
7.		Pham Van Tuan	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
8.		Luu Thi Hong Quyen	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
9.		Nguyen Bui Binh	Master of Pediatrics at Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
10.		Pham Thi Ngoc	Master of Pediatrics at Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
11.		Chu Thi Ha	Master of Pediatrics at Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy

No.	Class	Name	Affiliation
12.	III (2015)	Dang Thi Ngoan	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
13.		Nguyen Mai Lan	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
14.		Tran Thi Hai Yen	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
15.		Nguyen Viet Ha	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
16.		Nguyen Thi Thao	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
17.	IV (2017)	Nguyen Minh Duc	Master of Pediatrics at Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
18.		Nguyen Thi Ngoc Thuy	Master of Pediatrics at Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
19.	V (2020)	Nguyen Hong Xuan Quy	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
20.		Nguyen Mai Phuong	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
21.		Trinh Tuan Dung	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
22.		Le Thi Kim Oanh	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
23.		Doan Thi Thuy Duong	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
24.	VI (06/2021)	Thai Lan Anh	Nursing Faculty, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
25.		Bui Viet Trung	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy



No.	Class	Name	Affiliation
26.		Nguyen Duy Trong	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
27.		Le Thi Quyen	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
28.		Nguyen Duc Ninh	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
29.		Hoang Ngoc Anh	Respiratory Department, Haiphong Children's Hospital
30.	VII (06/2022)	Lai Dang Huy	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
31.		Nguyen Thi Thu Hang	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
32.		Dao Thi Huong	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
33.		Dong Thi Thuy	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
34.		Nguyen Thu Huong	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
35.		Doan Thi Linh	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy
36.		Nguyen Van Trung	Resident doctor of Pediatrics Department, Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy

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## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

It is confirmed that there will be no conflict of interest to arise.

## REFERENCES

1. Hai Phong University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Sydney Children's Hospital Network. Memorandum of Understanding, 2016.
2. Hai Phong University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Sydney Children's Hospital Network. The Curriculum of The International Postgraduate Pediatric Program, <https://schp.org.au/the-program>, accessed on May 6, 2023.