

Welcome to the Sydney Vietnam Institute's Newsletter

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



From left, Prof Greg Fox, Director of Sydney Vietnam Institute; His Excellency Nguyen Tat Thanh, Vietnam Ambassador to Australia; Prof Kathy Belov, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Global and Research Engagement; Elis Benediktsson, Senior Advisor, Strategic Ventures; Prof Michele Ford, Director of Sydney Southeast Asia Centre.

Strengthen the partnership between Australia and Vietnam: The 5th Annual Sydney Vietnam Symposium

Vietnamese Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Nguyen Tat Thanh, was the keynote speaker at the fifth annual Sydney Vietnam Symposium, held on 21st September at the University. Ambassador Thanh's talk focused upon the strong and growing relationship between Vietnam and Australia, including the importance of research and education to the future of Vietnam. He welcomed the University of Sydney's establishment of the Sydney Vietnam Institute, and looked forward to Vietnam's growing partnership with Vietnam. Other speakers included Professor Kathy Belov, Pro-Vice Chancellor Global and Research Engagement, Professor Robyn Ward Pro-Vice Chancellor Health and Executive Dean Faculty of Medicine and Health, and Professor Greg Fox, Director of the Sydney Vietnam Institute.

Over 80 university researchers attended the symposium face-to-face or online from Australia and overseas. The event was reported by several key Vietnamese media on the day and sparked community's interests in Sydney Vietnam Institute's work.

[Read more](#)



From left, Prof Greg Fox, Director of Sydney Vietnam Institute; His Excellency Nguyen Tat Thanh, Vietnam Ambassador to Australia.

SVI Members have been awarded Pfizer Educational Grant

Dr. Vu Quoc Dat, and colleagues from Hanoi Medical University and the University of Sydney have been awarded a **\$100,000 educational grant by Pfizer**. The project is entitled *"Building capacity to diagnoses invasive fungal infections in Vietnam."* The team, which also includes Duke University, was awarded the grant in order to improve the diagnosis and management of fungal infections in Vietnam.



The grant will help establish the first Vietnamese training web-based platform for fungal diseases for health professionals in Vietnam

Dr. Tra My Nu Duong, a post-doctoral researcher affiliated with the University of Sydney, and based in HCMC, explains "We have shown that almost 2.5 million people are affected by serious fungal infections in Vietnam each year. Moreover, the rate of anti-fungal drug-resistance is increasing. Something needs to be done about this urgent problem".

Dr. Vu Quoc Dat, a senior lecturer in infectious diseases at Hanoi Medical University, said that "access to lab tests for fungal infections is very difficult in many parts of Vietnam. Doctors may not consider fungal infection as a diagnosis. Even if they do, they may not be able to confirm their suspicion." This makes giving patients the treatment they need very challenging. Dr. Dat will use this funding from Pfizer to boost knowledge amongst Vietnamese doctors and improve access to appropriate and life-saving treatments for patients.

Announcement of Funding Results

Four seed funding grants and 1 workshop grant were funded in the first 2022 round, supported by SSEAC and SVI.



Congratulations to the following recipients of funding:

- Ms Halle Quang, Dr Huong Thi Thanh Ha and Dr Ramon Landin Romero for *"Characterising the behavioural and psychological symptoms in Vietnamese older adults: Insights for culturally appropriate research and clinical practice"*
- Dr Jonathan Hutchinson, Max Murta and Jane Vo for *"Participation Potential-Beyond social development goals in progressive Vietnamese social media context and towards cultural export"*
- Dr Manisha Yapa, Dr Nguyen Nguyen Huyen, Dr Anh Kim Lefor for *"Prevalence of occult HBV infection among Vietnamese adults in Hanoi and the cost effectiveness of 'triple tests' for HBV screening"*
- Dr Duong Nu Tra My, Dr Justin Beardsley and Prof Ngo Thi Hoa for *"Assessing the zoonotic potential of Candida species in the pork supply chain in Vietnam: from pig to table"*
- Dr Yun Trieu, Dr Tran Thi Mai Oanh, Prof Sarah Lewis and Prof Patrick Brennan for their workshop *"Reaching the Unreached: A comprehensive world-class training to improve early breast cancer detection in Vietnam"*

Each recipient has been asked to present their findings or update on their progress at the next Sydney Symposium in 2023. We look forward to hearing on how they are progressing with their grants.

SVI Members' Spotlight

[Associate Professor Jane Gavan](#) is an artist and academic at the Sydney College of Arts. Her teaching and research focuses upon visual art and design, business and other communities for the last 19 years. A/Prof Gavan is a member of the Sydney Vietnam Institute executive and leads the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) research node.



A/Prof Gavan's academic practice follows two interrelated paths - the first is studio research into innovative and sustainable use of materials and processes for artists. The second explores the potential benefits and critical issues for artist exemplars within communities and organisations. Since first visiting Vietnam in 2013, A/Prof Gavan has worked with organisations and creatives to increase rates of innovation by uncovering two key things that is needed for sustainable innovation - individual creativity and a focus on the mindful use of natural, recycled or clean waste materials.

A/Prof Gavan's 2022-2204 Vietnam focused projects are at the nexus of material culture, heritage and material science. She is working with the University of Culture and Heritage in HCMC, Vietnam on a number of private and public partnership projects that explore the potential of contemporary art and design responses. This program of research explores challenges of sustainability for communities in southern Vietnam. This new work includes object and food design as well as advisory on museum education and design. Another studio project Drumlins, intersects research on sustainable glass making, Celtic heritage, geology and situated narratives on the west coasts of Ireland and Scotland. A/Prof Gavan has exhibited her art and design work in France, China, Belgium, the USA, and Australia and Vietnam.

Academic Funding Opportunities

A new seed funding round has been announced at the Symposia on the 21st of September. Submissions need to be made by **COB Friday 28th of October 2022**. Forms can be sent to you directly by emailing sydney.vietnam@sydney.edu.au on our website in the coming days.

[Visit our website.](#)

SVI/SSEAC-VIETNAM SEED GRANTS 2022

the SECOND round of Grants for 2022

SSEAC-Vietnam Seed Research Grants

APPLY UNTIL

28th Oct

11:59pm (Sydney time)

Upcoming Events



The Annual AusCham Education Symposium and Showcase -"Partnerships & Opportunities".

Day 1 Education Symposium – Friday, 30 September 2022 (1.00 – 5:00 pm). This will be a technical discussion between government, institutions and those parties looking to invest in the burgeoning education markets of Australia and Vietnam.

Day 2 Education Showcase – Saturday, 1 October 2022 (9:00 am – 12:00 pm). This will be open to the public where K - 12, VET and Higher Education can have meaningful discussions and demonstrate open Partnerships between institutions and Opportunities with prospective students.

[Register here](#)



VN Connect: Navigating professional norms in Vietnam and Australia

Time/Date: 3-4PM (AEST) - 20 Oct 22

How can we be sensitive to normal professional practices when working across cultures? Academic members of the SVI will share their insights and advice.

Meet our panelists:
Le Dinh Phung (Hue), **Vo Van Dung** (UMP), **Greg Fox** (USyd), **Andrew Harman** (USyd), and **Nguyen Thu Anh** (Woolcock)

[Register here](#)

Things you should know about Vietnam/Australia

While the Mid-autumn Festival is celebrated in many Asian countries, the Vietnamese version has its own traditions and legends. Our best-known tale is about a man named Cuội who hung on to a magical banyan tree as it floated up to the moon. It is said that if you look closely at the full moon, you can see the shadow of a man sitting under a tree. Children parade with lanterns in the streets on the night of Mid-autumn Festival to help light the way to earth for Cuội from the moon.



The celebration of the harvest is an important part of Mid-autumn Festival, as many Vietnamese live in rural areas and work as farmers. Mid-autumn Festival, a joyous occasion when the year is finished and they can finally spend more time with loved ones.

All across Vietnam, families welcome Mid-autumn Festival by placing a five-fruits tray and cakes on the household's ancestral altar. They offer the food to their ancestors and worship, before feasting on mooncakes, usually outside under the light of the moon.

* As an SVI Member you will be the first to know of our events, grants and receive tailored information related to our activities in Vietnam. [Become our member now.](#)