



SCHOOL of PHARMACY AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS



Report on the Inaugural Public Health and Medical Mission to Kinh 7 Charity Clinic in Kien Giang, Vietnam in December 2017

The International Community Initiatives (ICI), in collaboration with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, organized and conducted an inaugural public health and medical mission to Kinh 7 Charity Clinic in Kien Giang, Vietnam from December 11 to 15, 2017.

The team included healthcare professionals and students in medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and public health in both the United States and Vietnam. These volunteers with experiences and passion in global health collaborated during a weeklong period of service to provide primary care, medication, and health education to individuals living within the districts of Kien Giang. They focused on stroke prevention, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and smoking cessation, the leading causes of death in Vietnam.

This academic-community partnership for global health service program had the mission to raise awareness and provide health education through an interprofessional collaboration to enhance healthcare access and reduce morbidity and mortality for the Kinh 7 community. Specifically, the goal was to develop, implement, and evaluate a three-pronged approach health program, which included:

- training clinic staff for longevity and sustainability
- educating the community to promote disease prevention
- providing clinical/primary care for patients

The team was able to achieve the goals as listed above with the following results:

- Trained 44 clinic staff, including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, nutritionists and dieticians, herbalist/traditional medicine technicians, physical therapists, healthcare students, and other staff members on stroke prevention, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and smoking cessation
- Educated 561 individuals in the community through lectures and hands-on activities to increase awareness and increase the ability to recognize risk factors, signs and symptoms, treatment methodologies, and prevention strategies relating to stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and smoking cessation
- Provided primary care appointments and medications for 1320 patients, with an average age of 50 years, and diagnosed with an average of 3 medical conditions, including high blood pressure, coronary heart disease, stroke rehabilitation, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, insomnia, arthritis, osteoporosis, and peptic ulcer diseases.

This inaugural public health and medical mission was successful thanks to more than 50 professionals, students, other volunteers, and financial contributions totaling \$15,000 by donors who made it possible to purchase medications, medical equipment, and health education models for the weeklong service.

Currently, there are plans for a second public health and medical mission in Spring 2019. If you are interested to join the team for the next mission as a professional, student intern, or volunteer with ICI to support this global health service or other programs in the U.S, and abroad, please visit ICI website at www.icius.org.