

## Dr. Douglas Slakey connects with Clinicians in Vietnam

*(Pictured - Dr. Douglas Slakey, Chair of the Tulane Department of Surgery, developed a course to instruct physicians, surgical residents and nurses at the Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Vietnam)*

Tulane Department of Surgery Chair Dr. Douglas Slakey received a scholarship from the Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) to develop and provide a course designed to improve the care and outcomes of patients with kidney disease. In Vietnam the incidence of end stage renal disease (ESRD) is reported as high as 680 per



million, nearly twice that of the United States. Because the cost of providing health care to ESRD patients is complex and expensive, many patients in Vietnam are unable to receive the treatment necessary to keep them alive. Slakey's course was designed to provide the students at the Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Vietnam with the knowledge and skills necessary to improve care to ESRD patients using a multidisciplinary approach.

Dr. Slakey's course was a blend of in-person lectures and simulation sessions delivered in Hue, Vietnam and live lectures delivered via the Internet. For the Internet-based lectures, Slakey selected Adobe Connect as his tool of choice. After about 90 minutes of training with Don Elbers of Tulane Technology Services, Slakey was off and running.

Teaching this course represented Dr. Slakey's first effort at using Adobe Connect. He says "Using Connect exceeded my expectations. It worked seamlessly. Connect allowed the involvement of a lot of different people at different levels. I engaged Tulane surgical residents by having them prepare a 20 minute presentation as part of each lecture, so many of our students benefited from the course as well."

Because of the 12-hour time difference between Hue and New Orleans, Dr. Slakey delivered his lectures from his home at 8:30 at night, allowing clinicians to view lectures at 8:30 AM in Vietnam. Slakey used a public URL, making the lectures open to more participants. As a result, the course started with 40 students at Hue University and by the end of the series in March 2013, grew to more than 110 participants from other hospitals across Vietnam.

"I could tell that some logged in from classroom environments, some from hospital environments...some folks were logging in from coffee shops." says Slakey.

The course ended with a full-day conference in March of 2013 in which physicians, surgical residents and nurses put into practice what they had learned from the online lectures.

### **Recommendations to Tulane faculty**

Slakey advises faculty interested in using Adobe Connect to:

- Record and review a practice lecture to experience it from the student's perspective. Talking to a computer can be intimidating.
- Make a checklist. On two occasions lectures weren't recorded (an oversight)
- Keep email open during your live lecture - often participants did not have the correct URL and he was able to send it along during the first part of his lecture so no student missed out.

Dr. Slakey is currently working on a follow-up study to determine what the participants have put into practice. Want to learn more? Lectures are available at <http://riptide.me/slakey>