



# Health Sciences Center

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE IN SHREVEPORT

Department of Surgery

School of Medicine in Shreveport  
School of Allied Health Professions  
School of Graduate Studies  
LSU Hospital in Shreveport  
E.A. Conway Medical Center in Monroe  
Huey P. Long Medical Center in Pineville

September 16, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am this year's recipient of the Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) U.S. Faculty Scholar Grant. VEF is a special initiative by the United States government to promote closer relations between the United States and Vietnam. These two governments do so by providing opportunities for Vietnamese nationals to pursue graduate and post-graduate studies in science and technology in the United States and for American professors to teach in Vietnam. In short, the two governments invest in the human capital of Vietnam and believe that both governments will become better from such investment. From these educational exchanges, the citizens of Vietnam and the United States will gain a deeper understanding of each other and their respective histories, as well as foster and promote closer and enduring friendship.

Crucial to the above mission is the contribution of the U.S. Faculty Scholars in capacity building in Vietnam. As an academic surgeon, I understand the importance of having access to the most up-to-date information in my field of study. As a member of a large medical institution (Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center-Shreveport), I have free access to many of these journals. Unfortunately, this is not always the case for many academicians in other parts of the world.

Therefore, I would like to share an important piece of information with all of you. Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative (HINARI) is a World Health Organization (WHO) sponsored program that, together with major publishers, enables developing countries to have access to a significant number of medical journals (a total presently of 6400 journals), either free of charge or at a reduced cost. As you know, this is an extremely valuable program since subscriptions to many of these journals can cost up to millions of dollars per year.

Institutions in countries with Gross National Incomes (GNI) per capita below \$1250 (Band 1) are eligible for free access. Institutions in countries with GNI per capita between \$1250 and \$3500 (Band 2) pay HINARI a fee of \$1000 per year / institution.

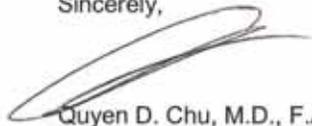
According to HINARI, Vietnam is a Band 1 (free access) country. The website is <http://www.who.int/hinari/en/>. To have access to this valuable resource, one just has to register one's institution. I highly encourage anyone, who is interested, to take advantage of this great opportunity.

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Should you have any questions about the U.S. Faculty Scholar Program, please feel free to contact Dr. Lynne McNamara ([lynnemcnamara@vef.gov](mailto:lynnemcnamara@vef.gov)), Dr. Phuong Nguyen ([phuongnguyen@vef.gov](mailto:phuongnguyen@vef.gov)), Mrs. Binh Dang ([binhdang@vef.gov](mailto:binhdang@vef.gov)), or me. Also, please check out [www.vef.gov](http://www.vef.gov) under RESOURCES for further information.

Sincerely,



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