

The Thống Nhất Hospital in Đồng Nai Province, in the past, was only a cottage hospital with 150 beds. Its predecessor is the Sacred Heart Hospital established by the Monastery of St. John the Divine in Vietnam in 1956 to supply health care services to Catholics migrating from the North.

In 1979, the hospital became public property and was under management of the Đồng Nai Health Care authorities. It was renamed Thống Nhất Hospital including 350 beds and 12 wards.

After 21 years of development, the Hospital received many awards from the Đồng Nai Health Care Service, People's Committee, Ministry of Health Care and Vietnamese Confederation of Labor. It has also received three complimentary certificates from the PM, and three Medals of Labor of the first, second and third grades. On July 14, 2000, it was awarded the title "Labor Hero" by the Government.

The most outstanding thing about the Hospital is its efforts to carry out scientific researches, develop new approaches, make technical innovations and apply techno-scientific advances to tasks of diagnosing, curing, managing the hospital and protect-

ing the ecosystem. Of its achievements, three groups of studies have been appreciated by medical workshops and carried in medical magazines. The following are some of its studies:

- Applying acupuncture to tonsillectomy.
- Curing malaria using Artémisinin and Mefloquin derived from herbs.
- Using electric acupuncture to cure paralysis of the nerve VII.
- Grafting large pieces of skin.
- Relations between blood sugar and death in cerebrovascular accidents.
- Using laser in curing hemiplegia caused by cerebrovascular accidents.
- Using laser to cure acute myocardial infarction.
- Using laser to cure Parkinson's disease.
- Diagnosing malaria by immunoassay.

To achieve these results, the hospital management has tried its best to improve expertise (skill, knowledge and methodology) of the staff. Of this staff, one got a master degree, one became a surgeon and 27 became physicians. Workshops and seminars are held regularly under direction of professors from the HCMC Univer-

sity of Medicine and Chợ Rẫy Hospital.

Studies and researches carried out by the Hospital have been presented at an international medical conference in Singapore and at another workshop to be held in Thailand. These researches have raised interest from the medical circle.

The Hospital has also received a lot of modern equipment needed for treatment and diagnosis, especially from Spanish charities via the Monastery of St. John the Divine in Vietnam. In addition, the Hospital management has carried many programs to enhance the service quality, medical ethics and expertise. Many nuns and monks are also working here. They and the Hospital staff have set good examples of the medical ethics.

Although it is only a hospital of inter-district level, the Thống Nhất Hospital has tried its best to attract experts and doctors from Hà Nội, HCMC and many other provinces with a view to introducing new knowledge and skills, thereby helping enhance work of curing illness and diseases, carrying out medical researches and training its staff with a view to completing its heavy tasks set for the first decade of the 21st century. ■

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHES IN THỐNG NHẤT HOSPITAL

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