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News Article



Friday, January 29, 2016

A concert of hope



MAKING MUSIC: From left, Anderson; Thuy Phung, MD, PhD; Julie Reimann, MD, PhD; Thanh-Nga Tran, MD, PhD; Ellyses Kuan and Fisher

The Vietnam Vascular Anomalies Center (VAC) hosted its sixth annual Classical Benefit Concert on Dec. 5, 2015 at the Goethe Institut in Boston. The concert raised more than \$40,000 in support of VAC's mission to bring medical treatment to children in Vietnam with disfiguring birthmarks. More than 100 guests attended the event, hosted by members of the MGH Department of Dermatology and Wellman Center for Photomedicine.

The evening included a silent auction, Vietnamese delicacies and musical performances by local artists – including David Fisher, MD, PhD, chair of Dermatology, who has contributed his virtuoso cello playing at every concert since the event's inception.

VAC was founded in 2009 as a humanitarian medical collaboration between physicians from the MGH; Brigham and Women's Hospital; Beckman Laser Institute, Irvine, California; Texas Children's Hospital, Houston; and the University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The organization aims to provide much-needed modern clinical care for children with severe skin conditions on a free, safe and effective basis.

Throughout the past six years, the center has transformed the lives of more than 5,000 young patients and has expanded the region's access to pediatric dermatology, dermatopathology and wound care through training and equipment donations. Proceeds from this year's concert will be used for the treatment of children, supplies and maintenance of the clinic.

"The clinic is one of the most efficient clinics that I know," said R. Rox Anderson, MD, director of the Wellman Center for Photomedicine and co-founder of VAC. "Being there helping the children is the best thing I do all year."

For more information about the VAC, visit www.vietnamVAC.org.



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