

# **The Vietnamese American Medical Research Foundation**

## **Report of Meeting on February 10, 2005**

This year was the sixth time that the Vietnamese American Medical Research Foundation held its Annual Meeting on the second day of the Lunar Calendar to confer the Awards for Excellence in Medical Research and Excellence in Community services. The Hyatt Hotel in Anaheim was the site of the event. The Hyatt Hotel in Anaheim was the site of the event.

Dr. Duc van Nguyen, Award Recipient during the first year, and master of ceremonies of the February 10, 2005 evening, welcomed the audience and presented Dr. Khanh Luong, President of the VAMRF, who reviewed the activities of the organization in the past year. The VAMRF office has been moved to Drs. Hoang Lan and Khanh's offices in Westminster, California. Many seminars have been organized, and the Diabetes and Metabolism Newsletter has been published monthly with a circulation of 5,000 copies distributed free to patients and community members.

### **WELCOMING THE YEAR OF THE ROOSTER**

The Vietnamese New Year was welcomed by two personified dragons carrying poles of firecrackers processing towards the stage, and group songs performed by the VAMRF choir: the all-time **Toasting Cup** (Ly Ru+o+.u Mu+`ng) and the **VAMRF March** (Co+ Quan Nghie^ n Cu+`u Y Khoa Vie^ t My~ Ha`nh Khu`c), lyrics by Dr. Khanh and music by composer Nha^ t Nga^ n, present at the evening.

Dr Hoang Lan spoke on the topic of Lipocytokine in diabetes. WAMRF is a partner of the Nhan Hoa Comprehensive Clinic in Garden Grove on the Diabetes Prevention Project for Orange County. Dr Dennis Mull, Professor at the University of Southern California and consultant to the above California Endowment grant, was among the audience, sitting at our table.

### **CONFERRAL OF AWARDS**

Dr. Anh Huu Dao, Chairman of the Award Committee, introduced the winners of the awards. Si Mai Pham, M.D., Professor of Surgery, Director of Cardiac Transplant and Artificial Heart Program at the University of Miami School of Medicine received the Award for Excellence in Medical Research.

The Award for Excellence in Community Services was conferred to two members.

- Van Thu Lam, M.D., from Montreal, Canada has been very active in promoting Human Rights for the Vietnamese people in and out of the country. During a previous Annual VAMRF Award Conferring Ceremony, Dr Lam had presented on the situation of prisoners in Viet Nam.

- Mr. Trang Thanh Nguyen, from San Diego, former Professor at the Hue University, Center of Vietnam, has been the President of the Vietnam Human Rights Network since

it operated in 1996. Several organizations advocating the movement also promote the cause of Vietnamese Americans in the areas of education, culture and civil liberties. All three awardees expressed their heart-felt appreciations to the selection committee, colleagues and members of the community.

### **CULTURAL NIGHT FESTIVITIES**

A special contribution was made by Mr. Gary Larsen, former Vice-Chair of the Operation USA, and now President of the Agincourt Financial Group in Santa Ana, who commented authoritatively on the Vietnamese master poetic work Kim Van Kieu. When asked who his Vietnamese teachers were Mr. Larsen mentioned several instructors in the American programs, but the best is his wife, Dr. Dat Thanh Pham's own sister.

In the entertainment program, members presented several songs and dances on the theme of the New Year. Folkloric dances featuring country women in distinctive dress styles gave a flavor of the different regions in Viet Nam. Dr. Trung Chinh, a professional singer since medical school came specifically from out of state for the occasion, and performed several songs for the enjoyment of all.

The evening was ended at 11:00 PM, leaving attendees with warm feelings of closeness within friends sharing the visions of helping the community for their healthcare needs.

Reported by Binh Nhung Tran, Pharm.D.

Award Committee Secretary

February 14, 2005