

Day 1: 16:55 – 17:10

Bach Mai hospital clinical trials: Opportunities, challenges and prospects



Dr. Thanh Van Do , MD, PhD

(Head of Human resources, Bach Mai Hospital, Vietnam)

Short CV

Dr. Thanh is a clinical doctor at the Center for Tropical Diseases and Head of Personnel Department at Bach Mai Hospital, Vietnam. His research primarily focuses on the development and implement of effective interventions to improve survival and treatment quality in infectious diseases. He has more than 25 years of working as clinicians and officers at various position in the related area. He has led and participated in several multi-disciplinary research studies on infectious diseases, capacity building, and international cooperation in Vietnam. He earned his Ph.D. in Infectious Diseases at 108 Institute of Clinical Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences with thesis “Mutations in the HBV PreS/S gene and IFNAR1 gene polymorphisms in Hepatitis B patients”. He led a long-term project to assess the clinical presentations and mortality risk factors of COVID-19 during the epidemic of the SARS-CoV-2 Delta variant in Vietnam among critically ill patients with COVID-19. He is also working as investigator and co-author of several projects and articles in the field of infectious diseases that focus on diagnosis and treatment of emerging and re-emerging diseases in Vietnam.

Abstract

Bach Mai Hospital (BMH) is the one of the biggest teaching and referral Hospital in Vietnam. The hospital offers a comprehensive spectrum of clinical specialties through its 55 clinical, laboratories (including two national reference labs), diagnostic imaging, functional departments and a Bach Mai Medical College. The leading majors including emergency medicine and critical care, cardiology, neurology, tropical diseases and microbiology, gastroenterology, urology, endocrinology, geriatric medicine, and mental health. Additionally, the hospital has 4.300 employees, including nearly 1.000 medical doctors. Over two million people visit the hospital as outpatients every year, and more than 150,000 inpatients.

Scientific research, direction and training are one of the primary tasks of BMH as national referral hospital in the North of Vietnam. During the past five years, we has been conducted or participated in more than 40 national or regional level studies, and nearly 1,500 hospital level studies with an average of about 250 publications each year.

Last year, the hospital hosted or participated in 67 clinical trials. With an annual increase in the number of trials of about 15-20%, BMH has established a unit dedicated to the management and coordination of clinical trials. The unit is operated by a network of major clinicians from each department of BMH, and coordinated by researchers with experience in clinical trials.

From our recent experiences, the first shortage of implementing clinical trials in BMH setting is the lack of human resource specialized, including physician-scientists, clinical research associates, and data management.

Addition to that, most of physicians are overwhelmed by clinical work, thus not warranting clinical trial-related workloads. The secondly is the lack of technical infrastructure for effective data collection and management, including inadequate implementation of electronic medical records. This prolongs the deployment time of the trials and requires more staff to execute. Limited professional and continuous trainings in RCT implementation were also a major disadvantage. Finally, there is a limitation in the application of clinical trials in diagnostic and therapeutic practice due to the fact that most of conducted trial are not led by the hospital.

Our vision in the next five years is to become the leading facility in implementing clinical trials, which contributes significantly to the development and translation new diagnostic and therapeutic methods to clinical practice in Vietnam.

We plan a strategy with three main components including, i) Establish a larger network with multiples stakeholders to conduct clinical trial research in the region; ii) Seeking cooperation for capacity and infrastructure development to implement more effective trials; and iii) Develop clinical trial curriculum for undergraduate students.