Swiss-Vietnamese Medical Association

Announcing the Winners

of the 2026 Alexandre Yersin Prize for Outstanding Medical Publications

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam. The Swiss-Vietnamese Medical Association (Helvietmed), led by President Dr. Nguyen Quan-Vinh, is proud to announce the results of the fifth Alexandre Yersin Prize (2026). This initiative by Helvietmed honors high-quality medical research conducted in Vietnam, by Vietnamese researchers, for the direct benefit of the Vietnamese people.

This year, Helvietmed's Scientific Committee selected six outstanding publications for recognition. The awarded studies reflect the breadth and depth of Vietnamese medical science, spanning reproductive medicine, cancer surgery, stroke intervention, neuromuscular genetics, cardiac surgery, and rare dermatologic disease.

The **First Prize** was awarded to Dr. Vu N. A. Ho and colleagues for their study published in *The Lancet*. The study compared natural, modified natural, and artificial endometrial preparation strategies for frozen embryo transfer in ovulatory women in Viet Nam.

The **Equal First Prize** was awarded to Dr. Vo Duy Long and colleagues for their randomized clinical trial published in *JAMA Surgery*. The study compared laparoscopic and open distal gastrectomy with D2 lymphadenectomy for clinical T4a gastric cancer.

The **Second Prize** was awarded to Dr. Trung Quoc Nguyen and colleagues for their prospective multicentre observational study published in the *International Journal of Stroke*. The study examined clinical and safety outcomes following endovascular treatment for large ischemic core stroke in the late 12-to-24-hour treatment window.

The **Equal Second Prize** was awarded to Dr. Hoang Tien Trong Nghia and colleagues received an Encouragement Prize for their prospective multicentre genetic study published in the *Journal of Neuromuscular Diseases*. The study characterized the genetic landscape of Charcot–Marie–Tooth disease in Viet Nam and proposed a practical diagnostic algorithm for resource-limited settings.

The **Third Prize** was awarded to Dr. Hung Dung Van and colleagues received an Encouragement Prize for their long-term retrospective cohort study published in the *European Journal of Cardio-Thoracic Surgery*. The study evaluated the incidence and risk factors of subaortic pannus overgrowth after bileaflet mechanical aortic valve replacement over long-term follow-up.

The **Equal Third Prize** was awarded to Dr. Bui Chi Bao and colleagues received an Encouragement Prize for their translational study published in *Human Genomics*. The study investigated altered skin microbiome, inflammation, and JAK/STAT signaling in Southeast Asian patients with congenital ichthyosis.

Together, these six papers demonstrate the growing quality, diversity, and international visibility of medical research involving Vietnamese investigators. They show that Vietnamese medical science is increasingly contributing not only local clinical data but also rigorous randomized trials, prospective cohort studies, advanced genetic research, and innovative translational science.

The Alexandre Yersin Prize affirms the importance of sound research design, ethical conduct, clinical relevance, and scientific originality. The selected papers represent important steps toward improving medical practice, strengthening research culture, and advancing Vietnamese contributions to global medicine.

The Scientific Committee includes nine independent voting members. For the 2025–2026 term, the members are: Distinguished Professor Tuan V. NGUYEN, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia; Professor Anh Tuan DINH-XUAN, University Paris-Descartes, France; Emeritus Professor Nu Viet VU, University of Geneva, Switzerland; Emeritus Professor Ezio GIACOBINI, University of Geneva, Switzerland; Emeritus Professor Jean-Pierre KRAEHENBUHL, CEO at Health Sciences eTraining Foundation, Lausanne, Switzerland; Professor Uyen HUYNH-DO, University Hospital of Bern, Switzerland; Professor Liem-Binh LUONG-NGUYEN, Cochin University Hospital, France; Dr Vincent VINH-HUNG, France; and Dr Quan-Vinh NGUYEN, Fribourg, Switzerland.

The assessment was based on five criteria: scientific quality, practical significance, innovation**,** scientific impact, and journal prestige. Special emphasis was placed on scientific quality, particularly the appropriateness of study design and the clarity of the research question. Randomized clinical trials were ranked highest, followed by prospective cohort studies, carefully designed observational studies, and translational studies with clear scientific value.

The award ceremony will be held jointly by Helvietmed, the Consulate General of Switzerland in Ho Chi Minh City, in conjunction with a seminar co-organised with the University of Pharmacy and Medicine at Ho Chi Minh City. The exact date and venue will be announced at the earliest opportunity.

Dr. Nguyen Quan-Vinh, President of Helvietmed, stated: *"The Alexandre Yersin Prize is more than an award for exceptional individuals; it is a testament to the intellectual strength of the Vietnamese medical community in its quest to improve public health."*

Summaries of the Award-Winning Papers

FIRST PRIZE (Equal)

1. Endometrial Preparation Strategies for Frozen Embryo Transfer (Authors: Vu N. A. Ho et al.) Identifying the optimal endometrial preparation method for frozen embryo transfer (FET) remains a challenge in IVF. This randomized trial of 1,428 women found similar livebirth rates across natural (37%), modified natural (33%), and artificial (34%) cycles. The study provides evidence that clinicians can choose preparation methods based on patient flexibility and preference without compromising success.

2. Laparoscopic vs. Open Gastrectomy for Advanced Gastric Cancer (Authors: Vo Duy Long et al.) The efficacy of laparoscopic surgery for T4a gastric cancer compared to traditional open surgery was not firmly established. The UMC-UPPERGI-01 trial demonstrated that the laparoscopic approach is non-inferior regarding short-term safety outcomes, including 30-day morbidity and mortality. This is the first prospective trial confirming laparoscopic surgery as a safe, minimally invasive alternative for advanced gastric cancer when performed by experienced surgeons.

SECOND PRIZE (Equal)

3. Endovascular Treatment for Large-Core Stroke in the Late Window (Authors: Trung Quoc Nguyen et al.) The benefit of mechanical thrombectomy for large-core strokes in the 12-to-24-hour window was inconclusive. This multicenter study in Vietnam showed no significant differences in functional outcomes or safety between treatment in the late (12-24h) and early (<12h) windows. These findings support expanding treatment indications for stroke patients in developing countries where delayed presentation is common.

4. Genetic Landscape of Charcot–Marie–Tooth (CMT) Disease in Vietnam (Authors: Hoang Tien Trong Nghia et al.) CMT is a common hereditary neuropathy, but genetic data for the Vietnamese population was very limited. The team identified six novel genetic variants and achieved a 79.5% diagnostic yield by combining MLPA and NGS techniques. The study proposes a cost-effective sequential diagnostic algorithm, optimizing management and genetic counseling in resource-limited regions.

THIRD PRIZE (Equal)

5. Risk Factors for Subaortic Pannus Overgrowth After Heart Valve Replacement (Authors: Hung Dung Van et al.) Pannus overgrowth is a dangerous late complication, but long-term risk factors were understudied. In a study of 1,145 patients over 16.5 years, the incidence increased over time (5% at 20 years), with female sex, younger age, and small valve size identified as key risk factors. This research helps identify high-risk patients and recommends total valve replacement during reoperation to prevent recurrence.

6. Skin Microbiome and Inflammation in Congenital Ichthyosis (Authors: Chi-Bao Bui et al.) The link between microbial imbalance and inflammation in congenital ichthyosis (CI) was not fully understood. The study linked dysbiosis to inflammation via the JAK/STAT pathway and showed that antibiotics can improve wound healing in CI patients. These findings open doors for new therapies such as JAK inhibitors or microbiome-targeted treatments for CI patients.