



**Ninh Thi Thanh Van;  
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My name is Ninh Thi Thanh Van and I am from Ho Chi Min City in Vietnam. I decided to study nursing because I love to take care of people. I also loved the white colour of the nursing uniform. I graduated from Ho Chi Min City Nursing School in 1986 and started a nursing job at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases. I worked as a nurse for nearly 20 years in the Intensive Care Unit, the Malaria Ward and finally as the Head Nurse of the HIV Ward. In 2006, I decided to change my career and applied for a research position available with the Clinical Trials Unit of the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit, Viet Nam.

Since joining the Oxford Research Unit, I have worked as study coordinator for many different clinical trials in infectious diseases including dengue fever, malaria, tuberculosis and HIV. My main tasks as a Coordinator are to ensure that the study runs efficiently and safely in keeping with the guidelines of Good Clinical Practice and the regulations of the Viet Nam Ministry of Health. Through the studies I've coordinated, I have improved my research and clinical skills. I now run studies which meet the highest international standards and also work to train and support new coordinators who join the Clinical Trials Unit. My experience in managing trials has also equipped me to become a monitor of other studies in our Unit.

Clinical research has been developing rapidly in the evolving medical and economic environment of Viet Nam. Thanks to close cooperation with our collaborating institutions, a focus on capacity building and support from the Ministry of Health, I have been a part of many local and global clinical trials executed at the highest international standards. I am lucky to be linked with an international group with strong collaborative links in Viet Nam. But local hospitals are stretched for resources and time to perform independent investigator driven trials. Therefore, there are very few nurses in Viet Nam who are familiar with clinical research. There is a need to overcome the language, internet access and resource barriers to training Vietnamese nurses in clinical research. Strengthening these critical members of the research community is essential to grow the research community and improve patient care in the long term.

