

IRD Research Unit 174-PHPT : Highlights of 2018

The “PHPT” Research Unit strengthened its role and visibility in the field of viral hepatitis management and elimination in Southeast Asia, and continued to contribute to WHO’s strategy "Getting to Zero" aiming to end the HIV epidemic.

VIRAL HEPATITIS

March 2018. The results of “iTAP”, a major clinical trial to prevent the perinatal transmission of hepatitis B virus (HBV) were published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.



The NEW ENGLAND
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

The results of two related studies were also published: pharmacokinetics of tenofovir in pregnant women and during postpartum (*Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*); impact on bone mineral density in mothers and infants (*Clinical Infectious Diseases*).



AMERICAN
SOCIETY FOR
MICROBIOLOGY

Antimicrobial Agents
and Chemotherapy

September 2018. PHPT organized an international symposium with Foundation Mérieux, in Vientiane: « *Long Walk to Hepatitis Elimination: How to Start* » (120 participants).



August 2018.

PHPT received from the NIH a 2.1 million USD grant of to conduct a new clinical trial exploring further the potential of antiretrovirals to prevent the perinatal transmission of HBV without immune globulin. The new study has started in 13 hospitals in Lao PDR and Thailand.



December 2018. Vatthanaphone Lattphasavang, PhD candidate, successfully defended her thesis in University of Lyon, France, based on the data collected in the pilot study of mother-to-child transmission of HBV she conducted in Lao PDR.



VIRAL HEPATITIS

July 2018. Launch of HeBOOC, a free online training program on chronic hepatitis B clinical management targeting health care workers in South East Asia. Within 6 months, more than 160 users registered, 55 completed the training and received an achievement certificate.



All along the year, PHPT provided DNDi with pharmacological and statistical expertise for the STORM-C-1 clinical trial. This research study evaluated simple, pan-genotypic and affordable drug combinations for widespread access to a cure of hepatitis C (results to be published in 2019).



HIV SCREENING



www.napneung.net

The “*Napneung*” program, an Operational Research program conducted by PHPT to facilitate access to the diagnosis of HIV, syphilis, viral hepatitis B and C. More than 5,000 participants were included in two clinical trials within the program, currently analyzed by a PhD candidate in Public Health. **In August 2018,** the project was evaluated very positively an independent expert. **In December 2018,** a workshop attended by the French Ambassador to Thailand and UNAIDS Representative in Thailand was organized in Chiang Rai Mae Fah Luang University to discuss the preliminary results with stakeholders. PHPT obtained a new grant of 1.2 million € to start a more ambitious program starting in 2019 in partnership with the Ministry of Public Health in Thailand.



September 2018. Establishment of the Foundation « PHPT, Public Health Promotion, Research and Training » under Thai law.

