



**California Pacific  
Medical Center**

A Sutter Health Affiliate

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Two Hospitals Bridge Divide Between U.S. and Vietnam**

**(San Francisco, December 10, 2007)** California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco is teaming up with Hoan My Hospital in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, to help combat the deadly toll that hepatitis B (HBV) and other liver disorders are taking in Vietnam.

“The goal of this partnership is to improve access to care,” says Robert Gish, M.D., medical director of the Liver Disease & Transplant Program at California Pacific. “By making our expertise and more resources available to our colleagues at Hoan My, we hope to be able to help them combat the devastating impact of hep B.”

Although relatively rare in the U.S., hepatitis B is endemic in Vietnam and other parts of Asia where hundreds of millions of individuals may be infected. HBV is most commonly passed on from mother to baby during childbirth; however it can also be transmitted through contact with infected blood or through unprotected sex. The disease carries few symptoms in its early stages but left untreated can ultimately lead to cirrhosis or scarring of the liver, liver cancer or even death. Hepatitis B is the fourth leading cause of cancer death worldwide.

The first fruit of this new partnership with California Pacific will be to establish a center at Hoan My Hospital specializing in the care of patients suffering from liver and gastroenterology disorders. The center will work to improve screening for HBV, as well as manage patients suffering from liver cancer and those in need of liver transplantation. The center will also become home to a group specializing in diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy, as well as diagnosis and management of other complex GI cases.

Hoan My Hospital will also be able to use these increased resources to help patients in other hospitals throughout Vietnam, including Dalat, Danang and Ca N Tho.

California Pacific Medical Center is uniquely qualified to team up with Hoan My Hospital because of its leading role in helping fight hep B in San Francisco. As part of the SF Hep B Free collaborative, California Pacific Medical Center is committed to screening and vaccinating all San Francisco Asian and Pacific Islander residents for hepatitis B.

The Liver Disease & Transplant Program at California Pacific Medical Center has a long and successful history. We have performed more than 1,300 liver transplants since the program's inception in 1998. Presently we see 1,000 new liver disease patients and perform more than 50 transplants annually.

***California Pacific Medical Center. Beyond Medicine.***

At San Francisco's California Pacific Medical Center, we believe in the power of medicine. We research the most up-to-date treatments, hire the most qualified individuals, and practice the most modern, innovative medicine available. We deliver the highest quality expert care, with kindness and compassion, in acute, post-acute and outpatient services, as well as preventive and complementary medicine. But we also believe that medicine alone is only part of the solution. That's why we look intently at each individual case and treat the whole person, not just the illness. It's why we go beyond medical care and provide our patients with things like disease counseling, family support and wellness treatments. As one of California's largest private, community-based, not-for-profit, teaching medical centers, and a Sutter Health affiliate, we are able to reach deep into our community provide education, screening and financial support in some of the city's most underserved neighborhoods. Because medicine can transform a body. But going beyond medicine can transform a life. [www.cpmc.org](http://www.cpmc.org)