NEW DISABILITY CENTER. The third phase of the OIA program in Vietnam is to establish a facility in Vinh Linh that will provide services to the blind and visually impaired. "Our goal is only $60,000, but clearly it will have a huge impact for this community," said Richard H. Paul, OIA executive director. Pictured above at the groundbreaking ceremony: Dr. Macsai-Kaplan, president-elect of the Eye Bank Association of America (far left) with her husband; Mr. Paul (center) with his daughter; and Dr. May (far right) with his wife.

Members At Large

Illinois Association of Ophthalmology's Outreach in Vietnam

After the success of its 2008 trip to Hanoi, the Illinois Association of Ophthalmology (IAO) returned to Vietnam this July for the second phase of the organization's skills transfer and outreach in the area.

The latest trip started with a phacoemulsification course that took place at the Vietnam National Institute of Ophthalmology (VNIIO) in partnership with Alcon-Vietnam.

Marian Sue Macsai-Kaplan, MD, and Ronald C. May, MD, taught the week-long series of lectures, wet labs and surgeries to about 15 ophthalmologists from throughout the country. This was followed by a day of cataract surgery with two of these students at their clinic in Dong Ha, an area close to the Vietnamese demilitarized zone that has experienced serious economic and health challenges. Some 14 patients also received cataract surgery done jointly by IAO members and two local ophthalmologists, Drs. Hoang Thi Thu Ha and Nguyen My Sen.

"I am very gratified with Alcon's sponsorship of our most recent program in Vietnam," said Dr. May, the IAO project director. "They really stepped up to the plate, not only providing financial support to the Illinois doctors and the VNIIO course but also donating IOLs, equipment and personnel for our surgery in Dong Ha."

For more details about the IAO and its activities at home and abroad, visit www.ileyemd.org.

Candidates' Views

Meet the Board of Trustee's Nominees for 2009 Election

In June, the Academy's Board of Trustees nominated an official slate of officers for its 2010 Board of Trustees. The following have given their consent to serve if elected and therefore constitute the official slate. If the Academy's membership approves all candidates, their respective terms begin Jan. 1, 2010. Members will be given the opportunity to vote online or by paper ballot for officers and trustee-at-large positions of the Board of Trustees.

Richard L. Abbott, MD

Board of Trustees' Nominee for President-Elect

Receiving the nomination for the position of President-