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NEWS

Chinese-speaking Dublin doctor aiding Vietnamese refugees

A DOCTOR working in Jervis Street Hospital, Dublin, is one of the key figures involved in helping the Vietnamese refugees to settle as he speaks Chinese. He is Dr. Leslie Lam from Singapore who came to Ireland 19 years ago to study.

Dr Lam said: I am Chinese myself. My grandfather left China two generations ago to go to Singapore. It is a politically stable country. If it wasn't for that we may not have been so lucky and my grandfather might have been in a similar position to the boat people today.

"I am trying to help out the Vietnamese as much as possible to try and make them feel at home."

Dr. Lam came to this country in 1960 and went to Blackrock College. From there, he took medicine in U.C.D. and graduated in 1967.

RETURNED TO U.C.D.

After his intern year in the Royal City of Dublin Hospital, Baggot Street, he returned to U.C.D. to study pharmacology.

His next appointment was at the Mater Hospital where he was a general medical registrar for one year, followed by two years as a cardiac registrar.

Dr. Lam then went to Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin, where he was a cardiac registrar and tutor for three years.

For the next year, Dr. Lam went to the Brompton Hospital in London where he took his Fellowship of the Cardio-Thoracic Institute.

He joined Jervis Street Hospital as a registrar in general medicine when he returned to Ireland.

Dr. Lam plans to return to Singapore next year when all his studies are complete. He will specialise in cardiology.