Dr. Joseph Rosen, a plastic and reconstructive surgeon at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center and adjunct professor of Engineering at Dartmouth College, has been leading a trip to Hanoi, Vietnam for the past five years.

There are two components to the RICE Project. The first, Reconstructive International Cooperation Exchange, is the surgical component of the trip and involves a team of nurses and surgeons who partake in advanced complex surgical reconstructions at the National Hospital of Pediatrics (NHP) in Hanoi, Vietnam. Procedures in the past have included head and neck craniofacial surgery, upper extremity congenital surgery, and even a toe-to-hand transfer during the trip in March 2009. The goal of this part of the trip is to exchange skills, knowledge, and culture with the healthcare providers at NHP.

The second component of the trip, Remote Interaction Consultation Epidemiology, is focused around implementation of a network-centric healthcare system using smartphone technology. The goal of this project is to integrate information resources and services into the Vietnamese healthcare system, using evidence-based medicine as the guide. Dartmouth Biomedical Librarians come on the trip to aid with the evidence-based medicine component.

The RICE project partners include the National Pediatric Hospital, Thai Nguyen Central General Hospital, Viet Duc Hospital, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Dartmouth Medical School, The Dickey Center for International Understanding at Dartmouth, Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth, and Dartmouth Biomedical Libraries.

Week 1: March 8–12, 2010
Reconstructive International Cooperative Exchange
Surgery at
✦ National Hospital of Pediatrics
✦ Viet Duc Hospital
(largest surgical center in Vietnam)

Week 2: March 15–19, 2010
Remote Interaction Consultation Epidemiology
✦ Looking at disease surveillance using iPhone platform
✦ Focus on epidemiology and evidence based medicine

2010 Participants from:
✦ Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
✦ University of Washington
✦ University of Minnesota
✦ Emory University
✦ University of California, Los Angeles