

Humanitarian Newsletter March 2008

I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy.

-Rabindranath Tagore-



Doctors on medical missions giving hearing exams from South America to India.

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Volunteer physicians screen patients for surgery in Africa.

Call for Information

Do you take part in ENT volunteer programs within the U.S.? Do you work in a free clinic?

If so, we would love to hear from you. Please email

humanitarian@entnet.org

Call For Volunteers:

July 2008

21 – 24

Vietnam

Face to Face

18 July – 1 August

Mexico

Dr. David Parsons

August 2008

4 - 11

La Paz, Bolivia

Flying Doctors of America



Patient in Ecuador recovering from throat surgery.

Calendar of Medical Missions:

May 2008

22 May - 1 June

Andes, Peru

Flying Doctors of America

Mark Your Calendars!

112th AAO-HNSF Annual Meeting & OTO EXPO
September 21-24, 2008
Chicago, IL, U.S.A.

Join us for the
Humanitarian Open Forum
(Time and place to be announced)



Interview with Marie Brown-Wagner, MD

After a 22-year career in New York City, Marie Brown-Wagner, MD, decided to take a sabbatical in the Navajo Nation. In October 2001, she made it permanent, working in Shiprock, NM, for the Indian Health Services in what she affectionately calls "Navajo Land," home to the largest tribe and largest reservation in the U.S., located in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Nevada. Academy staff member Erika Hoganson interviewed her recently:
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Humanitarian Organization Spotlight: Operation of Hope

Operation of Hope Medical
Mission to Ecuador
By Krishna G. Patel, MD



There are defining moments in our careers that remind us why we chose our professions. For me, Ecuador will always be one of those moments. I traveled with the non-profit surgical team of Operation of Hope to Quito, Ecuador to help treat children with cleft lips, cleft palates, and other craniofacial anomalies. These patients traveled from the entire country as well as from Colombia to be seen in our clinic. We held a clinic on our first day and then spent the next two weeks performing surgery. The support of the local physicians at the Hospital Eugenio Espejo allowed us to admit and treat these patients. In contrast to the pediatric hospitals in the US, these wards boarded eight children per room with no monitors. For this reason, the families were an imperative and necessary component of post-operative care. The entire team was a conglomerate of medically trained personnel from the United States who had volunteered their time to participate. We also had the volunteer services of the local Peace Corp to help translate and educate us about the culture. Operation of Hope was founded 19 years ago by Dr. Joe

Clawson, who has graciously invited over 20 residents and fellows from the University of California Davis Medical Center to join him in his annual trips to both to Ecuador and Zimbabwe. Academy members that were volunteers for the team included, Dr. Travis Tollefson, co-director of Operation of Hope, and Dr. Amir Rafii. My experience was invaluable, and I am grateful to the children and families for enriching my life. This trip will always remind me that there are people in all parts of this world, both within and outside of the United States, who depend upon volunteer work. I plan to make this one of many volunteer opportunities in my life. I am also grateful to the American Academy of Otolaryngology--Head and Neck Surgery Foundation for supporting me through the Humanitarian Effort Travel Grant to help make this trip possible.

If you wish your organization to be in the Humanitarian Organization Spotlight, please email humanitarian@entnet.org.

Medical Missions for Children (MMFC)—A Year of Worldwide Healing

H. Dennis Snyder MD, Chair, Medical
Missions for Children



In 2007, MMFC successfully completed missions to Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Mali (our newest mission site), Peru, the Philippines, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Ukraine. Academy members, who serve on MMFC missions, include Mack L.

Cheney, MD, Raffi DerSarkissian, MD, Jagdish K. Dhingra, MD, Adele K. Evans, MD, Theresa A (Tessa) Hadlock, MD, Paul A. Sabini, MD, Noah S. Siegel, MD, H. Dennis Snyder, MD, and Robert F. Ward, MD.

The emphasis of all of our missions continues to be surgical correction of cleft of the lip and palate, microtia, pediatric burn injury, other facial plastic and reconstructive surgical procedures, thyroid surgery, and dental surgery.

This past year, MMFC treated 1,870 patients with cleft deformities. Of these, 1,220 patients were screened and 520 patients underwent corrective cleft procedures by the surgical team, while 650 patients received corrective procedures by the dental team. In addition, MMFC donated monitors, equipment, and other medical supplies

to each of the operating rooms, post-anesthesia care units (PACUs), and hospital wards that they visited.

Our goals for 2008 include completing missions at all the above sites, while expanding our work in Guatemala, India, Peru, Tanzania, and the Ukraine. To reach these goals, we will continue to seek out dedicated surgeons, who are committed in making a difference to those less fortunate. Your time allows us to continue the work in these destitute areas and bring much needed medical care to children and families afflicted with complex and debilitating health problems.

To learn more about volunteering or about other ways to help, please contact us at 1-508 697-5821 or mmfcinfo@mmfc.org or visit www.mmfc.org.

Grants and Awards

AAO-HNSF Awards for Volunteerism

Each year, at the Opening Ceremony of the AAO-HNSF Annual Meeting & OTO EXPO, our Academy confers three notable awards for public service. For the different awards, please see the criteria below and if you know an excellent candidate for any of these awards, contact humanitarian@entnet.org to learn more about the nomination process.

Distinguished Award for Humanitarian Efforts



Previous recipients of the Distinguished Award for Humanitarian Efforts at the 2007 AAO-HNSF Annual Meeting.

Back row left to right: William B. Lewis, MD, James E. Saunders, MD, Drew M. Horlbeck, MD (2007), Juan J. Garro, MD (1999).

Front row left to right: David S. Parsons, MD (2002), KJ Lee, MD, James L. Netterville, MD (2004), Daniel M. Martinez, MD (1998).

Our Distinguished Award for Humanitarian Efforts is bestowed each year on an Academy member. The Humanitarian Efforts Committee selects a nominee based on a wide range of criteria, including character, professional achievements, contribution of time and money, establishment within the field of otolaryngology, and recognition among peers.

Previous Awardees are:

2007 Drew M. Horlbeck, MD
2006 Craig P. Hedges, MD
2005 Brent A. Senior, MD
2004 James L. Netterville, MD
2003 Byron James Bailey Jr., MD
2002 David S. Parsons, MD
2001 Michael J. McGee, MD
2000 Sylvan E. Stool, MD
1999 Juan J. Garro, MD
1998 Daniel M. Martinez, MD
1997 (no award)
1996 Salyaveth Lekagul, MD and Soontorn Antarasena, MD
1995 Hans von Leden, MD
1994 Jack V. D. Hough, MD
1993 Samuel O. Massey Jr., MD
1992 M. Coyle Shea Jr., MD
1991 M. C. Culbertson Jr. MD
1990 Col. Joan Zajtchuk, MD

Jerome C. Goldstein, MD Public Service Award



Jerome C. Goldstein, MD (right) congratulates Goldstein Awardee, William B. Lewis, MD (left) at the 2007 AAO-HNSF Annual Meeting.

Our Academy Board of Directors grants the annual Goldstein Award to an Academy member, who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in community public service and a commitment and achievement in service that improves the welfare of patients. After an anonymous donor established the award in 1994, the Academy Board chose Dr. Goldstein as the first recipient and renamed the award in his honor.

Previous awardees are

- 2007 William B. Lewis, MD
- 2006 Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery Departments of Tulane University and Louisiana State University for service during Hurricane Katrina
- 2005 Stephen Epstein, MD
- 2004 Karl L. Horn, MD
- 2003 Hosakere K. Chandra Sekhar, MD
- 2002 William M. Satterwhite Jr., MD
- 2001 Terry A. Day, MD
- 2000 John K. Niparko, MD
- 1999 Byron James Bailey, MD
- 1998 Howard W. Smith, MD, DMD
- 1997 Roland D. Eavey, MD and Craig W. Senders, MD
- 1996 Donald P. Vrabec, MD
- 1995 G. Richard Holt, MD, MPH
- 1994 Jerome C. Goldstein, MD

Holt Leadership Award

Our Holt Leadership Award is awarded annually to the Resident or Fellow in training, who best exemplifies the attributes of a young leader—honesty, integrity, fairness, advocacy, and enthusiasm. The award recognizes exemplary efforts on behalf of the Academy Section for Residents and Fellows for the promotion of the missions and goals of the association.

This award is supported by an endowment from G. Richard Holt, MD, MPH, former Academy President and Executive Vice President.

Previous Awardees are

- 2007 Monica Tadros, MD
- 2006 Angela M. Powell, MD and Mark E. Boston, MD
- 2005 Adam T. Ross, MD
- 2004 Paul L. Leong, MD
- 2003 Liana Puscas, MD and Robert Puchalski, MD
- 2002 F. Christopher Holsinger, MD

Our Foundation's Humanitarian Efforts Resident Travel Grant

Humanitarian Efforts Committee funds resident members who volunteer a minimum of one week at one site. Application deadlines are May 31 and November 30. Please visit: www.entnet.org/AboutUs/humanitarian.cfm.

Our Foundation's Post-Residency Humanitarian Efforts Award

Humanitarian Efforts Committee funds grant awards to members who have recently completed training and volunteer a minimum of three months in an underserved area, within or outside the U.S. Application deadlines are February 1 and August 1. Please visit: www.entnet.org/AboutUs/humanitarian.cfm.

In Memoriam

SAN MATEO, CA Rodney Lee Kirk, MD, 82, died peacefully at his home in San Mateo, Calif. He was born in New York, April 9, 1925. Dr. Kirk is survived by his loving wife, Carole Boyter Kirk; and his sons, Tyler Scott Kirk and Todd Stephen Kirk. He was predeceased by his son, John Arthur Kirk. Dr. Kirk was Chief of Otolaryngology at Harold D. Chope Hospital, now known as San Mateo Medical Center, from 1961 until his retirement in 2000.

Dr. Kirk donated his entire office suite and equipment to CISEPO, a University of Toronto international medical charity that is training new physicians in establishing ear, nose, and throat clinics in the difficult regions of the Middle East. Palestinian, Jordanian, and Israeli doctors are working together to address major ENT problems across warring borders. The Dr. Rodney L. Kirk Clinic is located in Nablus, in the Palestinian West Bank. This clinic will treat genetic nerve deafness in newborns, a prevalent problem in that region.

Humanitarian Efforts Committee

The American Academy of Otolaryngology--Head and Neck Surgery Foundation (AAO-HNSF) Humanitarian Efforts Committee acts as a clearinghouse of information for Academy members on volunteering at home and abroad. The AAO-HNSF provides information and services on the Internet as a benefit and service in furtherance of its nonprofit and tax-exempt status. Please refer to the Copyright and Privacy Statements <http://www.entnet.org/copyright.cfm>.

Comments on our newsletter? Please email us at humanitarian@entnet.org.

Academy Humanitarian Staff at your service!

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Interview with Marie Brown-Wagner, MD

After a 22-year career in New York City, Marie Brown-Wagner, MD, decided to take a sabbatical in the Navajo Nation. In October 2001, she made it permanent, working in Shiprock, NM, for the Indian Health Services in what she affectionately calls "Navajo Land," home to the largest tribe and largest reservation in the U.S., located in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Nevada. Academy staff member Erika Hoganson interviewed her recently:

How did you start working on the Navajo Reservation?

I started going on humanitarian missions to South America. I really enjoyed setting up programs and working on sustainable programs. I found a position in Shiprock, which seemed interesting. After I decided to come out here, I realized we have a third world / developing country here. Many Navajos are in remote areas, without electricity or water and three hours from a hospital or clinic.

What do you do on the Reservation?

As the only ENT for the northern third of the reservation; I have a clinic and I work at the Northern Navajo Medical Center Hospital. We see patients from all over the four states the Navajo Nation covers. Usually our clinic is in a "single-wide" trailer and we can do basic screening. If a patient needs surgery, we come back to the hospital. Sometimes we have to go to the patient's home with the sheep and goats in the yard to get

someone to trust us.

How many other doctors and medical professionals do you work with?

In the outlying clinics, I have a physician assistant or extended nurse practitioner and a nurse, who usually speaks Navajo. The Navajo are among the few tribes who have maintained their language. Navajos older than 55 do not usually speak English. As often as I heard Spanish in New York, I will hear Navajo and need a translator.

What is unique about your work?

I started a cancer-support group to have them talk about how they get through chemo or radiation and how to help each other. The Navajos define cancer as "wound that does not heal" or "killing the soul." They believe that by talking about the problem, in essence, you will it on the patient. When we talk about a problem or treatment, we try to speak about it positively, but also how to avoid the problem. Unless you are a Navajo, they mistrust the Anglo or "white-man's" system, which they believe still practices on them. I am not just your usual ENT—you cannot be, because there is nothing usual here. We just worked with a little Rockpoint community to apply for a Johnson and Johnson grant to fund an ENT, nurse practitioner, or PA for three years. In New York, you could get a resident or administrator to help you apply, but here it is you alone.

What changes have developed in your professional life?

I have really learned that all my years of training and work in academic centers has really paid off; I am able to be here and provide a service. When I was in New York, I would receive patients from outlying areas but now I am one of those distant docs that nobody knows about. You have to call and ask for help from the medical center and it's been very humbling. I might be able to handle a case, but I am only one person and I don't have the nursing staff or all the instruments. I have to refer that patient on. It's really made it more about the patient and not me as the surgeon. I work a lot with oral surgery and the dentists because I have no one else to work with me. So you create a collegial relationship with other specialties, you really have to here.

What about your personal growth?

Personally, it has been gratifying because there is a sense of peace and calm with what you are doing with your life. You have time to get back to working with others, like a sports medicine class at the high school. We started a summer mentoring program for people interested in the healthcare field and a science and math camp for middleschoolers, who could be sharp students but fail because they lacked resources.

What are some cultural lessons you incorporate in your own life?

Some of the "Medicine Men" use herbs in healing. It's harmony for your body, and your mind. I try to follow along the balance. I think

that goes with my work; you could work here all the time, especially since I am here all by myself. When I left New York, I was on 12 pills, I had an ulcer, I was a mess and now I am down to just a few. Some of my friends call it "foofoo medicine," but I know I am not taking all those pills anymore. This past Sunday was a good day, I saw a patient, went to church, and then went skiing. That was a perfect day for me.

What are your plans for the future?

I went on two missions this year, to Honduras, and Rwanda/Mali. I enjoyed Rwanda so much. We helped with the restructuring of the medical schools after the genocide. They just started the second year of the restarting the medical school with just two ENT's in the whole country. Some of the physicians are so bright and well trained - they just lack the equipment and the ability to work on the neglected or indigenous people.

What is one thing that you miss from your life in New York?

I miss being able to discuss a problem with a colleague that I trust and being able to just call and say "Hey, do you mind coming up to the operating room and giving your opinion." It really is a luxury to be able to assist someone or ask for assistance.