



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

SURGERY



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GLOBAL SURGERY INITIATIVES

2013

Surgery has long been a neglected area of global health. The global burden of surgical disease is estimated at 15 percent of the total worldwide disease burden. Although diseases treatable by surgery remain a ranking killer of the world's poor, public attention and public health dollars most often target infectious diseases such as HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria. This outpouring of support has led to the development of public health resources across the globe. In turn, these resources have led to the growing recognition of the need for surgical care in low-and middle-income countries. Only recently has surgery been accepted as an equal partner in the fight against global health care inequity. The newsletter highlights the active role of the MGH Department of Surgery in global health.

(Exerpted from Harvard Program in Global Surgery.)

● **LIBERIA**

Since visiting Liberia in 2008 on a surgical trip with her medical school, Dr. Tiffany Chao (MGH general surgery resident) has wanted to return to this country. This year, she had the opportunity to work there for five weeks in October and November as a research fellow with Harvard Medical School's Program in Global Surgery and Social Change (PGSSC). Dr. Chao taught medical students, contributed to clinical care, and developed research projects with the local surgeons at JFK Medical Center, the country's only tertiary care hospital.

Her current research project involves the development of a knowledge base of surgical demographics and operative capacity at JFK Medical Center from 2009-2012. The data will guide the future development of surgical capacity at JFK Medical Center in order to better utilize the hospital's limited resources to provide high-quality care, improve efficiency and guide development of residency programs in the most crucial clinical areas.



Dr. Tiffany Chao

● CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

In April and May 2012, Dr. Haytham Kaafarani, Trauma, Emergency Surgery and Surgical Critical Care Fellow, spent 5 weeks with Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) in Paoua, Central African Republic (CAR). Paoua, on the northern borders with Chad, is recovering from a long-standing civil conflict with tens of thousands of people killed or displaced. In Paoua, Haytham performed a wide range of operative procedures spanning the fields of trauma, general surgery, pediatric surgery, burns, orthopedics, obstetrics and gynecology as well as dental surgery. Haytham, as the solo surgical provider in CAR (a country the size of France), performed more than 200 surgical procedures during his stay. Living in harsh conditions and with very basic medical equipment, he describes his experience as humbling, eye-opening and life-changing.



Dr. Haytham Kaafarani

• POLAND

Dr. Scott Bartlett, MGH alumnus and the Peter Randall Endowed Chair in Pediatric Craniofacial Treatment and Research at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, first visited Krakow, Poland in 1986 as part of an MGH team in a collaborative project with Project Hope and the US Government to enhance pediatric surgical care in the country. Since then, Dr. Bartlett has committed himself to this goal, visiting Krakow, Poland 2-3 times year to assist in the surgical management of children with complex craniofacial abnormalities.

Dr. Bartlett is also the founder of **The Children's Medical Foundation of Central and Eastern Europe**, dedicated to improving the lives of children in hospitals in Romania, Ukraine, Poland, Lithuania and the Republics of Georgia and Bulgaria. Dr. Bartlett is joined in this project by another MGH alumnus, Dr. Craig Lillehei of Boston Children's Hospital. In addition to providing surgical collaborations in Central and Eastern European hospitals, the Foundation has initiated a Travelling Scholars Program with Boston Children's Hospital and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. (website: www.CMFCEE.org).



Dr. Scott Bartlett



**Dr. Craig Lillehei and pediatric surgical trainees
From Poland, Ukraine and Lithuania (2012)**

• UKRAINE

Since the president of Ukraine transferred a high profile patient to Boston Shriners Hospital in 2004, there has been a growing bond to assist in the care of burn patients. Several dozen children have come to Shriners Hospital for acute and reconstructive burn care and spine surgery. Dr. Gennadiy Fuzaylov (MGH Pediatric Anesthesia) and Dr. Daniel Driscoll (MGH Plastic Surgery) have been instrumental in facilitating this partnership in Ukraine. With the founding of their charity, **Doctors Collaborating to Help Children** (www.DCTOHC.org), they have worked on a multi-pronged approach. During the third visit in September of 2012, Drs. Driscoll and Fuzaylov and two residents (Dr. Justin Knittel of anesthesia and Dr. Arthur Turko of plastic surgery) saw 38 children, performed 12 operations and arranged care for 4 complex patients in Boston. While in Lviv, they gave a series of lectures to over 100 burn care physicians. They have opened a learning center using teleconferencing to give lectures to the caregivers in Hospital #8 in Lviv and conduct tele-consultation to recommend care for burned children and arrange transport to Boston if necessary.

The commitment continues. Drs. Fuzaylov and Driscoll plan for future patient care and surgery, a prevention campaign, and hopefully an improvement in the education and delivery of care by first responders.



Dr. Daniel Driscoll

• COLOMBIA

“Our mission is to change the lives of children born with congenital deformities, with special focus on cleft lip and palate. We believe that all children have the right to receive high quality surgical care, regardless of ethnicity or socioeconomic status.”

Dedicated to this mission, in 2013, Dr. William (“Jay”) Austen (MGH Chief of Plastic Surgery), Dr. Kyle Eberlin (MGH plastic surgery resident) and Annemarie Austin (MGH operating room nurse) joined the 18th medical mission to the Hospital Infantil Napoleon Franco Pareja, a charity-funded hospital in Cartagena, Colombia. The medical missions are sponsored by Healing the Children-Northeast Chapter and the Rotary Club in Colombia . Teams are composed of multi-disciplinary healthcare professionals and focus on the surgical care of cleft and craniofacial patients (generally 60 patients per trip). Dr. Austen first joined the team as a resident and has since made 4 trips with the medical teams.

THE MISSION IS A REAL TEAM EFFORT.



Dr. Kyle Eberlin and Dr. William Austen

AFTER SURGERY

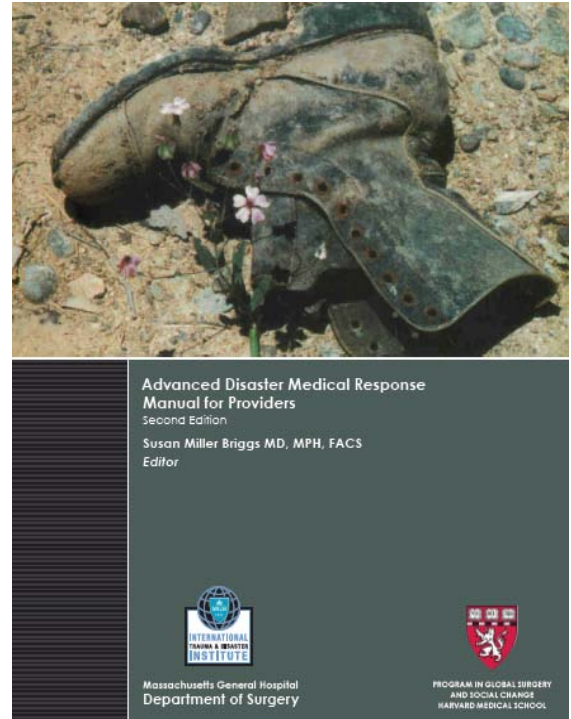


AFFILIATED MGH GLOBAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS:

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

INTERNATIONAL TRAUMA AND DISASTER INSTITUTE (ITDI)

Mission: A center of excellence for trauma and disaster preparedness and response under the direction of Dr. Susan Briggs, ITDI has developed multidisciplinary training programs and manuals designed to train disaster medical responders in the basics of medical and public health disaster care. The Advanced Disaster Medical Response (ADMR) manual is now available in 8 languages. Over the past year, MGH faculty have participated in train-the-trainer courses in Hong Kong and Macau, China, Colombia, Paraguay, and Brazil. The Second Edition of the ADMR manual will be published in 2013 under the auspices of the MGH Department of Surgery and the Harvard Program in Global Surgery.



ADMR manual, 2nd edition

MGH CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

<http://massgeneralcenterforglobalhealth.org/>

Mission: To improve the health of the most vulnerable in our global community by leveraging Mass General's 200-year legacy of innovation in medical care, education, and scientific discovery.

PARTNERS HEALTHCARE INTERNATIONAL

<http://www.partners.org/international/About/Default.aspx>

Mission: To transform health care globally by developing programs with a global network of highly regarded institutions committed to excellence in medical care, education and research.

AFFILIATED HARVARD GLOBAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS:

HARVARD DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL MEDICINE

[ard.edu/](http://ghsm.hms.harvard.edu/)

<http://ghsm.hms.harvard.edu/>

Mission: The Department of Global Health and Social Medicine applies social science and humanities research to constantly improve the practice of medicine, the delivery of treatment, and the development of health care policies locally and worldwide. A major effort is the Global Health Delivery program and developing the science of implementation. As of 2008, the Department is the central structure to help organize global health activities, especially medical education experiences, at Harvard Medical School. A number of affiliated programs, including the Programs in Global Surgery and Social Change, are part of the comprehensive center. Affiliated MGH faculty for the Program in Global Surgery include Drs. Susan Briggs, Robert Sheridan, and Peter Fagenholz.

HARVARD HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVE

<http://hhi.harvard.edu/>

Mission: The Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) is a university-wide center involving multiple entities within the Harvard community that provide expertise in public health, medicine, social science, management, and other disciplines to promote evidence-based approaches to humanitarian assistance.

From the Editors (Drs. Susan Briggs and Peter Fagenholz): Please send us any information on your global health initiatives so that we can include it in future newsletters.