

# ISHI



ANNUAL REPORT  
2014

# CONTENTS

1. ISHI President's message p. 3
2. 1000 surgeries p. 4
3. Peru p. 6
4. Global Surgery p. 8
5. Ghana p. 10
6. ISHI Club activities p. 14
7. Haiti p. 16
8. Ebola in SL p. 18
9. Outstanding volunteers p. 19
10. Non-Missions: Bike, Party p. 20
11. US Finances p. 21
12. End of the year party p. 22

# ISHI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Great volunteers make Great missions". The strength of ISHI stems from the integrity, passion and goodwill of its volunteers. There is no way to adequately express the pride and joy I have in the work that our ISHI volunteers do on missions, delivering free and safe surgeries to communities that have no access to or cannot afford surgical care. This year again I am proud to announce that three surgical missions were successfully completed to Peru, Ghana and Haiti. A total of 146 major surgeries were performed on patients who have been suffering for years from untreated surgical conditions.

As a volunteer-run organization, we have the intellectual freedom to find and serve the populations that we feel have the greatest needs. We are not financially obligated or limited in the location and communities we serve. This allows for a moral integrity and freedom in the choice ISHI makes worldwide. We believe the dedication of our volunteers to patients in need, regardless of race or religion -and the moral freedom to donate such a gift - is what makes this truly unique situation possible.

We have been able to remain without paid staff and without office for the past 5 years. As a result we continue to channel more than 99% of the donations we receive, purely to support our overseas missions. We are developing protocols and pathways to facilitate the work of our volunteers in preparing and planning missions in a more efficient way. This year, our surgical residents have committed to developing protocols and formalizing our pre-mission preparations in order to provide optimal flow for future missions. We do hope these efforts will lure new mission leaders, who want to but don't always have the time, to lead missions.

We truly believe that the surgical care we provide on our missions is the best, safest, and most cost-effective possible. We establish lasting bonds with the health care partners in the countries we intervene in, and for patients who receive our surgical care, it is a life-changing event. It is non corruptible or transferable and we know that our gift will remain with those who need it and it cannot be sold or taken away. And in an effort to have a more sustainable impact through our missions, we have begun to supplement our surgical care with regular teaching and training of local health staff at the bedside, in the OR, and in the classroom. Our future efforts will focus on more formal training and capacity building during our repeat missions.

A novelty for ISHI this year has been the inclusion of medical students and residents on missions. This will ensure that the ISHI vision and its missions will continue in the future: to provide free surgical care to those with the greatest need. We truly hope that other young physicians will be inspired to lead ISHI missions or create their own organizations with a similar vision. The challenges are overwhelming: There are more than 5 billion people with inadequate or no access to surgical care. We have seen first-hand the impact this has on individuals, their families and communities. We continue to believe that our services are essential, life-changing and sometimes lifesaving and worth all the effort we are putting in!

Finally our message is one of hope. When we focus on the needs of others, share our most precious skills and grow from these experiences, we have succeeded and made a difference.

We hope our work will continue and inspire others and have a lasting impact.

Ziad Sifri MD  
ISHI PRESIDENT



# 1000 patients

5 YEARS / 15 MISSIONS / 6 COUNTRIES

- GUATEMALA
- HAITI
- SIERRE LEONE
- GHANA
- PHILLIPINES
- PERU



 = 10 PATIENTS



# PERU



## MISSION BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

This was ISHI's first mission to the Madre de Cristo Clinic in Trujillo, Peru in May 2014. This mission was proposed by Kevin Hurley of Medical Electives in 2013 and it was decided to wait to pursue mission planning until a mission by Healing the Children (HTC) was completed. HTC strongly recommended an ISHI mission to Peru and Zeina Wakim re-initiated contact with Kevin in December 2013 and secured sponsorship with the support of local government officials.

## PATIENTS AND LOCATION

The Madre de Cristo Clinic in Trujillo announced the mission using posters advertising the ISHI team offering free surgical care. They pre-triaged about 60 patients and sent a typed list to the ISHI team. Subsequently, the list was used by ISHI to prepare for the planned operative procedures and post-op care.

## SUMMARY OF MISSION ACHIEVEMENTS

Triage of 72 patients, 52 operations performed with help of 2 local anesthesiologists.

Taught local 3rd year medical students who joined the ISHI team for 6 days.

## MISSION VOLUNTEERS

### Surgery Team

N. Rana MD, D. Livingston MD, N. Banga MD,  
L. Pasupuleti MD, Z. Sifri MD

### Anesthesia

Patrick CRNA, B Beja-Umukoro CRNA

### Medical Student

C. Gordhan

### OR Nurse/Tech

S. Galano-Rogers APN, P. Goel RN

### PAR Nurses

S. Burroughs RN, E. Epper RN

### Floor Nurses

C. Taibe RN, A. Patrick RN

### Logistics Support

Zeina Wakim, Ibrahim Sabbagh, Debbie Livingston

## MISSION SPECIAL THANKS

### Mr. Kevin Hurley

for serving as mission facilitator and guide.

### Sr. Sandra Leon Valladolid, Administrator, Clinica Madre de Cristo

### Arpegio Peru

The children and their volunteer teacher from Arpegio performed for Sisters and the Staff at the Clinic as part of an ISHI sponsored Staff Appreciation luncheon.

### Laura Gilmartin, Mission Coordinator, Healing the Children

for providing valuable coaching and sharing their Organization's documents to assist with Peruvian entry requirements.

### Sister Maryjo McGinley

for providing guidance to prepare consular documents and sharing mission preparation experience.

# GLOBAL SURGERY

## GLOBAL SURGERY

### GLOBAL SURGERY FACTS

2014 was a big year for global surgery, with the launching of the Lancet Commission on Global Surgery in January 2014. This multidisciplinary team of 25 commissioners worked with collaborators in more than 110 countries to address the gaps in knowledge, policy, and access to surgery in Low to Middle Income Countries (LMIC). Highlights from their report:

- 5 billion people do not have access to safe, affordable surgical and anesthesia care when needed. In low and lower-middle income countries 9 out of 10 people cannot access basic surgical care;
- 143 million additional surgical procedures are needed in LMICs each year to save lives and prevent disability;
  - Each year, only 6% of the 313 million procedures worldwide occur in the poorest countries, representing over 1/3 of the world's population;
  - Unmet need is greatest in eastern, western, and central sub-Saharan Africa and south Asia;
- 33 million individuals face catastrophic health expenditure due to payment for surgery and anesthesia care each year;
  - 48 million more cases of catastrophic expenditure are attributable to the non-medical costs of accessing surgical care;
- in 2010, 16.9 million lives (32.9% of all deaths worldwide) were lost from conditions needing surgical care;
  - Shrime MG, Bickler WS, Alkire BC, Mock A. Global burden of surgical disease: an estimation from the provider perspective. *Lancet Glob Health* 2015; 3: S8–9;
  - This surpasses the number of deaths from HIV/AIDS (1.46 million), TB (1.20 million), and malaria (1.17 million) combined;
- On most recent estimate, surgical conditions account for 28-32% of the overall global burden of disease (initially estimated to account for 11%);
- In low or lower-middle income countries it is estimated that as much as 94% of the population does not have access to safe and affordable surgical and anesthesia care as compared to 14.9% in high-income countries.





# GHANA



## MISSION BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

This was ISHI's second return mission to the Tetteh Quarshie Memorial Hospital (TQMH) in Mampong, Ghana in August 2014. We were invited back to TQMH with support from the hospital administration and regional tribal leaders and representatives.

## PATIENTS AND LOCATION

Local patients were alerted weeks to months before the ISHI team arrival via public service announcements at TQMH hospital, on the local radio, and at local churches. We anticipated collaborating with local clinical teams including a MD and CRNA as part of the patient care plan, and exchanging information with them about the local challenges in healthcare and the rich Ghanaian culture and traditions.

## SUMMARY OF MISSION ACHIEVEMENTS

A TOTAL OF **52** patients triaged;  
**47** operations;  
**20** ultrasound consultations;  
**30** medical consultations.

## MISSION VOLUNTEERS

### Surgery Team

Kevin Clarke MD, Asha Bale MD, Harold Schell MD, Paul Michael Pearce MD (PGY5), Ziad Sifri MD

### Anesthesia

Kenneth Mirsky MD, Bradley Patrick CRNA

### PAR Nurses

Stephanie Burroughs RN, Mercy Emejulu RN

### OR Nurse

Hannah Asare-Boateng RN, Maeve Lopreiato RN

### Surgical Tech

Yaw Effah Amoateng

### Medical Team

Zina Semenovskaya MD, Doris Koduah MD

### Logistics Support

covered by Zina and Ziad

## MISSION SPECIAL THANKS

**The Hon. Helen Ntoso, Regional Minister** for hosting the team.

### The Hon. Otoobour Djan Kwasi

for allowing us to provide services in the Aburi region.

### Dr. Mawuli, Medical Superintendent, and Dr Alebna

for making it a successful and enjoyable experience at the TQMH.

**Ms Divine Nartey – the Senior Hospital administrator** at the TQMH.

### Nellie Kemevor

for Contacting all the Nana and supporting the ISHI effort in Mampong.





# ISHI CLUB ACTIVITIES

## ISHI CLUB UPDATE

In its second year, the New Jersey Medical School (NJMS) ISHI club expanded to include a non-credit elective beginning in Spring 2014 and added a 4th year elective rotation in international surgery in the Fall Semester, providing opportunities for 3 medical students to join ISHI missions;

---

The ISHI Club fundraised \$1,942 to send barrels of Personal Protective Equipment and supplies to Sierra Leone for Ebola relief;

---

Co-presidents Christine Mau and Chris Ojeda made hernia models for the Health Across Borders Science Fair at the Liberty Science Center to teach elementary through high school students about the pathologies seen on international missions;

---

Christine and Chris were featured in two articles on Rutgers Today and the Daily Targum about their experiences on the ISHI Haiti mission.



# HAITI





## MISSION REPORT: HAITI

### MISSION BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Due to the devastating effects of the Ebola epidemic in Western Africa, ISHI was forced to abandon the planned return mission to Sierra Leone. In its stead, and thanks to a long-standing relationship shared by ISHI and Marie Michele Sidney, RN, and the recent availability of direct flights to Cap-Haïtien, ISHI was able to plan and execute a mission to Cap-Haïtien, Haiti on short-notice. Mr. Claude Bonivert facilitated the medical and logistical coordination to two trusted collaborators – Dr. Toussaint and Dr. Mesidor.

### PATIENTS AND LOCATION

The mission was centered at the Hopital de la Convention Baptiste d’Haiti (HCBH) in Cap-Haïtien, where Dr. Toussaint actively pre-triaged surgical candidates in the weeks before the ISHI team arrived. Marie Michele Sidney was also in communication with patients treated by her organization in need of surgical care, and several of them traveled together by bus to HCBH for triage assessment.

### SUMMARY OF MISSION ACHIEVEMENTS

A total of 47 operative procedures; and donation of boxes of medication and sterile supplies.

### TEAM MEMBERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

#### **Surgery Team**

Ziad Sifri MD, Ravi Chokshi MD, Derrick Christian MD, Firas Madbak MD, Neil Banga MD, Amy Gore MD (PGY 3), Peter Johnston MD (PGY3)

#### **Anesthesia**

John Dellamanna CRNA, Bradley Patrick CRNA

#### **Medical Students**

Christine Mau (MS-IV), Christopher Ojeda (MS-IV)

#### **OR Nurse/Tech**

Renaë Adamson RN, Corinne Bascelli RN, Christine Dabby

#### **PAR Nurses**

Alison Baker RN, Stephanie Olaso RN

#### **Floor Nurse**

Marie Michele Sidney RN

#### **Logistics Support**

Zeina Wakim

### MISSION SPECIAL THANKS

**Dr Paul-Euclide Toussaint**  
MD for hosting the team.

**Mr Claude Bonivert**  
for coordinating and supporting ISHI’s mission to Cap Haitian.

**Nurse Marie Michele Sidney**  
for an incredible effort to help care for all the patients, for coordinating ISHI’s work with HCBH and for supporting all the daily efforts of the mission.

**Melanie Halpern**  
for helping coordinate the permission efforts.

# EBOLA IN SIERRA LEONE

The current Ebola virus outbreak affected an estimated 13,500 people and caused almost 4,000 deaths in Sierra Leone since it was first reported in May 2014. At its peak, Sierra Leone saw up to 450 new cases a week – gravely overwhelming the nation’s healthcare system.

While ISHI had to cancel its fourth planned mission to Sierra Leone in 2014, we maintained regular contact with Kabala Hospital and Mr Peter Konteh, previous District Chair of the Koinadugu District in Sierra Leone. Less than 120 cases of Ebola were officially registered in the Koinadugu District, and luckily none of which reached Kabala, the site of our prior ISHI missions. ISHI continued its humanitarian efforts in Sierra Leone by sending 10 barrels of personal protective equipment and basic medical supplies to the Koinadugu District Ebola Task Force. Despite many obstacles we received confirmation that those barrels did make it!

ISHI wishes the people of Sierra Leone continued strength in their efforts against the Ebola outbreak and looks forward to resuming surgical missions to Sierra Leone.



# OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

## **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: HAROLD SCHELL, MD, FACS**

Harold is a general surgeon who joined ISHI on its second mission to Ghana shortly following his retirement. Harold's principle goal was to work as intensely as his younger mission colleagues; and he succeeded. ISHI quickly began to reap the benefits of having a tenured surgeon on the team – he mentored younger team members and reassured patients and their families with his gentle professional manner – all the while strengthening team morale.

Since his return from Ghana, Harold reports that life at home has been a bit different -

"I experienced a great deal of satisfaction from contributing to such a proud and productive endeavor as ISHI Ghana. Retirement is a difficult event for a once-fully-engaged surgeon. I am extremely grateful to the ISHI leadership for this opportunity."

Reflecting on the mission, Harold remarks "The people of Ghana whom we cared for were remarkably friendly and upbeat despite extreme poverty and hardship...the surgery needs throughout the continent are enormous and by necessity, of low priority in comparison to their need for economic and humanitarian survival."

## **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: CHRISTINE MAU, MD – NJMS ISHI CLUB CO-PRESIDENT/CO-FOUNDER**

Christine was one of the three NJMS medical students to participate in ISHI missions this year, joining the ISHI team to Haiti in November. Her involvement in ISHI, however, began 2 years earlier when she and fellow student Chris Ojeda started the ISHI Club at Rutgers-NJMS. Her enthusiasm for ISHI and global surgery made the ISHI Club one of the most attended on campus. Over the years Christine led several ISHI Club fundraisers – collecting donations to ship containers of medical supplies to Ebola-ravaged Sierra Leone, and raising money to send to school young Firamusu, an adolescent girl for whom ISHI provided life-saving surgery, in one of its previous missions to Sierra Leone.

Christine's goal on the ISHI Haiti mission was to assess the feasibility of and learning opportunities for medical students on a humanitarian surgical mission. Christine's "can-do" attitude as well as her ability to motivate and empower the ISHI Club's leadership to get involved in global surgery fosters ISHI's mission to develop future philanthropists and volunteers.

# NON-MISSIONS: BIKE, PARTY (10)

## NON-MISSION ACTIVITIES

### TD 5-BORO BIKE TOUR

The ISHI bike team took to the streets of NYC for the second year running to raise awareness on the magnitude of untreated surgical disease worldwide. A team of five ISHI volunteers biked 40-miles starting in lower Manhattan with the finish line just across the Verrazano Bridge in Staten Island. Thanks to all who supported the ISHI TD 5-Boro Bike Tour Team!

### 5TH ANNUAL ISHI FAMILY PICNIC

Our 5th annual picnic was again held in the beautiful Liberty State Park in Jersey City, NJ. Volunteers collaborated to bring together an unparalleled potluck meal. While the World Cup was underway in Brazil, ISHI hosted a friendly game of soccer "West Africa vs Latin America," which engaged the mission teams in some friendly competition. Volunteers from past ISHI missions and the recently-returned Peru team were on hand to share stories and compare mission experiences.

### END OF YEAR PARTY

As a tribute to our milestone year, the ISHI year-end party was a special celebration for ISHI family, friends, volunteers, and fans alike. Thanks to Deyse Ribau, our event was held at an elegant banquet hall and was filled with laughter, prizes, and fanfare. The capstone of the evening came when Dr. Sifri presented the mission service awards, including special pins for dedicated volunteers who have been on five or more missions.



# US FINANCES

	2013	2014
<b>Statement of Activities</b>		
<b>Public Support and Revenues</b>		
Corporate Donations	\$5,908	\$4,097
Individual Donations	\$14,197	\$7,391
Volunteers Donations	\$46,360	\$43,075
<b>Total public support and revenues</b>	<b>\$66,465</b>	<b>\$54,563</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Administrative	\$80	\$1,033
Fundraising activities	\$500	
Mission Expenses	\$52,321	\$71,814
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$52,900</b>	<b>\$72,847</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$13,565</b>	<b>\$(18,283)</b>
<b>Net assets Beginning of year</b>	<b>\$27,481</b>	<b>\$41,046</b>
<b>Net assets End of Year</b>	<b>\$41,046</b>	<b>\$22,763</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalent	\$41,046	\$22,763
Undeposited Donations		
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$41,046</b>	<b>\$22,763</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Liabilities		
<b>Total liabilities</b>		
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$41,046</b>	<b>\$22,763</b>
<b>Total Liabilities+net assets</b>	<b>\$41,046</b>	<b>\$22,763</b>