



Letter from Ethiopian Surgeon

We recently received this letter from Dr. Getahun Gebregziabher, and want to share it with you because it demonstrates what your support means to surgeons around the world.

Dear SIGN Fracture Care,

I am writing on behalf of Ayder Comprehensive Specialized Hospital and Mekelle General Hospital in Tigray, Ethiopia, to congratulate you on your 25th anniversary. We appreciate the significant role you have played in orthopaedic trauma care in our hospital.

Since 2011, SIGN has been an integral part of our hospital, and we have performed 1,332 SIGN Surgeries.

We are incredibly grateful for your generous donation, which has enabled us to treat complex long-bone fractures and help thousands of

patients who would have otherwise been left disabled and unproductive. Your contribution has made a real difference, and we cannot thank you enough.

Your donation is currently helping many young trauma patients injured in wars, contributing to their physical, socio-economic, and mental well-being.

We hope that SIGN will continue its vision of creating equal opportunities for fracture care worldwide, especially in low- and middle-income countries. We thank you again for your invaluable contribution to the well-being of patients suffering from fractures.

Best regards,

Dr. Getahun



Above: Dr. Getahun with a recovering SIGN Patient.

Below: The orthopaedic team at Mekelle General Hospital.



Advancing Deformity Correction in Kenya

By Elise Gellman

When we landed in Nairobi, Kenya, I was most excited about being on a new continent but left with a great appreciation of orthopaedic care. As a child my understanding of orthopaedic surgery went as far as visiting my father, Richard Gellman, in his clinic, where my sister and I would draw on the whiteboard and play with bone models.

Once we arrived in Maralal to stay with Dr. Daniel Sciuto, we were welcomed by his loving family and served a delicious homemade Italian meal, accompanied by local chapatis and chai tea.

Later that night, I listened as Dr. Sciuto and my father discussed the cases scheduled for the next day. I initially believed this trip would be my father teaching how to use the SIGN Implants. Instead, I got to witness two orthopaedic surgeons from opposite sides of the world in an incredible discourse about deformity correction.

During our two weeks in Maralal, we treated eight patients with Ilizarov external fixators for complex injuries

to their legs. They had arrived over the last year with limb-threatening injuries due to motorcycle crashes, falls carrying heavy loads across rugged terrain, or high velocity gunshot injuries from tribal conflicts over grazing animals.

Dr. Sciuto was managing these injuries with meticulous care and dedication. My father added another pair of skilled hands in the OR and a colleague interested in the challenging techniques of limb salvage with Ilizarov external fixation.

Most of the patients were in various stages of bone transport, a technique that grows new bone by distraction osteogenesis to replace bone loss from their initial injuries or failed attempts at



Dr. Daniel Sciuto is the SIGN Surgeon in Samburu County, Kenya.

open reduction internal fixation that led to infection and bone loss.

The staff at the Samburu County Referral Hospital are dedicated and hard-working. There is wonderful collegiality and friendship that made it a privilege to be welcomed as visitors. The general surgeon and other specialists sacrificed their block time so that we could complete our cases.

(Continued on next page.)



Patients treated for deformity correction in a 2-week period.

(Continued from previous page.)

It is humbling to see what Dr. Sciuto and his wife Yasmine have accomplished in Samburu County of Northern Kenya. Both are employees of the Kenyan Government, which is extremely rare for European or US trained health care providers. Yasmine is a well-respected mid-wife who works long hours while raising two beautiful children, Joshua, 5, and Sofia, 2.

After 10 years working and living in Maralal, Dr. Sciuto and his family are fully integrated into the Samburu community. On the night prior to our departure, we were welcomed into a celebration following the Samburu circumcision ceremony that only happens every 2-3 years.

Dr. Sciuto's work in Maralal has captured the interest of the Kenyan

Orthopaedic Association who have asked him to lead a Bone Transport Workshop this June at their annual meeting in Mombasa. Dr. Sciuto will lead a team of specialists, including my father, Dr. Anthony Maina (a talented Kenyan SIGN Surgeon) and Dr. Kiran Agarwal-Harding from Harvard to assist in the teaching. SIGN will donate the equipment for the course.



Fracture care helps community members fully participate in cultural ceremonies.

In Memoriam

Denzil Miller, co-founder of Sawbones, passed away in January. He and Foss Miller have been a great support to SIGN and the orthopaedic community. We are grateful to Sawbones for generously donating simulated bones for our testing and teaching procedures.

"I first met Denzil around 1984, when he made a Sawbones for the knee project I was working on. He always remembered me and was gracious and very helpful when we first started Acumed." — Randy Huebner, SIGN Board Member

SAWBONES®

FREEWILL

An Easy Way to Make a Will

By Ryan Smith, SIGN Communications Specialist

For many years, my wife and I have said that we need to make a will, and we would talk about who we want to look after our child if something were to happen to us. Those discussions were good and important, but we stumbled over what to do next — how to get those ideas down on paper and into a will. That process felt overwhelming because we didn't know where to start.

But when SIGN partnered with FreeWill, we took advantage of the opportunity to use this free resource to finally create a will document. I started the process by clicking through the pages and entering information that I knew we had already talked about, but also came across some topics that we hadn't considered. Using that framework,

my wife and I were able to talk about those specific issues and determine what we wanted, then I went back into FreeWill and finished the process.

I'm grateful that we were finally able to create a strategic plan for our family, where previously we felt overwhelmed and didn't know where to start.

As we were introduced to FreeWill, our team at SIGN was surprised to learn that only 32% of Americans have a will. Wills can be thought of as a gift to your family. They not only provide guidance on financial matters, but also allow you to control important healthcare decisions and give guidance on caring for your children.

Learn more about how you can use FreeWill's free planning tools at www.signfracturecare.org/ways-to-give

About SIGN

P 509.371.1107
F 509.371.1316
info@signfracturecare.org
signfracturecare.org



SIGN
Meets all 20
BBB Charity
Standards

give.org

See SIGN's privacy policy and state disclosures at signfracturecare.org/privacy



451 Hills Street, Suite B
Richland, WA 99354

Thank You for Supporting SIGN Over 25 Years!

Your partnership has enabled SIGN Surgeons to care for more than **425,000 people** with donated SIGN Implants.

Learn more about SIGN's history and the people you have helped at www.signfracturecare.org/anniversary



Martha, an orphan from Tanzania, received a SIGN Implant in 2011.



In 2001, this woman from Vietnam recovered from a fractured femur and tibia with SIGN Nails.



Nicholas quickly returned to work — walking to 3 different jobs — after SIGN Surgery in 2022.