

# 2019

## Annual Report

**29,177**

**SIGN Surgeries**  
**to heal patients in**  
**developing countries**

### **Our Vision:**

To create equality of fracture care throughout the world.

### **Our Mission:**

To give the injured poor in low- and middle-income countries access to effective orthopaedic care by donating education and implants to surgeons who work in low-resource hospitals.



**10** Programs reporting the  
most **SIGN Surgeries**  
in **2019**

**1,000 Cambodia:** Kossamak Hospital

**627 Pakistan:** Gilani Hospital Complex

**525 Tanzania:** Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute

**515 Tanzania:** Dodoma Regional Referral Hospital

**327 Cambodia:** Friendship Khmer Russian Hospital

**311 Ethiopia:** Soddo Christian Hospital

**307 Cambodia:** Calmette Hospital

**281 Afghanistan:** Central ANA Hospital

**269 Tanzania:** Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital

**266 Kenya:** Tenwek Hospital

# SIGN 2019 Highlights

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Thank you for supporting SIGN for the past 20 years. Your support has helped us transform orthopaedic care in developing countries over the last two decades. The SIGN Family celebrated by looking at the mountain of long bone fracture care we have climbed and looking forward to new mountains and challenges in the years to come.



## Trip to Tanzania

In June, Dr. Zirkle and Jeanne traveled to Tanzania to support the surgical team at Nkoaranga Lutheran Hospital. Dr. Zirkle assisted Dr. Sam Kiwesa in a number of surgeries and taught members of the surgical team at this growing hospital.



# 250,812

patients healed since 1999

## 26 Programs

SIGN is growing! We started SIGN Programs at 22 new hospitals and reestablished SIGN Programs at 4 hospitals that had lapsed reporting, bringing the total to 359 hospitals in 53 low- and middle-income countries.

Many of these new SIGN Programs were started after surgeons graduated from orthopaedic residency at hospitals that partner with SIGN. These surgeons have already learned the SIGN Technique and know how effective SIGN Implants are, so they request a new program when they begin work at a new hospital.



# SIGN Spine - Exploring & Fundraising

SIGN started the process of addressing spine injuries in developing countries with the SIGN Model of educating and equipping local surgeons. Since these are complicated injuries and require specific expertise and recovery plans, SIGN gathered a team of international spine surgery experts to explore how we can provide safe and effective surgery. Through meetings at the SIGN Conference and ongoing communication, we are identifying the best equipment to use and ways to provide effective and appropriate education for surgeons.



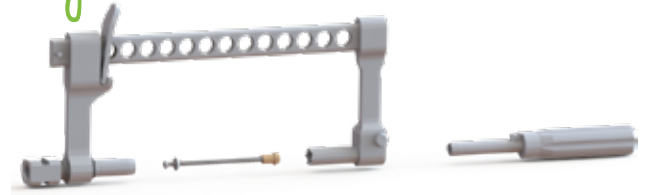
## 2019 SIGN Conference

At the annual SIGN International Orthopaedic Conference, we hosted 155 surgeons from around the world to present their research and teach each other. This conference focuses on the needs of surgeons in developing countries. It is particularly valuable for surgeons to share their experience in overcoming obstacles of operating in low-resource environments.



Procedural learning opportunities like the Bioskills Lab, with sessions led by international experts like Dr. Pierre Woolley, Haiti (pictured), are the highlights of the conference, along with workshops teaching bone deformity correction, the Ponseti method of correcting clubfoot, and more.

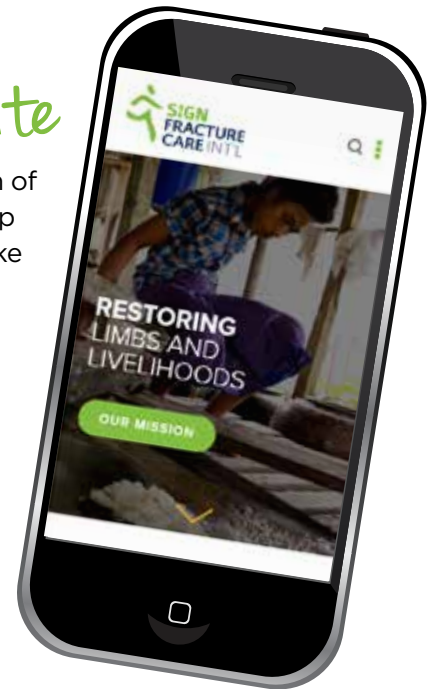
## 1 Patent for Compression System



After years of work from the SIGN Engineering team, SIGN received a United States patent for the Compression System. This device provides compression across a fracture line, making it easier to insert a lag screw, or screw and nut, to stabilize a fracture. This is particularly helpful in fractures in or around knee and ankle joints.

## New Website

We launched a new version of [signfracturecare.org](http://signfracturecare.org) to help surgeons and supporters like you learn more about the organization, see stories of patients you have helped, and even launch your own fundraising campaign for SIGN.



## Regional Conferences

Dr. Richard Gellman, an orthopaedic surgeon and SIGN Board Member from Portland, OR, taught extended training sessions on bone deformity correction in the Philippines, Nigeria, and Kenya.

SIGN Surgeons are organizing regional conferences to teach their fellow surgeons. They also have established a pelvic fracture fellowship program in Ethiopia.





# CEO Message

Our dream is to build up our education and manufacturing capacity to reach 100,000 patients per year by 2030. In 2019, we laid the foundation for that growth. We have started remodeling our facility so that we can scale up to meet our big dream. We are in the process of redesigning the SIGN Surgical Database and digital education tools so that we can incorporate discoveries by SIGN Surgeons, as well as Dr. Zirkle and our engineers.

We are dreaming big, and we are prepared to meet challenges. Even if we are temporarily slowed down by the COVID-19 virus or other obstacles, we will remain committed to reaching our goal for the injured poor. We are grateful to our board, our staff, our donors and especially the SIGN Surgeons who are giving the best orthopaedic care.

Jeanne Dillner  
CEO



**88%** of expenses directly supported SIGN Programs.

## SIGN Financial Info

Note: Audited Financial Info

<b>2019 TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b><u>\$10,216,222</u></b>
<b>Program Services</b>	<b>\$7,623,034</b>
<b>Management &amp; General</b>	<b>428,913</b>
<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>618,148</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>\$8,670,095</u></b>
<b>ENDING NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$11,624,574</u></b>

## SIGN Officers & Board of Directors

Lewis G. Zirkle, MD, President & Founder, Chairman of the Board

Jeanne Dillner, CEO, Secretary/Treasurer

Richard Gellman, MD

Randall Huebner

Stephen Schwartz

Carla Smith, MD, PhD

John Staeheli, MD

David Whitney, MD

Thomas Vasileff, MD

Patrick Yoon, MD

David Shearer, MD



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