

SIGN Supporters Visit Myanmar



Ceremonies honoring visitors show how much community leaders value local hospitals and SIGN.

Earlier this year, two groups of SIGN Supporters visited Myanmar to support Dr. Aung Thein Htay and his teams of surgeons throughout Myanmar. Dr. Aung is a professor and surgeon at Yangon Orthopaedic Hospital. He has been instrumental in raising the level of orthopaedic care throughout the country.

As a professor, he is training the next generation of orthopaedic surgeons. As an orthopaedic surgeon in a very busy hospital, he cares for thousands of patients every year. And, as the SIGN Program Manager, he oversees 17 programs and provides recommendations for new SIGN Programs throughout the country. (Continued on next page.)



Deb and Jeff Ralston deliver instruments for a new SIGN Program at Pyay General Hospital.

Message from CEO

COVID-19 Precautions

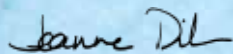
SIGN has been closely monitoring the situation with COVID-19 and we want to provide an update on our current operations.

On March 23, the governor of Washington issued a “Stay at Home, Stay Healthy” order to slow down the spread of COVID-19. This requires all people in the state to remain at home except for essential activity. As a medical device manufacturer, SIGN is considered an essential business, so we can remain open and employees can report to work.

SIGN Management is taking precautions to ensure the health of our staff, and our risk committee met to discuss with managers ways that SIGN can continue providing educational resources and implants to SIGN Surgeons and Patients. All staff whose jobs allow are working remotely. The staff who need to report to work are following handwashing and distancing guidelines in order to stay safe and healthy.

We are still able to operate normally. We are producing instruments and implants, and shipping packages to hospitals as normal. In order to limit the spread of the virus, SIGN Headquarters is closed to visitors and volunteers.

Please visit signfracturecare.org for updates. We hope you all remain healthy and safe.



Jeanne Dillner
CEO

Myanmar: Jim Green's Trip

(Continued from page 1.)

At SIGN Conferences over many years, Dr. Aung has developed relationships with Jim Green, Drs. Jeff and Deb Ralston, and many others. Those relationships were the basis for their visits to Myanmar, where they brought replacement implants in their luggage and assisted local surgeons in procedures. Upon returning home, they help SIGN Staff understand the challenges faced in the hospitals and communities. The following sections are taken from their reports.

Jim Green

“The Mobile SIGN Program is an interesting solution to needs in Myanmar. If a surgeon in an outlying area has a difficult case, they are able to assign an experienced surgeon to come and do the surgery. This means that a patient does not need to travel to get surgery, and rural surgeons can learn from experts when they visit and perform surgery together.



Jim Green traveled with Dr. Aung and the Mobile SIGN Program.

“They had a situation in Kalay, north of Yangon, and the Mobile SIGN Program was able to send Dr. Aung up to do the case. A 67-year-old woman had a previous hip fracture, which had been fixed with a sliding hip screw. She fell again and broke her distal femur. The fracture was hazardous because it had a twisting pattern and was very close to the femoral artery. But with Dr. Aung taking the case, he was able to get an incredible result.

“It’s a great program. I was surprised that they would send an experienced professor 400 miles away to help a junior colleague.”



When he travels around Myanmar, Dr. Aung holds teaching sessions for local hospital staff, including nurses.

Myanmar: Jeff and Deb Ralston's Trip



A new SIGN Program in Pyay will help patients who previously were cared for through the Mobile SIGN Program.

Jeff and Deb Ralston

"We have made many trips to Myanmar and are very encouraged by the increasing number of high quality cases being performed by local surgeons throughout the country. We have nearly reached our goal of having a SIGN Program in every state/division in Myanmar. We recently returned from Myanmar after delivering instruments and implants to initiate programs in Pyay, in the Bago region, and Dawei, in the Tanintharyi region.

"We find these trips to be very rewarding. We value seeing first-hand the impact that the SIGN Program has had on patients, communities, and local surgeons. We also relish our relationships with the Myanmar surgeons. Dr. Aung is a tireless, selfless man who is strongly committed to SIGN.

"During our visit to Pyay, Dr. Aung and our group made a house call to a local Buddhist nun. This woman sustained a subtrochanteric femur fracture while doing chores at the monastery. She has almost no resources and could not afford to purchase a commercial nail. Dr. Aung traveled 8 hours by bus to perform her SIGN Surgery. She is recovering well. During our house call to the

monastery, the local community prepared a lavish meal to thank Dr. Aung for his generous service to this humble nun. Because of the establishment of a SIGN Program in Pyay, local surgeons will be able to perform these procedures, making trips by Dr. Aung unnecessary.

"When we travel to local hospitals to deliver SIGN Implants and Instruments, the hospital administrator officially accepts the donation. These small gifting ceremonies emphasize the importance to the hospital and community. Dr. Aung also brings supplies needed at the local hospital and teaches about new procedures, like negative pressure wound therapy. The sessions we saw were well attended by eager nursing students."



● SIGN Programs in Myanmar



Dr. Aung reviews the x-ray of a nun during a follow-up appointment.

Save the Dates

2020 SIGN
INTERNATIONAL ORTHOPAEDIC
CONFERENCE
September 2020

A Night in Monte Carlo

Portland Benefit

October 3

At the Exclusive
Multnomah Athletic Club

Implanting Hope
The Best is Yet to Come

A Night to Benefit
SIGN Fracture Care

Tri-Cities Benefit
Friday, October 23

Three Rivers
Convention Center



451 Hills Street, Suite B
Richland, WA 99354
P: (509) 371-1107
F: (509) 371-1316
info@signfracturecare.org
signfracturecare.org









2020 SIGN Conference

is **GOING DIGITAL**

COVID-19 travel limitations have prompted us to move the live conference to digital for 2020. We are planning an array of relevant digital educational opportunities for an even larger audience of SIGN Surgeons across the globe.

Look for more details about the digital conference on [thehub](#) and at www.signfracturecare.org



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