

ORTHOPAEDIC TRAUMA

ROOM

15



Striving to Provide Effective Care

In this newsletter, we're highlighting some doctors who were not originally trained as orthopaedic specialists, but who have gone above and beyond their call of duty to learn SIGN Surgery and provide the best possible care for their patients.

In many developing countries, and especially in rural areas, there are not enough surgeons. In these rural communities, people are still injured by traffic accidents, falls, and other trauma. When they arrive at their local hospital, they need the same care to heal from their injury and prevent disability as anywhere in the world. The SIGN Mission is to provide equality of fracture care throughout the world, and that means we need to provide effective care for these people.

When these rural doctors learn about SIGN and seek us out, we support them by providing hands-on training, usually provided by a SIGN Surgeon in their country, to ensure they have the knowledge and facilities to safely perform orthopaedic surgery. The SIGN System of instruments and implants is designed in a way that non-orthopaedic specialists can learn and perform effective surgery to provide optimum care for their patients, even in rural clinics. Follow-up reports on the SIGN Database indicate that their surgery is well done.

Dr. Sciuto is able to perform orthopaedic surgery because of donated SIGN Instruments and Implants.

Dr. Kalbassou Doubassou

Guinebor II Hospital, Chad

Dr. Doubassou first learned to perform SIGN Surgeries while completing



Dr. Doubassou is the hospital director and surgeon for Guinebor II Hospital.

his residency in Cameroon. He was excited whenever he got a chance to work with an orthopaedic surgeon. He joined the staff at Guinebor II, a mission hospital in Chad, in 2016 and met Dr. James Appel, a visiting orthopaedic surgeon from the US. Dr. Appel recommended that SIGN start a program at Guinebor, and he continues to provide education and support.

“Many are suffering without solutions,” Dr. Doubassou says. “SIGN is giving solutions to those who are helpless. I’m happy to participate in that great work.”



Dr. Daniel Sciuto

Samburu County Referral Hospital, Kenya

Dr. Sciuto arrived at Samburu County Referral Hospital in 2013 as a physician with specialties in emergency care, tropical medicine, and global health. Samburu is a remote region, and most of the residents are living in poverty and could not afford to travel to another hospital, so Dr. Sciuto learned to care for a wide variety of injuries and illnesses.

“We had no orthopaedic implants in the hospital, and I was witnessing a lot of complex fractures that we could not treat or refer to other hospitals because the Samburu community is extremely poor,” Dr. Sciuto says. “It was extremely frustrating to see these fractures not healed properly, with malunion and deformity, especially when it

comes to children and young people.”

“That is the time when the SIGN Program started, and it changed the hospital life, the life of the patient, and also my life as a doctor,” he says. “The frustration was transformed into passion, due to the incredible impact orthopaedic surgery makes on the patient. Nowadays I can not think of my life as a doctor without orthopaedic surgery activity.”



Dr. Sciuto often travels to patients in their villages for follow-up care.



Mercy, 6, recently healed from a broken leg thanks to a donated SIGN Pediatric Nail.

Dr. Guiseppe Gaido

St. Orsola Hospital Matiri, Kenya

Dr. Gaido came to Kenya as an infectious disease specialist, but quickly realized that his patients needed a wide range of care—from obstetrics to orthopaedics—and he was the only doctor available in his community. He first heard about SIGN from a volunteer surgeon in Sierra Leone and jumped at the chance to learn more.



Dr. Gaido and Dr. Mutwiri at the annual SIGN Conference.

“The main reason for learning orthopaedic surgery for me was the consideration of the huge need for patients who could not afford the costs of surgery anywhere else,” Dr. Gaido says. “Many of them were simply put in casts and never healed. Others were in traction for many months and still they did not really heal.”

With training and donated instruments and implants from SIGN, and additional training from an orthopaedic surgeon from Italy, Dr. Gaido began



Dr. Gaido has quickly become one of the most prolific SIGN Surgeons.

performing SIGN Surgery in 2017.

“SIGN came as a blessing from God and has made my hospital a referral center for traumatology and fractures. We have helped so many people to go back to their lives through the SIGN Nails.”

Dr. Jocelyn Mutwiri

Cottolengo Mission Hospital & COSECSA, Kenya

After finishing her medical degree, Dr. Mutwiri completed a one-year internship in a surgery department. She became interested in orthopaedic surgery and learned from mentor surgeons. She began working at Cottolengo Mission Hospital, with



During her orthopaedic residency, Dr. Mutwiri presents case information to her colleagues.

Dr. Gaido, where she first encountered SIGN Surgery.

“The SIGN Program was life-changing for me,” Dr. Mutwiri says. “SIGN enabled us to operate on our patients without turning them away. Being part of the SIGN Family made my interest in orthopaedic surgery grow so much.”

Dr. Zirkle and her mentors encouraged Dr. Mutwiri to pursue additional training, but she initially resisted because of the people she was able to help each day. As she saw more complicated cases, she realized further education would enable her to care for more people. She is currently in the third year of a five-year orthopaedic program at COSECSA.



Drs. Mutwiri and Gaido cared for Evans at age 4. He is now a healthy 6-year-old and is back in school.

Save the Dates



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Contact SIGN 
P: (509) 371-1107
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2020,
a great year to
match!