

Lasting Impact of SIGN Surgery

Juliet Atai had SIGN Surgery five years ago. Back in 2016, she was riding in a bus that crashed on the highway near Kumi, Uganda. She had a broken femur and a crushed hand and was taken to a local hospital. The next day she transferred to Kumi Orthopaedic center, which has a SIGN Program.

Dr. John Ekure performed SIGN Surgery, and Juliet was able to walk with support 24 hours after surgery and returned home a few days later. "I had to keep practicing how to walk and how to squat," she recalls during a recent video chat. "If I ever had an issue, I would call Dr. Ekure."

She returned to her work at a travel agency a few months later, where she manages business travel for clients.

She and her daughter have done some travelling of their own since the accident, to western Uganda and even to see the pyramids in Egypt.

"I'm very happy with my leg," Juliet says. "I can walk well, I can jog, I can kneel down, I can squat. I'm living my life normally." She then demonstrated each of those actions, including jumping up from a squat position.

"Thank you so much, SIGN, for the implant. When it's there, the leg is stronger," Juliet says. "I feel like I didn't get in an accident."

Thank you for helping Juliet, and more than 350,000 people like her, by donating SIGN Implants. You can help the next person injured in a traffic accident quickly recover by donating with the enclosed form or going to signfracturecare.org/donate

Juliet, shown here the day after SIGN Surgery, has returned to a full and busy life.



Performing “Miracles” in Uganda

Dr. John Ekure is a Trauma Healer in Uganda. He studied medicine at Makerere University in Kampala. His home community, Kumi, rallied together to support his education following the death of his mother, a beloved midwife.

Upon completing his training, he returned to Kumi to give back to the community that supported him. He founded Kumi Orthopaedic Center. Since 2010, Dr. Ekure and his team have helped more than 907 people heal from fractures with SIGN Surgery, including Juliet Atai (see cover).

Orthopaedic Care in Uganda

When Dr. Ekure first started, he was one of the only orthopaedic surgeons operating in Uganda. But with his leadership and guidance, he is helping to expand care in his home community and throughout the country.

“We started very few, as orthopaedic surgeons in Uganda. In 10 years, we have been able to more than quadruple the number of surgeons,”

Dr. Ekure says. “We still need further training. Implants are hard to come by. We are still relying on SIGN for most of our trauma surgery.”

Many people think that we perform miracles here at Kumi Orthopaedic Center. Thanks to SIGN, because the nail itself has given us a good name.
— Dr. John Ekure

Expanding Care through Education

Dr. Ekure says that the training he received through SIGN Conferences and online Trauma Sessions have been a valuable supplement to his education. In particular, the trainings on pelvic fractures have enabled his team to provide effective care for patients who would have gone untreated.

At Bioskills Lab sessions at the SIGN Conference, he also learned to use muscle flaps to cover exposed bones in open fracture injuries. “You would be able to stabilize the bones, but you would not know how to cover the bone and keep it healthy,” he says. “It helps many patients who would otherwise lose their limbs.”

Performing Miracles

“Many people think that we perform miracles here at Kumi Orthopaedic Center. Thanks to SIGN, because the nail itself has given us a good name,” Dr. Ekure says. “They know the old way that we used to treat fractures, they would spend weeks and months in the hospital and would end up with malunions, short legs, or limps. But now they walk out without limp, spend a short time in hospital, and move back to their homes. They think it is a miracle. So thank you so much to SIGN and the people that support SIGN.”

See more from Dr. Ekure and learn how SIGN Surgeons are caring for people injured in traffic accidents and other trauma in Trauma Healers, a documentary airing now on PBS stations across the United States.



Dr. John Ekure founded Kumi Orthopaedic Center in his hometown and has helped train surgeons across Uganda.

Medical Mentorship: Dr. Norgrove Penny

Dr. Norgrove Penny was born in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), where his father was a missionary doctor. After starting practice as an orthopaedic surgeon in Victoria, Canada, he spent one month each year in Uganda, helping children disabled by polio, bone deformities, rickets, and clubfoot.

Discovering SIGN

Throughout his travels, he met surgeons who were using SIGN Implants and was so impressed that he contacted Dr. Zirkle. As they talked, Dr. Zirkle shared that whenever he travelled to teach about SIGN, he found doctors who were using the Ponseti Method to correct clubfoot, a non-surgical procedure that Dr. Penny teaches.

The pair agreed to work together, and now Dr. Penny teaches the Ponseti method every other year at the SIGN Conference and has become a mentor to many surgeons.

Mentoring Dr. Ekure

Dr. Penny met Dr. John Ekure in 2003 and helped him through his orthopaedic residency. "Dr. Penny is my mentor, friend, and teacher," says Dr. Ekure. "He trained me during his work in Uganda with children who had disabilities. He inspired me to become an orthopaedic surgeon."

Dr. Penny has inspired and equipped surgeons all around the globe and



Dr. Penny and Dr. Ekure at the SIGN Conference.

many, like Dr. Ekure, are passing along what they have learned to their fellow surgeons, which further increases the capacity of orthopaedic care throughout the world.

Watch a bonus video from Trauma Healers, in which Dr. Norgrove Penny shares how impressed he is with surgeons in low-income countries, at signfracturecare.org/traumahealers

Dr. Penny leads hands-on courses in the Ponseti Method of correcting club foot.



Donate Stock to SIGN

With the stock market at record highs, now is a great time to donate shares to SIGN. If you have stock that you have owned for over one year, you will not be required to pay capital gains taxes on it, while SIGN will receive the

full value of the stock and your gift amount is the fair market value. Consult your financial advisor to see how donating stock can help create tax advantages.

We've made donating stock easier than ever! A new page on our

website gives all the information and forms you need to make the donation through your broker and get tax receipts from SIGN.

Learn more and give now at signfracturecare.org/stock-donation



SIGN on Coffee with Karl

Jeanne Dillner, SIGN CEO, and Sean Bradley, SIGN Production Manager, will be joining Karl Dye, the CEO and President of TRIDEC, for a conversation on Facebook Live.

Friday, July 9 at 9:00am PDT on the Tridec Facebook page or on Zoom



How You've Helped This Year...

As of May 2021

14,575
Patients Healed

16 SIGN
Programs Started

174 Hospitals
received implants

44 Countries
have been sent
shipments

4 SIGN Trauma
Session Webinars

Contact SIGN

P 509.371.1107

F 509.371.1316

info@signfracturecare.org

signfracturecare.org



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

TRAUMA HEALERS

SAVING LIVES, LIMBS AND LIVELIHOODS IN LOW RESOURCE COUNTRIES

A Documentary Featuring
SIGN Fracture Care
is airing now on **PBS** stations

See trailers, watch bonus footage, and find when Trauma Healers is playing near you at signfracturecare.org/traumahealers

On demand streaming will be available soon through PBS Passport.

