

# SIGN Surgery Restores Mobility

By Ryan Smith, SIGN Communication Specialist

SIGN Surgery does more than restore an injured limb and prevent disability. It enables an injured person to quickly recover and return to their normal activities. Helping a person get back to work and school keeps their family from sliding further into poverty, spreading the benefits of one surgery throughout a family and community.

One recent SIGN Patient is Sophan, a 57-year-old from Cambodia. She was in a traffic accident that left her with fractured bones in her lower left leg. Her family immediately took Sophan to the closest hospital. Because Svay Rieng Referral Hospital has a SIGN Program, the medical

team there knew exactly how to care for Sophan's injuries and had the supplies they needed on hand.

After a few days of caring for muscle injuries and ensuring there was no infection, surgeons used a SIGN Nail to stabilize Sophan's fractured tibia. The day after surgery, she was able to stand and walk with support.

Just one month after her injury, Sophan walked into the hospital for her follow-up appointment. She was able to perform SIGN's squat and smile pose.

This position puts stress on the injury site, and when a pa-

tient is able to successfully squat it shows that the bone is healing and the patient's mobility is restored. When the patient is able to smile in this position, it shows that they are pain free.

Sophan's x-rays show that her bones are still healing, but she has returned to full function. With the support of a SIGN Nail, talented surgeons, and her family, Sophan is on the road to full recovery from a severe fracture.

**You can help the next person with a bone fracture get the care they need by donating today. Use the enclosed form or go to [signfracturecare.org/donate](https://signfracturecare.org/donate)**



**The SIGN squat and smile pose shows that a patient has regained strength and mobility after a bone fracture.**



# Hands-on Education at the SIGN Conference

The SIGN Conference is our busiest and most energizing week of the year. It's a time to gather together, connect with old and new friends, and learn from each other. This October, we will be hosting around 70 SIGN Surgeons at our headquarters in Richland.

The conference will be immediately followed by the Surgical Management and Reconstructive Training (SMART) Course, led by our partner the Institute for Global Orthopaedics and Traumatology (IGOT). In previous years, this training has been held in San Francisco, but this year it will be at our facility, starting the day after the SIGN Conference. This change cuts down on travel and expenses, making better use of surgeons' time and energy.

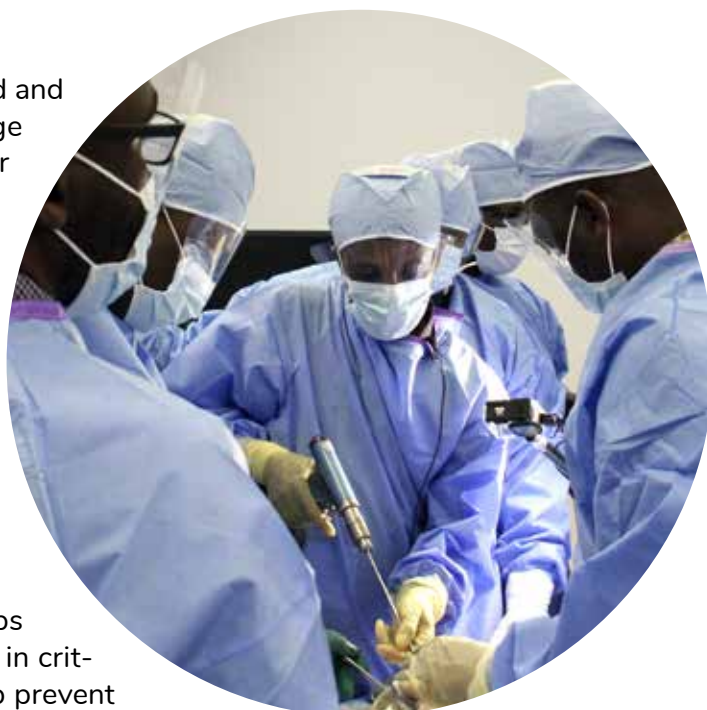
SIGN's Bioskills Lab facility enables us to host hands-on learning using donated human tissue, or cadavers. During the conference, surgeons will hear lectures about treating elbow fractures, ankle fractures, and more. Later that same day, they will be in the Bioskills Lab practicing that procedure on human tissue. Combining lectures with hands-on practice is a proven and effective method of teaching. It helps surgeons retain

what they have learned and pass on that knowledge and experience to their colleagues when they return home.

The SMART Course builds on concepts learned during the SIGN Conference, teaching surgeons muscle flap procedures that use muscles to cover open areas of the bone in severe cases. This procedure helps maintain blood supply in critical areas and can help prevent infections.

In many countries, bioskills sessions are not available to surgeons, so it is critical that we provide this opportunity to gain hands-on experience with new procedures in a realistic surgical environment. The lab sessions also encourage surgeons to work together with colleagues around the world.

SIGN Engineers help run these Bioskills sessions, and they find the feedback from surgeons using SIGN Instruments invaluable for refining products and procedures, as well as identifying issues that new products



**SIGN Surgeons learn new procedures and practice them together in the Bioskills Lab.**

could address. As with the rest of the SIGN Conference, SIGN Surgeons from around the world are the faculty and provide the majority of the teaching in these sessions.

**You can help SIGN Surgeons attend the conference by providing scholarships. Donate today using the included form or go to [signfracturecare.org/scholarship](https://signfracturecare.org/scholarship)**



# Ways to Give Strategically

Every donation to SIGN helps patients heal from traumatic injuries and get back on their feet after a fracture. But a few ways to give can also help you — the donor. Check with your CPA or financial planner to see which of these tools may work for you.

## Donor Advised Funds

Many donors have established a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) to help them plan out their charitable giving. A DAF is a charitable investment account that makes it easy to dedicate and manage funds for SIGN and other nonprofit organizations. By creating a DAF, you, your family, or your businesses make an irrevocable gift to a public charity that sponsors a donor-advised fund program, which can be claimed as an immediate tax deduction. Learn more at [signfracturecare.org/daf](http://signfracturecare.org/daf)



## IRA Donations

If you are age 70 1/2 or older, check



your IRA account directly to SIGN.



## Stocks and Bonds



When you donate stocks and bonds to SIGN, the total value of your stock can be tax-deductible, so you may not have to pay capital gains on the appreciation. Find the 2-step process for donating stocks at [signfracturecare.org/stock-donation](http://signfracturecare.org/stock-donation)

## Matching Campaigns

A few times per year, SIGN Benefactors will match funds donated, doubling your impact. The next planned matching campaign will be in October, surrounding our Tri-Cities benefit event.

Donations from DAFs, IRAs and others can take a while to process, but we are happy to include these in our matching campaigns. Please email [lori.maier@signfracturecare.org](mailto:lori.maier@signfracturecare.org) when you initiate your donation, and we will make a note to include your gift in the matching campaign when we receive it.

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*give*  
**BIGGER**



*Thank you*

for helping us reach the goal of raising \$50,000, which was matched to double your impact.





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**How You've  
Helped This  
Year Through...**

**April 2023**

**9,160**

**Patients Healed**

**6 SIGN**

**Programs Started**

**159**

**Hospitals  
received implants**

**44**

**Countries  
have been sent  
shipments**

**2**

**SIGN Trauma  
Session Webinars**

*Empower a Surgeon with a*  
**Scholarship for the**  
2023 **SIGN** Conference

**Contact SIGN**

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