



Dr. Dickson teaches residents during a surgery at Parirenyatwa Hospital in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Education and Inspiration

By Kyle Dickson, MD

Kyle Dickson, MD, is a world-renowned surgeon for pelvic and acetabular fractures. He travels to teach at hospitals in developing countries every year. Many SIGN Surgeons report that he is one of the best teachers who has visited their hospitals, because he not only teaches facts and skills, but he teaches and models a learning attitude. Dr. Dickson recently traveled to Parirenyatwa Hospital in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Dr. Akimu Mageza was an awesome host and a wonderful friend. I often

get credit for mentoring up-and-coming experts in acetabular and pelvis injuries, but the true superstars are those who dedicate their lives to the acetabular and pelvic patients in their country—Akimu is no exception. I've met him four times and looked at many of his cases. I've enjoyed watching his dedicated progress and have been inspired by his attention to detail and continued attitude towards seeking a perfect reduction. He reminded me of the first time we met and reported that he had completed (*continued on next page*)



★ Parirenyatwa Hospital,
Harare, Zimbabwe

● Other SIGN Programs in Zimbabwe

Education and Inspiration *(continued from front page)*

my arduous task, “You do not know anything about acetabular fractures until you have read Letournel’s book three times.” I have been the one blessed by our friendship.

Also, Dr. Lewis Zirkle never gets enough credit for finding these priceless gems of people for me

to work with. I’ve been traveling, representing SIGN for many years all around the world, and every year I ask Lew where he wants me to go. He is 20 for 20 in sending me to great people and surgeons who become pillars for their country. Dr. Akimu Mageza is added to the list.

Part of the attraction with traveling with SIGN is the enthusiasm of the residents and staff. I gave five hours of lecture and felt like they wanted more. I operated on a six-week-old transverse posterior wall fracture dislocation, and there were four rows of students, residents, and staff trying to observe to make themselves better. This enthusiasm, unfortunately, is missing in most residents in the US, but is infectious to me, and I cannot be more grateful for the people of Parirenyatwa Hospital, University of Zimbabwe Medical School.

Something I had not done on my previous SIGN trips was to go to a clinic. I would meet the patients on rounds and in the pre-op area, but spend most of my time in the operating room. The clinic visits reinforced how impactful SIGN is for patients with long bone fractures. Clinic taught me how many patients with excruciating bone-on-bone joint arthritis still need help. These patients have debilitating pain for years and never can afford an implant—a situation that would never happen in the United States. *(Continued on next page).*



Concerned family members fill the waiting room at Parirenyatwa Hospital, because there is no room for them in the wards.



Dr. Dickson (right) gave hours of lectures for the hospital staff, then guided them through hands-on procedures.

Education and Inspiration

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Cardinal Leon Joseph Suenens said, "Happy are those who dream dreams and are willing to pay the price to make those dreams come true." Akimu Mageza emulates this statement. Although he calls me his mentor and tells me how much he has learned from me, he has taught me and reinforced the idea that "inspiration is 99% perspiration."



Parirenyatwa staff performed surgeries to gain experience, with Dr. Dickson providing further teaching.

Dr. Akimu Mageza

Dr. Mageza has been a SIGN Surgeon at Parirenyatwa Hospital since the SIGN Program started in 2013. The hospital is the largest in Zimbabwe, and is located in the capital city of Harare, Zimbabwe. Since 2013, they have helped 623 patients with SIGN Implants.

Dr. Mageza is a very good SIGN Surgeon, and SIGN has helped him pursue his interest in caring for people with pelvic fractures. Through visits from surgeons like Dr. Dickson and ongoing mentorship, his expertise in this area is growing, and he is now teaching his fellow surgeons. Dr. Mageza was one of the instructors in the Bioskills Lab session on pelvic fractures at the 2019 SIGN Conference, where he was also honored as the AO Alliance SIGN Fellow.



Dr. Mageza is passing along what he learns from Dr. Dickson and other mentors to the residents at Parirenyatwa.

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