

Immediate and Effective Care

By Ryan Smith, SIGN Communications Specialist

With the right education and the right equipment, surgeons can achieve remarkable results. Your support of SIGN Surgeons around the world enables them to provide immediate and effective care for patients with fractures.

Chan received SIGN Surgery just 2 hours after a traffic accident, and she is back on her feet and healthy one month later.

One recent patient, Chan, was injured in a traffic accident in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. When she was unable to stand, her family rushed her to Kossamak Hospital. The doctors immediately recognized that Chan had a fractured tibia and took her to the operating room.

Just two hours after her accident, Chan was receiving a SIGN Fin Nail to stabilize her bone. The team of SIGN Surgeons worked quickly, and the whole surgery was finished in less than one hour.

Chan was able to walk with crutches the day after her accident, and she returned home five days later.

At her checkup appointment one month after surgery, Chan is able to perform the SIGN Squat and Smile, her x-rays show that her bone is healing, and she is on the path to a full recovery.

With support from SIGN's global family of surgeons and supporters, the orthopaedic team at Kossamak Hospital is fulfilling the SIGN Model. Because they have the orthopaedic education and the instruments and implants to put their knowledge into action, they are providing healing surgery for the people in their community.

You can help the next person in need by donating a SIGN Implant with the included form or at signfracturecare.org/donate



Dedicated, Compassionate Surgeons in Cambodia

By Dr. Jeff Cross

Just after graduating residency, I headed to Cambodia for a couple weeks on my second trip with SIGN. This organization's commitment to sustainability through the pairing of implants with education is something that deeply resonates with me, and I arrived in Phnom Penh hoping to learn how Dr. Duong Bunn, Dr. Dalik Ly, and the orthopaedic team at Kossamak Hospital have successfully grown their SIGN Program into the busiest in the world, performing 1,006 SIGN Surgeries last year.

What I found was no surprise: a department of committed, selfless surgeons and residents who have revolutionized their country's treatment of long bone fractures using SIGN Implants. I was welcomed in with open arms and given the opportunity to be a "SIGN Fellow", soaking up as much knowledge of their operative technique, surgical logistics, follow-up care, and adoption history as I could.

SIGN seems to spread like wildfire throughout a region, but I believe the interest and zeal of the orthopaedists who make that a reality is often overlooked. Bringing programs to fruition requires surgeons to take time off work to travel overseas, navigate language barriers, negotiate with hospitals and local government, and teach an entirely new system of

fracture care to surgeons both locally and in outlying provinces. They work hours that would make even the most hardened resident flinch, and yet somehow found the time to accomplish all of this.

Dr. Yin told me that he receives permission to perform free surgeries at the clinic on his birthday every year. Certainly not the most traditional birthday celebration, but after an hour of sharing x-rays with each other, it was clear that he and the others are genuinely passionate about what they do. Notably, he shared radiographs of a young man on whom he performed a pro-bono total hip arthroplasty (for horrific post-traumatic arthrosis) and paid for a ceramic femoral head out of his own pocket because "it was the right thing for the patient".

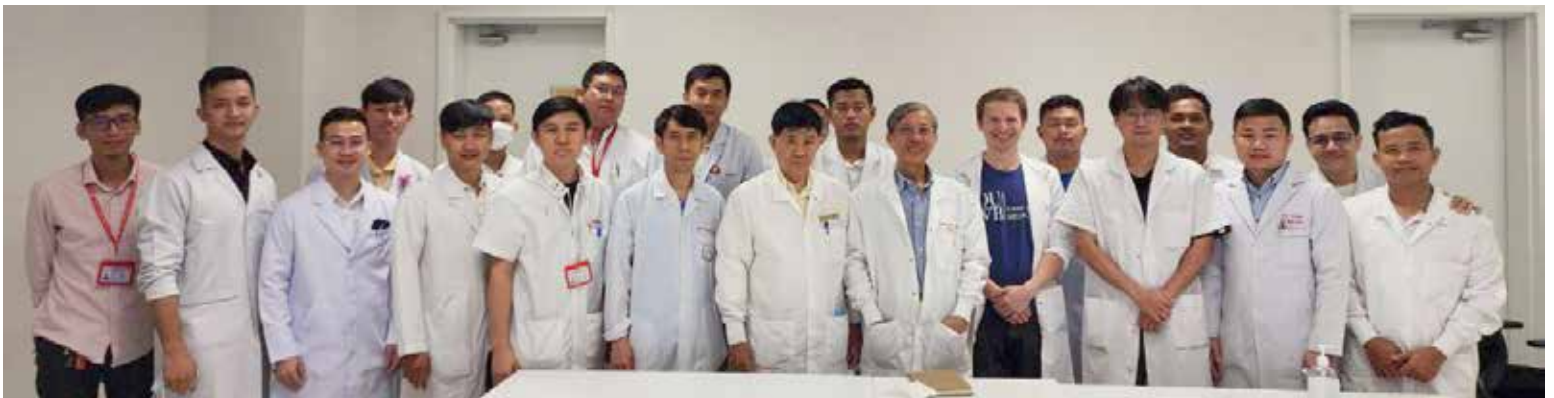
Among these surgeons, there was certainly no deficiency of competence, no scarcity of kindness, and nothing short of an abundance of



Dr. Jeff Cross (left) observes SIGN Surgery at Kossamak Hospital.

dedication to patient care and medical education. Kossamak's physicians possess all the intrinsic qualities of any of the world's foremost centers for orthopaedic excellence, and SIGN products seem to be the missing jig-saw piece that has allowed them to take their work to new heights.

If you ask me what I consider the most memorable and inspiring part of a trip with SIGN, it is, without a doubt, the incredible people that make the work possible. You will always return with a renewed love for orthopaedic surgery.



Dr. Cross (dark blue shirt) visited the orthopaedic team at Kossamak Hospital, which is the busiest SIGN Program in the world.

Laying the Foundation for SIGN Spine

Construction is underway for a dedicated spine care center at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret, Kenya. Building costs were funded with the support of the Indiana University Foundation and individual donors. Thanks to financial contributions from our partners, especially generous multi-year grants from the Ortholndy

Foundation and Medtronic, all the surgical equipment, instruments and implants required for the operating room will be provided as well. Once the construction is complete and the SIGN Spine Surgeon returns from his fellowship at McMaster University in Canada, they will start treating patients with spine injuries next summer, 2024.



Does Your Employer Match Gifts?

As many companies and organizations approach a new fiscal year, now is a great time to re-view your employer's corporate giving policy. **Many companies will match charitable gifts from their employees**—effectively doubling your donation!



Ask your human resources department for a matching gift form or submit via your company's intranet portal. See how you can provide twice as many SIGN Implants to help people with fractures get back on their feet.

Learn more at [signfracturecare.org/companymatch](https://www.signfracturecare.org/companymatch)



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

August 2023

17,979
Patients Healed

17 SIGN
Programs Started

223 Hospitals
received implants

50 Countries
have been sent
shipments

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SIGN
Meets all 20
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See SIGN's privacy policy and state disclosures at signfracturecare.org/privacy

SIGN Homecoming Gala

A Night to

Inspire Healing

Meet 70 SIGN Surgeons



Purchase Tickets Now!

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Social Hour Begins at 5:15pm

Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick, WA