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Trip Report

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Cambodia and Myanmar

The patient wards in hospitals we visited in Myanmar and Cambodia are the same as we saw on our original visits many years ago. The economy is better but unfortunately the poor patients still need help with treating their fractures. We feel privileged to have built capacity to teach and learn from the surgeons in these countries.

The orthopaedic surgeons in each country gathered for celebration of the SIGN 10th anniversary in their country. Surgeons from different hospitals presented their series of SIGN surgery. Results are very good.

In Cambodia, the SIGN Conference was followed by a conference held by surgeons from Australia. These surgeons have been very supportive of the Cambodian orthopaedic surgeons for many years. Their conference was also well attended and focused on elbow fractures, compression syndrome and ex fix techniques.

We operated in each country doing as much surgery as possible. We had a chance to refresh the technique as well as observe that the instruments were well worn and needed replacement—especially in Myanmar. We recognize this will be the case in other programs and this will require further expenditures.

Our trip was enriched by Randy Huebner and Joel Gillard who accompanied us. They're both engineers and looked at the surgery through different filters – “engineering filters”. They recognize many contributions which they can offer SIGN such as new products which can be used in developing countries as well as consideration for setting up biomechanical studies.