Hi Friends of SIGN,

The annual SIGN Conference is quickly approaching. It will be held from Wednesday, September 10 - Saturday, September 13 at SIGN headquarters. The SIGN Conference is a major event for sharing information among SIGN surgeons. The conference provides a venue for SIGN surgeons from developing countries to present their series of patients they have treated and present their ideas about how to care for severe injuries.

This year the underlying theme of the SIGN Conference is "A Beautiful Question" which is described by Warren Berger in A More Beautiful Question. His premise is that the most important aspect of learning is asking the proper question. Computers will never replace man because they can provide answers but cannot ask questions.

SIGN surgeons are still innovating ways to answer the beautiful question; how can we treat more patients with traumatic injuries to keep up with the increasing number of these injuries? There are thirty million people who sustain traumatic injuries each year. Most of these due to road traffic accidents.

We continue to design innovative implants and instruments to treat injuries in developing countries. SIGN is pursuing interactive session between SIGN surgeons on the internet and in conferences. We feel that teaching and learning are synonymous.

We must now look at the efficiency of the hospitals that provide care for the poor. At this year's conference we will begin discussions with an architect and interested SIGN surgeons to develop a short stay trauma center as a model for teaching in Africa. We hope questions raised and the resultant discussions about all aspects of treatment will benefit the many poor people who face disabling injuries from traumatic accidents.

Usually we receive support from commercial implants companies to offset the cost of the conference. The amount of funding directed toward this year's conference expenses has decreased. We are looking for ways to fill this deficit and ask you to consider contributing towards our educational goals. Please read page two to learn how you can support the SIGN Conference.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lewis Zirkle, M.D.
For it is in giving that we receive. —St. Francis of Assisi

**Support the 2014 SIGN Conference**

SIGN surgeons travel from all across the world to attend the annual SIGN conference in Richland, WA. The conference, a four day long event held in September, covers the latest SIGN techniques and orthopaedic practices. Many surgeons who would benefit from attending simply cannot afford to. This is why we need your help! By supporting the conference you are not only helping the surgeons, but the patients that they heal. **This is truly a gift that keeps on giving.**

**Testimonial**

The sponsorship to the SIGN conference provided an opportunity for me to present a paper on the difficult cases I see in my practice in Cameroon as the lone surgeon in the hospital where I work, but most importantly to gain more experience from other surgeons who work in environments similar to mine and are able to achieve much success in these resource limited settings.

I hope such scholarships will continue to be made available in the years ahead, not only to me, but to others so they can benefit from these interactions.

- Henry Ndasi, M.D.
Mutengene Baptist Hospital, Cameroon
SIGN Surgeon since 2007

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIGN Conference Scholarships</th>
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<tr>
<td>Travel Scholarship: $2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four Day Scholarship: $800</td>
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<td>One Day Scholarship: $200</td>
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Name (Please Print): ________________________________
Address*: _______________________________________
Phone: ______-_______-_______
Email: ________________________________

I am a member of: □ Kiwanis □ Rotary □ Lions □ Soroptimist □ Other: ______________

YES! I would like to give a healing gift. Enclosed is my gift of:

□ $50  □ $100  □ $250  □ $500  □ $1,000  □ Other amount ____________

I would like to support the SIGN Conference. Enclosed is my gift of:

□ $200  □ $800  □ $2,000  □ Other amount ____________

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□ My check, payable to “SIGN” is enclosed.
Charge my: □ Visa □ Mastercard □ American Express □ Discover

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