

Local Orthopaedic Company Honored



by **Lida Alikhani**

The Tri-Cities Research District honors one local orthopaedic company for its inventions and advancement in the medical field.

The Surgical Implant Generation Network (SIGN) Fracture Care International was given the Innovation Partner of the Year award.

The non-profit organization creates implants for broken and fractured bone injuries all over the world.

SIGN provides implants to countries that typically don't have X-ray machines, so the doctors use these tools for an accurate measure during surgery.

An implant can stay in an adult human bone forever.

State Senator Sharon Brown and Representative Larry Haler helped hand out the award, each individually thanking SIGN for its efforts.

SIGN's Founder Dr. Lewis Zirkle said it's important to use medical technology available in the United States to help other countries that need it.

"They can't afford implants that can be used in their operating rooms because they do not have the equipment we have here in the U.S.," said Zirkle. "We've had to design all of these instruments and implants so they can be used."

SIGN has provided implants to more than 130,000 patients in 50 countries all over the world.

View the original article at: <http://www.kvewtv.com/article/2014/jul/30/local-orthopaedic-company-honored/>