



# SIGN

FRACTURE CARE  
INTERNATIONAL

JUNE 2018



## SIGN in Bangladesh

*By Chuck Bigger, photojournalist, who traveled to Bangladesh for SIGN*

It was anything but warm in the operating room, yet sweat dripped from the brow of Dr. Faruque Quasem as he found himself embroiled in a particularly difficult surgery.

### Mr. Mian

Lal Mian is like many of the patients Dr. Quasem, an orthopaedic surgeon, treats as the Director of the SIGN Program at Mitford Hospital in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Driven by poverty and ignorance, Mr. Mian first sought the help of a traditional healer and then neglected any further treatment for ten months. By then his broken tibia had developed into a terribly formed fibrous malunion, leaving

his leg badly twisted and him unable to walk without aid. Formerly a day laborer and now unable to work, he had resorted to panhandling to try and support his family of five.

## Treating Difficult Cases

Working out of Bangladesh's oldest operating hospital, Dr. Quasem and the Orthopaedic Department at Mitford have gained a reputation for treating difficult cases like Mr. Mian's because of their use of SIGN Implants. They receive referrals for the most complicated fracture cases, along with revision surgeries of other failed commercially available implant cases from doctors around Bangladesh.

"Here we are doing the revision surgeries very nicely and this is my area of interest," said Dr. Quasem. "The SIGN Nail is far, far better than the hollow commercial nails available from neighboring countries, which are broken easily."

Indeed most of Dr. Quasem's work is revision surgery, revisiting previously failed implant cases and replacing them with SIGN Implants.

It's outpatient clinic day and many of those patients have returned for follow-up appointments. They arrive with varied degrees of mobility depending on the time since their surgery. Some come with an aide,



*Kashmiri was unable to walk for nine years following a traffic accident, but SIGN Surgery by Dr. Quasem restored her mobility.*

some on crutches, and some walk unassisted. One of those Dr. Quasem recalls as his most memorable and tragic case.

## Kashmiri: Memorable Case

Kashmiri has arrived for her check up walking unassisted—something that she never dreamed would be possible until meeting Dr. Quasem. A road traffic accident that broke both her legs had left her bedridden, unable to care for herself and in acute pain for the last nine of her short 40 years. She had sought help from every clinic and hospital in her region of the country all to no avail,

leaving her in despair and her family destitute.

***"It feels like I got a new life, I can move again, I can do everything again. I feel so good."***

***—Kashmiri***

Recalling her first steps after receiving the two SIGN Implants Dr. Quasem said, "That's a miraculous gift for her because she never thought she could walk again. It was a moment to remember, the moment of my career actually." Both the doctor and patient wept at that shared moment of joy.

"It feels like I got a new life," said Kashmiri. "I can move again, I can do everything again. I feel so good."

Mr. Mian and Kashmiri are just two of the 5,000 working poor Bangladeshi fracture patients that have had their lives restored through SIGN Surgery. "SIGN has revolutionized the trauma care system in our country," said Dr. Quasem. "Most of those 5,000 patients have returned to work and are contributing to the national economy, where in the past they would have been disabled and been a burden on society."

***See Kashmiri walk after 9 years of disability. Text KASHMIRI to 41444 to watch the video and give SIGN Surgery.***



*When a patient can squat and smile, they are healed. The pose tests strength and flexibility, and being able to smile indicates that the patient is pain-free.*

# New SIGN Program: Samburu Hospital, Kenya

Thank you for supporting SIGN through the GiveBIG campaign in May. With your generous support, we have started SIGN Programs at three new hospitals, including Samburu County Referral Hospital in rural Kenya.



*The surgical team at Samburu are eager to use SIGN Implants to treat patients in their busy hospital (below).*

Around 80% of Samburu's population is extremely poor and cannot afford to purchase the implants needed for orthopaedic surgery. Most families are pastoralist, raising cattle and other animals. Currently, patients with fractures are treated with plaster casts and have to stay in the hospital for a few months to ensure their fracture heals properly. With SIGN Surgery, patients can be back on their feet in a few days and to their farms within a week. This enables them to protect their livelihood and keeps their family on the path out of poverty.

"I truly believe that SIGN in Samburu will be a revolution," says Dr. Daniel Sciuto, one of the surgeons in Samburu. "The possibility to be treated in our hospital free of charge and to be discharged after a few days will be incredible."



## Thank you!

Your donations of  
**OVER**  
**\$92,500**  
started

**SIGN** Programs at:

1. **Samburu County Referral Hospital, Kenya**
2. **Gweru Provincial Hospital, Zimbabwe**
3. **The Indus Hospital, Pakistan**
4. **And one more program based on review of applications**

give  
**BIG**



# Education that Empowers: SIGN Conference Provides Unique Educational Opportunities For Surgeons

Dr. Rahimullah Hamid is a SIGN Surgeon at Mazar Civil Hospital in Afghanistan. He focuses on orthopaedic care for children. Dr. Hamid took extra training in children's orthopaedic problems that are prevalent in Afghanistan. Pictured here are four young patients whose legs he is straightening so they can walk and run without pain. One of his biggest problems is a lack of implants to treat these patients. The SIGN Pediatric Nail System enables him to treat the broken femurs of children who come to him for care.

Dr. Hamid will be attending this year's SIGN Conference in September to learn more about bone deformity so that he can be better equipped to help patients like these boys return to normal function. This education that Dr. Hamid receives is so important because it makes him a better surgeon, but he also goes home and shares this knowledge with other surgeons, so they too can enhance their skills.

SIGN is passionate about providing as many different educational



*Dr. Hamid uses a variety of treatments, including SIGN Implants and these frames to treat children with deformities.*

opportunities for our SIGN Surgeons as possible. Since Dr. Hamid will be traveling to the United States for the SIGN Conference, he will also take part in a week-long course at IGOT in San Francisco and spend time in Baltimore, Maryland, with Dr. John

Herzenburg, a leader in deformity correction and faculty member at previous SIGN Conferences.

***You can help surgeons like Dr. Hamid attend the SIGN Conference. Please use the attached form or text CONF2018 to 41444.***

**2018 SIGN**  
INTERNATIONAL ORTHOPAEDIC  
**CONFERENCE**



**You** can empower a surgeon with a  
**Scholarship**

**\$200 1-Day Scholarship**

**\$800 Full Conference Scholarship**

**\$2,000 Travel Scholarship**

Your gift helps a surgeon learn and provide more effective care for their patients! Complete the donor card on the back or go to [signfracturecare.org/2018Conference](http://signfracturecare.org/2018Conference)



# 2018 SIGN INTERNATIONAL ORTHOPAEDIC CONFERENCE

The SIGN International Orthopaedic Conference provides a unique educational experience for surgeons. It is the only orthopaedic conference focused on issues faced by surgeons in developing countries. The conference is built around hands-on learning, helping surgeons to develop their practical skills as well as increasing knowledge.

## Cadaver Lab



A cadaver lab provides the closest simulation to a live surgery. Under the guidance of experts from around the globe, SIGN Surgeons are able to experiment with new techniques and procedures—putting what they are learning into practice.

## Deformity Correction



Dr. Richard Gellman leads a course on correcting bone deformities, teaching SIGN Surgeons how to care for patients with disfigured limbs.

## Pelvic Fractures

Many SIGN Surgeons have become experts in specific areas of orthopaedic surgery, such as Dr. Sami Hailu in pelvic fracture surgery. He shares his knowledge and experience by leading a discussion about pelvic fractures.



## SIGN Equipment

SIGN Surgeons work together using SIGN Equipment and simulated bones. The surgeons, who hail from 30 different countries, teach each other techniques for effective and efficient SIGN Surgery.



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## June 2018 Newsletter

Yes!  I want to help with a scholarship!  
 Travel Scholarship \$2,000  
 Full Conference Scholarship \$800  
 1-Day Scholarship \$200  
 Other Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Yes!  I want to give a gift to the general fund for healing.  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Address\*\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ I am a member of Kiwanis

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make this gift in:  
 Honor  Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a personalized card to:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method:

Check enclosed (payable to "SIGN")  
 Charge my:  VISA  MasterCard  
 American Express  Discover Card

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Must have full address if credit card is used\*\*

Buy Tickets Now

# WINE & DINE for SIGN

September 22  
Portland, OR

Portland Art Museum

September 29  
Tri-Cities, WA

Three Rivers Convention Center

## Ticket Purchases

### Text

**PDXSIGN** to **41444** for Portland  
**TCSIGN** to **41444** for Tri-Cities

### Online

[signfracturecare.org/benefit](http://signfracturecare.org/benefit)

**Call (509) 371-1107**

Ask for Angela or April

### Email

[lori.maier@signfracturecare.org](mailto:lori.maier@signfracturecare.org)

## Sponsorship Levels

Interested in becoming a sponsor?

Contact Lori Maier at

[lori.maier@signfracturecare.org](mailto:lori.maier@signfracturecare.org)  
or (509) 371-1107.

## Contact SIGN

P: (509) 371-1107

F: (509) 371-1316

[info@signfracturecare.org](mailto:info@signfracturecare.org)  
[signfracturecare.org](http://signfracturecare.org)



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## New Ways to Connect with SIGN

We are making it easier to donate and connect with SIGN. We're partnering with MobileCause to update our website and enable donations and more from your smartphone. Here's a few new ways you can stay in touch.

**SIGN up to receive updates about opportunities and upcoming events.**

Text **SIGN** to **51555**

**Donate via your mobile phone anytime.** Text **SIGN** to **91999** to give SIGN Surgery

**Purchase tickets to the 2018 Wine & Dine for SIGN Events:**

**Portland on September 22**

Text **PDXSIGN** to **41444**

**Tri-Cities on September 29**

Text **TCSIGN** to **41444**

**Party with a Purpose!**

Invite your friends and family to celebrate special events by donating on your behalf to SIGN Fracture Care!  
Text **PARTY4SIGN** to **71777**

