

Dear Friends,

I am writing to request your support for our Orthopedic Surgical Team mission to the Dominican Republic and the Haitian Relief effort. We just returned from our previously scheduled trip which coincided with the earthquake and fortunately we had appropriate orthopedic equipment and team members to send a team to Jimani on the Haitian border 30 km from the epicenter and join with a Creighton University Surgical team and run 2 of the 4 OR's at a converted clinic. We donated our portable fluoroscan which was the only Xray device at the clinic. The team in Jimani is still treating a considerable number of Haitian patients and will continue for several weeks. The team from Creighton integrated our orthopedic team which included senior med students (one of whom fortunately spoke French) and four experienced Dominican orthopedic residents. They worked side by side with teams from several states and countries. Creighton sent a team down with vast amounts of supplies for the Haitian relief effort and along with the orthopedic supplies from the ILAC Surgery Center where we were located. We were able to care for many patients over several days. These supplies will need to be restocked. Our big need for the future is funding to send a used donated larger fluoroscopy unit so we can deal with orthopedic reconstruction and fracture needs on an ongoing basis. We see both Haitians and Dominicans referred by ILAC (Institute for Latin American Concern) and Jesuit Relief Services at the surgery center in Santiago and provide care for them there and in other local public hospitals.



We work with Dominican surgeons and residents and have been able to furnish a variety of orthopedic and trauma equipment for use at the public hospital and improve the surgical capabilities of the residency program thru continued donations. We thank Smith-Nephew and Stryker for donating arthroscopic equipment. This year at LaVega Juan Bosch Trauma Hospital we did 10 total knee and 7 hip replacements on patients we identified in past years who were severely disabled. We also took care of several Haitian patients evacuated to LaVega from Jimani while we were there. Synthes was kind enough to donate power reamers and drills that we left behind for the on going effort in Jimani . We thank Zimmer, Biomet, and DePuy corporations for their generous donations of implants and instruments. We thank Smith-Nephew and Stryker for donating arthroscopic equipment. We also thank the Sisters of Providence who donated equipment and supplies thru CHUMA – a supply warehouse for used medical equipment. Drs Paul Duwelius of Portland OR, Tom Degan of Edmonds WA , John Tessier of St Louis, Jeremy Stern of N. Dartmouth MA, and John Staeheli of Richland,WA led the surgical teams in caring for the patients this year. Dr Jon Gudman of Portland, OR provided anesthesia services for the LaVega team. Dr Freddie Popitz and Cathy Tavares RNA of Boston, MA led the Anesthesia team at ILAC. Patrick McLaughlin RN of Fairhaven MA, served as our Team Coordinator. We had over 40 team members from all over the USA.

The program is in its seventh year assisting in orthopedic trauma education at Cabral y Baez- a large public hospital in Santiago that sees hundreds of road traffic accident victims who have little resources to pay for care. The residents from this hospital helped

us respond to the relief effort in Jimani. We have been providing free orthopedic implants thru Surgical Implant Generation Network (SIGN) [www.sign-post.org](http://www.sign-post.org) . Over 600 femur and tibia fractures have been treated since we started the program. Several patients from Haiti were evacuated to Cabral Hosp and we were able to help care for them. Fortunately we brought a new supply of SIGN nails that we were able to send to Dr Scott Nelson who was in Port au Prince the day following the quake. He used them with his SIGN set from CURE Hospital and was able to help many patients and he is still in Haiti working there. A donation to SIGN is also suggested – you can do on-line. \$100 buys a nail for a broken femur and allows the patient to be up and walking.

Each ILAC participant pays his own expenses. We ask your support for equipment and supplies that we must purchase for our ongoing project. A gift of \$100.00 provides for the disposable equipment for one patient. We are continuing to provide support to the people of the Dominican Republic and Haiti in Jimani but also to the Haitian people that will find care in other parts of the Dominican Republic that ultimately we will see in Santiago for years to come. They are two countries, one island, and need to be cared for as one people. Your support is appreciated. Any monetary donations or equipment and supplies are welcome. Thank you for kindness and support.

*Please make check payable to:  
Creighton University/ILAC/Ortho*

Donations can be sent to: Creighton University  
ILAC Office Criss III #262  
2500 California Plaza  
Omaha, NE 68178