



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Peter Trafton, MD, FACS Recognized for Commitment to Global Health**

[Washington, DC - April 7, 2015] Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO) is pleased to announce that Peter Trafton, MD, FACS is a recipient of the tenth annual *HVO Golden Apple Award*. As part of its World Health Day observances and in celebration of World Health Worker Week, HVO recognizes the extraordinary contributions of HVO members and volunteers in support of HVO's mission, organization and/or project sites. Each HVO supporter honored with this award has demonstrated a strong commitment to HVO's mission to improve global health through the education, training, and professional development of the health workforce in resource-scarce countries.

Dr. Trafton is an orthopaedic surgeon who joined HVO in 2005. Serving as project director to HVO's orthopaedics project at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) in Kumasi, Dr. Trafton has contributed to the establishment of a post-graduate trauma-training program, which now has five senior residents officially in training. The program is Ghana's second residency site for full qualification in trauma and orthopaedics. Dr. Trafton has served month-long assignments in Ghana each year since 2011, offering training and education to both undergraduate and postgraduate students. In addition to his work with students, he collaborates and advises on-site faculty, training the trainers of the department to advance the quality of teaching and learning at the site. As an HVO project director, he helps recruit and prepare other volunteers to travel to the site as well. Dr. Raphael Kumah-Ametepey, HVO's on-site coordinator at KATH reports, "In Ghana, our department at KATH is the best in trauma care thanks to the contributions of Peter and HVO as a whole."

In addition to his service in Ghana, Dr. Trafton has traveled to HVO projects in Peru and Malawi, served on the Board of Orthopaedics Overseas (a division of HVO), and served as a faculty member for *Teach Travel Learn* - a workshop hosted by HVO in partnership with the American Academy of Orthopaedics. His total volunteer contribution to HVO adds up to more than 156 days of service. In addition, Dr. Trafton has committed countless hours to education material development, curriculum development, professional collaboration, and volunteer-related presentations.

Dr. Trafton is a professor of orthopaedics at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University and attending orthopaedic surgeon at the Rhode Island and Miriam Hospitals in Providence, Rhode Island. He is a member of AO North America Board of Directors and the Board of Directors for the United States Bone and Joint Initiative. He serves on the OTA Humanitarian Committee and as the Executive Editor of *AO Surgery Reference*. He is a member of a number of professional associations including: the American Orthopaedic Association, the Association of Bone and Joint Surgeons, the International Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology, the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma, the

American College of Surgeons, the American Medical Association, the Orthopaedic Trauma Association, the Leroy C. Abbott Society, and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

Dr. Trafton received a Bachelor of Arts in anthropology from Yale College and completed his medical degree at the Harvard Medical School, graduating Cum Laude. He completed his orthopaedic surgery residency at the University of California in San Francisco.

The World Health Organization's Global Health Workforce Alliance reports, "...recent analysis conducted by the Global Health Workforce Alliance and WHO estimated a gap of 7.2 million professional health workers in 2012, set to rise to 12.9 million over the next decades." The recent Ebola outbreak in West Africa has demonstrated the essential role of health workers and strong health systems in responding to health care needs.

The efforts of HVO's *Golden Apple Award* recipients are an integral part of HVO's response to the global shortage of health workers. By highlighting the achievements and contributions of the *Golden Apple Award* recipients, HVO fosters an awareness of global health issues, especially the human resource shortage, which serves as a serious constraint to the delivery of health care around the world.

Since 1950, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the international community have celebrated World Health Day on April 7. The day always focuses on a relevant global health issue and this year's theme is food safety. For more information on World Health Day 2015, visit the [WHO website](#).

World Health Worker Week, celebrated for the third consecutive year, runs from April 5-11. The week serves as an opportunity to mobilize communities, partners, and policy makers in support of health workers around the world. It is a time to celebrate the amazing work that they do and to raise awareness of the challenges they face every day. [Learn more on the Global Health Workforce Alliance website](#).

Health Volunteers Overseas is a nonprofit organization that seeks to improve global health through education of the local health workforce in resource-scarce countries. HVO volunteers build local capacity by providing health care professionals in resource-scarce countries with the knowledge, skills and professional development they need to address the health care needs of their communities. HVO volunteers are trained health care professionals - physicians, nurses, dentists, physical therapists and others - willing to donate their time and expertise to work side-by-side with their colleagues overseas. Since 1986, HVO staff and volunteers have collaborated with a variety of health institutions to design, develop and implement each HVO project, working toward better patient care around the globe in trauma care, child and maternal health, essential surgery, cancer care, rehabilitation, and more. Visit [www.hvousing.org](http://www.hvousing.org) to learn how you can become part of our global health community.

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