



**EVERYONE DESERVES ACCESS TO THE BEST HEALTHCARE AVAILABLE.
OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE MAKING THIS POSSIBLE.**

REPAIRING A LIGHT AND SAVING A LIFE: All in a Day's Work in Roatán

We are excited to share a few updates about our work in Roatán, Honduras! In February, Executive Director Robert Visscher and Program Manager Sarah Fernández travelled with our wonderful longtime lead medical volunteer Dr. Eric Scher and his partner Barbara Stowe, RN, to Roatán. The team brought critical medical supplies—with one item being put to use almost immediately to save a life.

The Public Hospital in Roatán didn't have a working defibrillator or an automated external defibrillator (AED) device to use for life threatening cardiac emergencies so Global Healing purchased an AED with Spanish language communication. Dr. Scher instructed the ER and medical staff in the use of the AED. (Those trained will in turn train new staff.) Our team also brought supplies for intraosseous IV insertion for rapid critical medication and fluid management, and Dr. Scher trained local ER physician Dr. Tony Toro on how to use this critical equipment. The next day, a patient had a cardiac arrest while in the ER, and Dr. Toro utilized his new knowledge and instruments from Global Healing to provide two electrical shocks to the patient while infusing life-saving cardiac medications through an intraosseous line. The patient survived the cardiac arrest, and is doing well after receiving this life-saving treatment.



Last July we introduced you to Joel, our young patient with an iron overload disease secondary to an unstable hemoglobinopathy. During the last trip in February, Dr. Eric Scher met with Joel and his family. Joel's health continues to improve, with increased tolerance of activity and greatly improved breathing. He has been receiving nightly infusions of chelation therapy to remove excess iron from his body. His improvement is related to decreased iron deposition in his vital organs such as his heart and liver. Joel and his family are very pleased with his improved quality of life and brighter outlook for his future. Check out our blog to read all the updates and the original story.

Also during their visit, Robert and Dr. Scher repaired a "bili-light" which is needed for treatment of a newborn with jaundice. And in addition to meeting with social service doctors and clinic staff, Robert and Sarah met with the vice mayor of Roatán, who expressed her full support for our work there. Robert thoroughly enjoyed the experience, saying, **"It was a wonderful trip and opportunity to see the need firsthand, and how Global Healing is working to offer solutions."**

2019 INTERNATIONAL BLOOD SAFETY FORUM



In March 2019 the America's Blood Centers (ABC) and Global Healing International Blood Safety Forum (IBSF) brought together representatives from professional societies, blood centers, for-profit companies, and the U.S. military – to learn and discuss the contributions of each sector in assisting blood systems in low and middle-income countries (LMICs). This one-day meeting featured short presentations followed by constructive, robust discussions among attendees. Preliminary feedback indicates that the Forum achieved its purpose and objectives.

Thank you, John Donnelly, PhD, for your contributions and leadership in the success

of Global Healing and IBSF 2019. Visit our website to read the full report and learn more: globalhealing.org/2019-ibsf/

Contributed by Chris Gresens, Senior Chief Medical Officer, North & West Divisions, Vitalant and Susan Rossmann, MD, PhD, Chief Medical Officer, Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: CAMI

Creating Sustainable Improvements in Patient Care at Vietnam National Children's Hospital



Cami (in dark blue) says, "It was so great to see the staff and families care so much about their kids."

Cami Rutledge loves her job. Having happily transitioned from accounting to nursing 17 years ago, she still finds great joy in her work.

Yet, says Cami, **"having been in the ER a long time, you get a little burned out."** After spending two weeks with Global Healing in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit of Vietnam National Children's Hospital (VNCH) in Hanoi, Cami returned to her job at UCSF with renewed appreciation for her calling.

"The experience totally rejuvenated my love for nursing," Cami said. "I went there wanting to help. That's why I became a nurse."

Volunteers like Cami are crucial to Global Healing's mission to train physicians, nurses, and medical laboratory professionals in lower income countries to implement current best practices for improved patient care. Cami was especially drawn to the teaching aspect of Global Healing.

"I wanted to be involved in an organization that goes into countries that don't have enough resources," Cami says, "and not only provides those needed resources but also empowers the local healthcare professionals to know, do, and teach current best practices. That's how Global Healing creates sustainable improvements in patient care."

In addition to supporting the VNCH in patient care, the Global Healing team held afternoon lectures, linking the topics to the treatment of patients they had seen during morning rounds.

"I had never been around so many people so eager to learn," Cami says. "It was just amazing. And you knew they were going to make the most of what you taught them."

Teaching sessions included skills labs. "Often it's basic stuff that makes a difference," Cami says. "Washing your hands. Turning the patient. Knowing that if you brush an intubated patient's teeth they are less likely to develop pneumonia. These things can get lost in the shuffle when a nurse is caring for eight patients, whereas here in the U.S. we'd have one or two." By training VNCH staff on best practices, Global Healing is helping to elevate the standard of care— not only for patients there now, but for the long term. Cami would love to return to Vietnam for another trip with Global Healing. **"It just took my heart. Giving service fills your cup."**

IMPROVEMENTS IN HAITI

A grant for our work at Hôpital Universitaire de Mirebalais (HUM) in Haiti from the International Council for Commonality in Blood Banking Automation, Inc., (ICCBBA) has strengthened the blood bank techs' awareness of written procedures, quality control and recordkeeping. We've seen a big improvement overall in the blood bank, and expect this positive trend to continue.

By establishing industry standard systems at the blood bank, Global Healing has made it possible for hundreds of patients to receive safe blood. We continue to train the hospital staff to build their skills. Hematologist Dr. Benjamin Rioux-Massé of Hema-Quebec in Montréal, Canada, will be traveling to Haiti later this year to provide additional training classes.



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING GLOBAL HEALING

Ways You Can Help:

***Volunteer-** Locally or internationally

***Donate-** Go to globalhealing.org or use enclosed envelope

***Matching Gifts-** Ask your employer if they match gifts

***Give a Gift of Stock**

***Planned Giving**

***Host Your Own Peer-to-Peer Fundraiser**



Babies and children born with congenital heart conditions in Georgia prior to the JoAnn Medical Center (JAMC) were simply not being diagnosed or were being misdiagnosed. Today, Georgia's pediatric cardiology thrives in a now thoroughly modern infrastructure, with hundreds of babies being diagnosed in the womb and shortly after birth, maximizing their chances of getting the proper treatment and living full and healthy lives.

A MAN ON A MISSION: Bringing Pediatric Cardiac Care to the Republic of Georgia

Countless individuals have contributed to the success of our Global Healing programs. One who has been involved from the beginning is Dr. Irakli Metreveli, who recently shared his memories of the launch of the JoAnn Medical Center in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Dr. Irakli Metreveli had been on a mission to bring pediatric cardiac care to his country ever since he entered medical school in the early 1980s. Still part of the Soviet Union at that time, Georgia had no pediatric cardiothoracic surgery anywhere in the republic. Dr. Metreveli had to travel to Moscow to study in the field after becoming a pediatric surgeon in Georgia.

While visiting the San Francisco Bay Area in 1992, Dr. Metreveli met Jo Ann McGowan, an American who shared his passion for changing children's lives by bringing lifesaving medical care to those born with congenital heart conditions. McGowan founded Global Healing in order to launch the pediatric cardiac center in Tbilisi, which would later be named the JoAnn Medical Center (JAMC) in her honor. It took a year to gather the funding and supplies and many hours of communication. Dr. Metreveli recruited his wife Tamta, a pediatric cardiologist, as well as a friend who was an anesthesiologist and another surgeon to form the medical team of the new program. JAMC opened its doors in 1996.

Babies and children born with congenital heart conditions in Georgia prior to the JAMC were simply not being diagnosed or were being misdiagnosed. "Doctors did not have the diagnostic tools," Metreveli said. Today, Georgia's pediatric cardiology thrives in a now thoroughly modern infrastructure, with hundreds of babies being diagnosed in the womb and shortly after birth, maximizing their chances of getting the proper treatment and living full and healthy lives.

"We decreased the morbidity and mortality of the pediatric population a lot," Dr. Metreveli said. "Before JAMC, almost all of the kids with congenital heart disease—and it's around 700-800 kids per year— were dying. Those kids are not dying anymore."

"It's happiness," Dr. Metreveli continued, "to know you are giving a chance through this program to hundreds of people per year to be alive. When you go to the hospitals in Georgia you really see the impact of this program on the quality of care they are providing right now. And it was possible only because of Global Healing's program." Now retired from surgery, he remains active on the board of JAMC, which has just won a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development to establish the first national-scale comprehensive pediatric oncology-hematology center in Georgia.

Looking Ahead: JAMC Oncology

The groundbreaking ceremony for the JAMC Pediatric Oncology-Hematology Center is scheduled for mid-summer. Currently, a feasibility study is underway to launch a capital campaign in late 2019 to further fund the project. It is estimated that there are over 200 new diagnoses of pediatric cancer in the country of Georgia annually, with no center for treatment. We will create a hospital dedicated to the needs of children with cancer, providing a comprehensive array of services including bone marrow transplantation, actively managing clinical quality, and providing multi-disciplinary patient-centered care specifically tailored to young patients.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Greetings! I hope this finds you well and prosperous in 2019. I am so excited to be part of the Global Healing team! John Donnelly and the Board of Directors have entrusted me with the leadership of this dynamic organization, and the leadership transition has happened seamlessly. We are poised to meet the challenges of our vision for a world where all children and mothers with life-threatening conditions are cared for by local, skilled healthcare professionals.

In February, I had the privilege and honor of traveling with our team, led by our Volunteer Medical Lead Dr. Eric Scher, to the Roatán Volunteer Pediatric Clinic in Honduras. The trip provided me the chance to observe firsthand the extreme need for skilled healthcare professionals and medical supplies. I witnessed the impact Global Healing's training, medical equipment and pediatric outpatient care have on saving lives, now into the second generation of families in Roatán since 2003. **This is possible because of generous donors and volunteers like you.**

Looking ahead, we have numerous activities upcoming this year as noted throughout this newsletter. A major task underway is to plan and start a capital campaign later this year to raise funds for the construction of the Jo Ann Medical Center's (JAMC) Pediatric Oncology Center in Tbilisi, Georgia. Global Healing has already secured 20% of the cost from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and a groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for mid-summer. This project will address the dire need for a pediatric center dedicated to saving the lives of children in the Republic of Georgia and the Caucasus region.

I am honored to be working with you to save the lives of children around the world. Your donations to our general operating budget and to our programs empower Global Healing to provide training and resources to ensure excellent medical care for mothers and children in under-resourced countries around the world. We thank you for your continued support! Please consider increasing your general donation as well as contributing towards our future capital campaign and endowments.

Thank You!!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert".

Robert Visscher



Global Healing said a fond farewell to John Donnelly in March with a dinner celebration honoring his immense contributions as President of Global Healing from 2016-19. The board and staff presented John with gifts of appreciation. We are grateful that John will continue in an advisory capacity as we build out the JAMC Oncology Project.



At the end of 2018 Global Healing celebrated three of our amazing board members: Alice Gruber, Carl Taibl and Arup Roy-Burman. Combined they have given over 38 years of outstanding service to Global Healing. We are so thankful for their dedication. Check out our blog to learn more about each of them and their many impactful contributions!