

In this edition of the Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach Biomedical Bulletin, we are going to share our **KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE WITH HAITI**

Haiti-A-Deeper Understanding

Haiti...for many, the name of this island nation calls to mind visions of extreme poverty, natural disaster and unbridled political corruption. While these descriptors are accurate, respectful collaboration with our brothers and sisters in Haiti requires a deeper understanding. In 1804 Haiti became the first nation to overthrow colonial rule and oppression. Haiti's independence required 13 years of battle and an agreement that burdened the country with massive debt. To prevent future attacks by the French, the new Haitian government borrowed large sums of money (today equivalent to \$20 billion USD) to pay the French for "property" losses. The US government collected interest on these loans through 1947.

Today the Haitian people continue to battle debt, poverty, corruption and disaster. Sixty-two percent of Haitians live on less than \$1.25 per day. Many children die before reaching five years of age. Life expectancy is very low; 62 for males and 64 for females. Haitian healthcare providers, who demonstrate the same strength, resilience, and resourcefulness that won independence in 1804, are committed to better health and greater prosperity for the next generation. Mission Outreach is working with our partners to develop a deeper understanding of the challenges (Peacesigns, 2014). ■

Biomedical collaborative with Centre Hospitalo-Universitaire St. Francois de Sales (CHUSFS)

CHUSFS became one of our first partners to engage in a distance learning collaborative to better understand the biomedical challenges in the hospital.

Renique Lubin, Biomedical Manager at CHUSFS; Maberger Remarais, Assistant Administrative, CHUSFS; Ratish Kumar Mohan, Biomedical Engineering Supervisor at Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach (pictured below l-r) met at St. Francois de Sales. Renique and Ratish opened up communications several months before the trip and outlined activities needed to be accomplished. The investment CHUSFS has made in biomedical engineering can be seen in the inventory process that is currently in place.



Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach (HSMO) created standard operating procedures which were handed over to CHUSFS to augment their quality biomedical program.

- HSMO has agreed to help CHUSFS in setting up their preventive maintenance plan with needed procedures and documentation.
- The collaboration team have set-up monthly follow up calls on repair statuses and technical assistance.
- HSMO and CHUSFS discussed how to improve the logistics on sourcing of parts and consumables for the biomedical equipment.
- Team CHUSFS-HSMO discussed the equipment needs for the upcoming shipment. ■

Contact Ratish Kumar, Biomedical Engineering Supervisor for more information at 217.525.8843 ext. 196 or rkumar@mission-outreach.org

Advancing the Mission

• The need for medical equipment in low-resource countries is in great demand. HSMO is reaching out to you to request that you consider donating used equipment to them so that they can assist those

in dire need in these countries

• Make sure equipment is complete with cords, manuals, cables and accessories

• Communicate with the Mission

Outreach Biomedical Engineer on equipment donation(s) to reduce time gap

• Share current status, service history and system credentials (if applicable) for high-end equipment, i.e. ultrasound, c-arm and x-ray machines

• Inclusion of the Mission Outreach Biomedical Engineer in manufacturer offered service training. ■



A C-Arm that was generously donated by the Hospital Sisters Health System Holy Family Hospital in Greenville, Illinois is now being used in the Brase Clinic in Migori, Kenya

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

(the most requested items by priority):

- Anesthesia machine
- Ultrasound for OB & G
- Portable ultrasound
- Portable digital x-ray
- Vital signs monitor
- Infant warmer
- Microscope
- Oxygen concentrator
- Fetal monitor
- EKG unit
- Electrosurgical unit
- Incubator
- Defibrillator
- Phototherapy light ■