Building Capacity in India

Project HOPE deployed a renowned ophthalmologist, Dr. Bala Ambati, and his resident, Dr. Allison Jarstad, to the NRI Hospital in Vijayawada, India in December 2013. The NRI staff was thrilled to receive this team and the volunteers were able to provide guest lectures, training, and mentorship that truly will make a difference in future surgical procedures at the hospital. Here are some quotes from both volunteers and local surgeons:

“We at the Department of Ophthalmology, both faculty and postgraduates at NRI medical college, are very thankful to you for spending your valuable time for us. Your lectures on phaco-cataract surgery, keratoplasty procedures and suturing techniques are very useful to our daily routine practice. You taught me very specific tips on the procedures I do routinely which will help me ensure better surgical outcomes and save surgical time. You multiplied my interest in keratoplasty with your teaching. We all are very fortunate to have you visit our hospital. We all wish you will visit again in the future as soon as possible.” - Dr. Ranjith K Puligadda, NRI staff

“We very much benefitted from your lectures, especially your step-by-step discussion on phacotoric lenses and suture technics. Our residents benefitted immensely. As a professor myself, I enjoyed your teaching.” - Dr. Santosh Kumar, NRI staff

“I had a great experience. Dr. Ambati had an amazing time and so did I. The residents and attendings here are wonderful. I truly had an amazing time and am so happy I came. Sad to be leaving such a great learning opportunity and great people.” – Dr. Allison Jarstad, HOPE volunteer, ophthalmology resident

Philippines Response

HOPE began deploying large volunteer teams to help support the disaster response. In Tapaz and the Camotes, over 20 volunteers have been working since 1 December to coach and mentor counterpart providers, provide some relief to the healthcare staff by augmenting services, conduct health facilities assessments on critical infrastructure, provide primary care clinics to previously inaccessible affected upland populations (adult/pediatric/well-mother exams, vaccinations, circumcisions, delivery of vitamins and deworming meds), offer biomedical equipment repair and training, and even provide temporary roofing over the once-leaking emergency room and outpatient department. With Rotation One ending soon, a second wave of 20+ volunteers will arrive just in time for Christmas and beyond!

Ms. Elizabeth Harrell – Dec 2013

Beth is an obstetric nurse from St. Louis, Missouri and just recently retired from the US Air Force at the rank of Colonel. For over a month, Beth served as a key and integral part of the HOPE volunteer engagement to the Philippines in response to the catastrophic effects of Typhoon Yolanda. Beth’s first assignment for Project HOPE was as one of two senior liaison officers to the USS COWPENS, the US Navy’s component command ship offshore of Tacloban. In this role, Beth coordinated directly with the senior flag officer on board the COWPENS to explore options for integrating future HOPE medical volunteers into US Navy disaster relief operations. Beth then took over the “main effort” deployment of volunteers into an underserved area on Panay Island, in the municipality of Tapaz. In Tapaz, Beth was tapped to be the HOPE Medical Director (HMD), the team leader for an 18-person volunteer team going into an area with no power, no communications connectivity, and little logistics resources on which to depend. Beth single-handedly orchestrated a multi-prong health approach to serving Tapaz’s 60,000 population catchment area, facilitating a coaching/teaching mentorship program at the district hospital and health center, while developing and running four rural primary care outreach activities.
Activities and Opportunities

Deployed Volunteers:

- Ms. Eman Ahmed (GH-NCD), 10 June-1 Dec 2014
- Ms. Kenly Flannigan (GH), 9 June-9 June 2014 and in Macedonia from 12 Aug-15 Nov 2014
- Ms. Sarah Lundgren, ESL San Da Shanghai, 26 Aug-11 Jan 2014
- Mr. Ron Brown, ESL Shanghai, 2 Sep-1 Jan 2014
- Ms. Patti Mihm, ESL Shanghai, 9 Sep-19 January 2014
- Ms. Monica Yu, ESL Wuhan, 28 Aug-19 Jan 2014
- Dr. Bala Ambati, FOB India (NRI) 1-14 Dec 2014
- Dr. Allison Jarstad, FOB India (NRI), 1-14 Dec 2014
- Ms. Sara Gashi, Macedonia, 10 Sep-8 March 2014
- Dinesh Pethiyagoda and Gary Zelko (Merck RTC Fellows), Namibia/SSA, 23 Sep-18 Dec 2014
- Disaster response HOPE team (21 VOLS), Philippines, 21 Nov-8 Jan 2014

Upcoming Volunteers:

- Dr. Ruth Hart, Shanghai, March 2014
- Ms. Monica Yu, Shanghai ESL, Feb-July 2014
- Dr. Megan Rau (Sanders Fellow), FOB India (NRI), 13 Feb-13 March 2014
- Ms. Julia Chevan, Haiti GH program, Jan 2014
- Ms. Megan Nicholas, Haiti GH program, April 2014
- Ms. Emily Kringle, Haiti GH program, April 2014
- Dr. April Edwards (Sanders Fellow), Dom Rep, 6-29 January 2014

Retained Volunteers:

- FIU NP team x 2 VOLS, Dom Rep, 23 Feb-22 Mar 2014 (La Romana)
- FIU NP team x 2 VOLS, Dom Rep, 23 Feb-22 Mar 2014 (Monte Plata/Hererra)
- Ms. Cherri Dobson, Macedonia, March/April 2014
- Dr. Janet Kinney, Macedonia, March/April 2014
- Ms. Melanie Capiccioni, Macedonia, June 2014
- Dr. Janet Kinney, Hungary, April 2014
- Dr. Jonathon Steinburg, FOB Ghana, 5-28 February 2014
- Ms. Sarah Unwin, FOB Ghana, 1-22 Apr 2014

Current Opportunities: See http://www.projecthope.org/get-involved/volunteer/

- Macedonia Pediatric Comprehensive Course (PCC)
- Macedonia Nurse Education Exchange Training program (NET Program)
- Kosovo medical oncology training and NET Program
- Physician visiting faculty and ESL teacher program in Shanghai, China at SJTUSM
- Nursing faculty and ESL teacher program in Wuhan- HOPE School of Nursing, China
- Nursing faculty and ESL teacher program in San Da Nursing School, Shanghai China
- Pediatric cardiovascular surgical training in Bangladesh (SCMC-sourced)
- Women/Children’s Health in Dominican Republic GH program – pediatric/mother clinical and educational outreach
- Physician specialists in FOB Haiti Hospital Albert Schweitzer
- PT/OT GH program in Port-au-Prince, Haiti
- Emergency medicine physician and RN training in Kumasi, Ghana at FOB Ghana
- Nurse Education Training (NET) Program at FOB India (NRI and ASRAM teaching hospitals)

FAST FACTS – SUCCESSFUL OUTPUTS

DOD Mission Output Summary:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Missions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Volunteers</td>
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Please check the Project HOPE website for new BLOGS that are posted. These are updated frequently!

Please contact:
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