



COLLEAGUES IN GLOBAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER



September 2023

Virtual Gallery: https://projecthope.pastperfectonline.com/

Website: https://projecthope.org/

HISTORY OF PROJECT HOPE COLLEAGUES IN GLOBAL HEALTH (CGH) (Formerly the Project HOPE Alumni Association)

by John Wilhelm, MD and Carol Fredriksen

This year, 2023, marks the 45th anniversary of the Alumni Association, which was incorporated in 1978, just four years after the SS HOPE was retired.

From the Association’s first Bulletin - “The HOPE Alumni Association, made up of those who have shared the HOPE experience, was established by them to maintain contact with Hopies, learn more about the progress of Project HOPE and help advance its future.”

The Alumni Association was structured with by-laws and a board of directors. The first president was Dr. A. Elmer Driskan. The current president is Debra Reister. Until 2018, the membership consisted of staff who worked on the Ship and in land-based programs. In 2018, the Association’s name was changed to Project HOPE Colleagues in Global Health to extend membership to current and former non-programmatic office and administrative staff.

Activities include:

- Quarterly board meetings and reunions every four years in Washington, D.C., Chicago or San Francisco.
A free-standing newsletter or a section included in the Project HOPE newsletter.
The collaborative management, with Project HOPE administration, of the Dr. William B. Walsh Endowment which provides financial support for William B. Walsh Fellowships (see the current supported program on page 2) as well as independent fundraising and management of funds for program support: Lee Olive Harrison, Dorothy Aeschliman, Bill Kooiman and Alumni Funds.
The development and management of Project HOPE’s Virtual Gallery and the computerized archives which maintain seven decades of HOPE’s history. Both the Gallery and archives are accessed through the Project HOPE website. (See more information on page 4)

Today, the Project HOPE Colleagues in Global Health continues to work collaboratively with HOPE administration to support Project HOPE’s global activities.

Board and Past Presidents of the Colleagues in Global Health:

President: Debra Reister dreister@projecthope.org 517 320-0080

Vice President: Carolyn Kruger ckruger@projecthope.org

Financial liaison: John Guzman Members-At-Large:

- Anne Borden
Catherine Dunwody
Sheila Grisard
Cary Kimble
Irene Machado
Faye Pyles
John Wilhelm
John Walsh
Tom Walsh
William Walsh, Jr.

Past-Presidents: Sharon R. Redding, Esther Kooiman, Val Cook, Carol Fredriksen, Judy Berner, Wally Chipman, Nancy Savage, Jean Kohn, Joanne Jene

SIERRA LEONE NEONATAL NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM

Written by Carolyn Kruger, PhD

CGH WBW Endowment

Project HOPE’s “Save the Newborn” Initiative in Sierra Leone has successfully helped the country decrease its high neonatal mortality rate. Key Neonatal Nursing Education (NNE) programs included community mothers’ groups to promote essential newborn care and identification of danger signs, development of two Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) units at the district and referral hospitals, and support for clinical training in the Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) for small and sick newborns. The **CGH WBW Endowment** funded a Regional Neonatal Nursing Coordinator to establish an advanced BS.c degree in the preparation of neonatal nurses as a new cadre of health workers in the country at the (College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences (COMAHS), University of Sierra Leone. Currently HOPE is committed to the development of a Master’s degree in neonatal nursing that will be launched in September 2023, providing mentorship programs that prepare faculty to teach advanced neonatal theory and clinical courses, establishing a Neonatal Learning Lab, training of Neonatal Clinical Preceptors, and providing professional resource materials.

Neonatal Nursing Training Center.

Building on the current newborn programs, three Neonatal Training Teams in 2022-2023 were deployed utilizing **CGH WBW Endowment** funds to continue to develop the SCBU at the Ola Children's Hospital in Freetown, Sierra Leone. During Children’s Referral Hospital in Freetown as a Neonatal Nursing Training Center for development of a high level of quality and evidenced-based care of sick and small neonates. These teams further developed the capacity of the SCBU Clinical Preceptors as clinical teachers, and including nurses, faculty, and biomedical support systems to improve the SCBU environment, safety, and quality of care. The teams focused on development of the SCBU Clinical Preceptors as models of skilled care, teachers, and sustainers of quality of care. Future plans include clinical consultants who will be deployed to support the Ministry of Health and Sanitation to establish the Neonatal SCBU as a national Teaching Center for the country.



Biomedical Engineer, Alexie Belieav, and Project HOPE's Global Technical Officer Maternal Neonatal Child Health, Kristin Anderson—teaching a neonatal nurse in the Special Care Baby Unit how to operate an essential piece of equipment.

HOPE REMEMBERS

By Irene Machado

Mary C. Huehn

1936-2023

Mary Huehn passed away on April 30, 2023 in Winchester, VA. She worked for many years at HOPE Center in Millwood, VA. She was a long-time secretary for Development working with John Walsh and she was a desk officer for Armenia following the earthquake there in 1988.

Sharon Odekirk, Pharmacist

1940-2023

Sharon Odekirk passed away on January 3, 2023. She served with Project HOPE, on the SS HOPE as a pharmacist, assigned to traveled to Ceylon (now known as Sri Lanka).



Judith Anne Shaw, Ph.D, R.N.

1939-2023



Dr. Thomas Versie (Columbus, Ohio) and Nurse Judith Anne Shaw (Westwood, Massachusetts) examine a Ceylonese patient.

Judith Anne Shaw, born April 24, 1939 passed away peacefully on March 9, 2023. Judy served two tours on the SS Hope Hospital Ship, traveling to Sri Lanka on Voyage 7 and returning on Voyage 8 to Tunisia.

Michelle Worthing

1948 – 2023

Michelle passed away on August 15, 2023. She joined Project HOPE in Cairo, Egypt in 1978. Michele moved to Clarke County, VA in 1980, for her job with Project HOPE and stayed for thirty years, until 2008, she administered health-related programming in Latin America and the Caribbean region.



JOIN PROJECT HOPE CGH (receive newsletters):

Send the following information to dreister@projecthope.org

Last name _____ First Name _____

Specialty: _____ HOPE Program & Site: _____

Email Address: _____ Language fluency: _____

MAINTENANCE OF PROJECT HOPE ARCHIVES

By Debra Reister

Since 1985, keeping important documents and artifacts has been a high priority for Project HOPE. Mrs. Helen Walsh had a long-time dream to develop the archives. To this end, a \$34,600 grant from the National Historic Publications and Records Commission allowed Chuck Hill, archivist, to work for 18 months with HOPE Staff and the Alumni Assoc. Members to organize the archives. Many artifacts, photos and program reports were organized and numbered. A Guide to the Project HOPE Archives was finalized for all items from 1958 to 1991.

Documents and artifacts were continually stored at the Winchester airport when the Alumni Assoc., in 2014, became involved in digitizing to make photos available to interested people on the worldwide web with a Virtual Gallery. In 2016, when procedures were changed and a need to move the archives to HOPE Center was required the Alumni Association brought a team to help in organizing all the boxes of materials and add items from 1991 to update the Guide to the Project HOPE Archives to 2019.

Decades of HOPE History



Project HOPE's CGH continues the mammoth project of organizing and archiving six decades of HOPE history.



In 2019, John Walsh became involved with the process to find a resting place for the archival artifacts. They went to the Eisenhower Museum in Abilene, Kansas in 2019. The program reports which needed digitizing were given to the Alumni Association to complete the process. This process is still underway.

We receive requests from Hopies through the Virtual Gallery and from the HOPE office at least once each month. One request needed further contact with Hopie Dave Reiser who was with the SS HOPE. Following this request, Dave wrote: "It's amazing how my non-medical association with Project HOPE has influenced my life in so many positive ways." Please see more of Dave's story in the next edition of the CGH Newsletter.

FOUND IN THE ARCHIVES!!!

When I heard about the earthquake in Morocco on September 9, 2023, and that Project HOPE would be assisting, I thought of the program Project HOPE helped with there in 1979. I went to the archives and found program reports and pictures, so I thought I would share some info with you. We had been working in Egypt and Tunisia, so when a need arose, the Moroccan Ministry of Health contacted us to assist with a Cardiovascular program in Rabat. Dr. David Jobes (in picture) was the Program Director and Linda Jobes was the Administrator. Teams of Project HOPE cardiovascular surgeons, anesthesiologists and nurses came to Morocco over the next year. The program was highlighted in the HOPE News Vol. 17, No. 1/1979 and Vol. 17, No. 2/1979 which can be found in the virtual gallery using Key Word Search: Morocco (web link shown below).



We continue working on the Archives weekly if you have questions, please contact Debbie Reister at dreister@projecthope.org Please visit: **Virtual Gallery:** <https://projecthope.pastperfectonline.com/>