Models for Global Health Care Delivery & Impact on Education

Scott H. Kozin, MD
Team Leader, Touching Hands
American Society for Surgery of the Hand

THE TOUCHING HANDS PROJECT
American Society for Surgery of the Hand (ASSH) was started shortly after WWII.

- Franklin Delano Roosevelt
- Norman T. Kirk
- Sterling Bunnell
Growth- Membership, Office, Wealth

• ASSH expanded over the next 50 years with a focus on patient care, education, and research
Growth- Membership, Office, Wealth

• Circa 1998- financial situation
• ASSH ≈ 1 million dollars in operations
• American Foundation for Surgery of the Hand (AFSH), established in 1987 ≈ 2 million dollars in research monies
Current Status Circa 2019

• ASSH is the world leader in hand surgery, the authority in hand surgery, and fulfillment of the vision initiated by Sterling Bunnell
• Greater than 3,000 members across the globe
Current Status

• Current coffers total $\approx 20$ million dollars for ASSH and $\approx 20$ million dollars for the AFSH

• Truly remarkable growth attributed to dedicated leadership, hardworking central office, and tremendous membership support
Outreach Emphasis

• 2014

• Touching Hands Project
ASSH Pillar

Provide life-changing hand surgeries, rehabilitation, and medical training in the world’s poorest communities
Monies

- ASSH, AFSH, and members embraced the importance of outreach and The Touching Hands Project.
- Endowment goal 5 million dollars.
Endowment

- 5 million goal was reached in just 4 years
- The outreach pillar was firmly established in character and monies
- THP endowed in perpetuity
Domestic Missions

- 2016
- John Seiler, MD
- 1st Domestic Mission
- Atlanta, Georgia
- Another small step for man, but a giant leap forward for mankind and hand surgery
Outreach Director

Don Lalonde, MD - Ghana 2017
Emphasis on Education
Educators

• Doctors
• Therapists
• Nurses
• Community volunteers
Learners

- Attendings
- Trainees
- Therapists
- Nurses
Education

- Multi-faceted approach
- Hands-on surgical education
- Didactic
- Cadaver
- Resources
- Fellowship opportunities
Didactic Lectures

Ethiopia

Haiti
Didactic/Cadaver
Didactic Education - Is it Worth the Time and Effort
Education Resources

HAND-e
LEARNING PORTAL OF ASSH
Hands-on Education to US Trainees

- US Trainees to LMIC
  - Only fellows
  - No residents
Hands-on Education to Local Surgeons

- Yes
- Whenever Possible and Practical
- Clinic and OR
- Priority over US Trainees
Ethiopia

Teddy & Mesfin

Rick Gardner
Upsides of US Trainees to LMICs

- Kool Aid
- Future attendings
- Pathology seen
- Lessons learned

Guatemala 2019
Memorable and Influential Experiences that Last a Lifetime
Memorable and Influential Experiences that Last a Lifetime
“My experience today defies description. Never have I felt such gratification for, and pride in, a day’s work. The members of this team define compassion and dedication and our work on this mission has been inspiring.”

Mike Nakashian
“Without question, my time spent in Honduras was the highlight of my fellowship. The case volume, the breadth of pathology, and the case complexity left me a better, more confident surgeon after just a week. But more importantly, I walked away with a feeling that I had truly done some good for those in need. I have caught the bug and will, if I am lucky, find myself taking trips like this for years to come.”

Cam Atkinson
The strongest bonds of friendship are forged providing service to others.
World Outreach International Fellowship

• Annual award to an individual from a developing country to travel to North America (4 weeks)
• Culminate with participation at the ASSH Annual Meeting
• Selected individual would take this knowledge back to their community to improve hand surgery and rehabilitation
2020 Winner

Francis Alexis

Haiti 2014
Are We Making A Difference?

YOU CAN'T CHANGE THE WORLD

BUT YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE
Touching Hands 2018

- 12 countries
- > 300 volunteers
- 26 missions
  - International and domestic
2019 Annual Report

- 16 countries visited
- 31 missions completed
- > 300 cases performed
Are We Making A Difference?

• WHO-Choosing Interventions That Are Cost effective (WHO-CHOICE) methodology applied to Touching Hands Projects and the Resurge International hands missions

Are We Making A Difference?

• Cost effectiveness of global hand surgery was comparable to other medical conditions such as treatment of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis in similar regions
• Need better data- work in progress!
Ethiopia 2019

• Fifth Trip - Cure Hospital
• Local surgeons continue to expand their expertise
Teach A Man to Fish
“Our surgical team, including myself, was not familiar with the surgical management of many of these problems until Touching Hands volunteered to come to Ethiopia. We screen 70 or so patients each year and select appropriate surgical candidates for the week. The teaching in the assessment and surgical management of these patients has been invaluable. We have developed our service so that we will be able to care for this complex group of patients ourselves.”
Ethiopia Documentary

Dr. Rick Gardner
orthopedic Surgeon

So my name is Rick I'm an Orthopedic Surgeon here at CURE Ethiopia Children's Hospital
Thank You

Being the richest man in the cemetery doesn’t matter to me. Going to bed at night saying we’ve done something wonderful... that’s what matters to me.

Steve Jobs
Touching Hands Project
So my name is Rick. I'm an Orthopedic Surgeon here at CURE Ethiopia Children's Hospital.
so this week for example, this week we came in on Sunday morning
we do anywhere from four to six cases a day depending on the size and the complexity
so her expertise is a little different than mine, and I think together we make a great team
Thank You