HVO’s Expansive Vision for Capacity Building Projects

Since HVO was first established in 1986, much has changed in the world. From technology to geopolitics to global health issues, the world is different and ways of working have adapted to the changes. The HVO Board recently adopted a new strategic framework, which will expand HVO’s efforts to utilize technology and better address new challenges in health care. HVO is very grateful that a generous donation from Hansjörg Wyss, with the intent that HVO’s work will be expanded and magnified, will launch many of these new initiatives. Our mission, as always, is to “improve the availability and quality of health care through education, training, and professional development of the health workforce in resource-scarce countries.” This is an exciting time at HVO as we initiate pilot projects, develop new programming areas and new models for delivering our educational programs, and strengthen capacity to improve global health care.

Expand HVO’s Global Reach

Each year, more than 500 qualified health and medical professionals volunteer with HVO, providing mentoring, training, support, and opportunity to their colleagues overseas. This is a model that has proven very effective and, with each person trained, there is a ripple effect on providers, hospitals, patients, and communities. As a result, requests for HVO support continue to increase each year from around the globe.

Over the next few years, HVO will expand its global reach by increasing the number of volunteers and by utilizing new and different tools for delivering educational programming. In some project sites, volunteers have returned home and set up e-learning platforms, to continue training via teleconferences, Skype, etc. In Vietnam, a pilot project started in 2013 incorporates “blended learning” (a combination of online delivery of educational content, as well as face-to-face interaction with teachers). This project is based on a 28-month internationally recognized curriculum to educate Vietnamese dentists in basic and clinical sciences in orthodontia.

continued on page 8
Dear Friends,

2015 promises to be a year of transition and change, both in HVO’s Washington office and overseas.

Our Director of Program Support, Kate Fincham, will be retiring in June after 25 years of remarkable service to HVO. We wish her many happy, healthy years filled with new adventures. Since no one will ever be able to replace Kate, I have taken this opportunity to restructure the position. Candidate interviews are underway and we intend to have someone in place by late spring. Several part-time positions at HVO have also been upgraded, with responsibilities redistributed. The changes in responsibilities are designed to provide more time for program development and support.

Another significant development that will impact HVO’s future is the generous gift that we received from Mr. Hansjörg Wyss. Mr. Wyss, impressed with the effectiveness and impact of our model, agreed to support several new capacity-building initiatives that are discussed in the cover article. In recognition of Mr. Wyss’s generosity and commitment to global health, HVO has established the Wyss Scholarship for Future Leaders in Global Health. This scholarship will nurture future leaders at HVO project sites through continuing education opportunities. Health care providers who are at an early stage in their career, but have demonstrated a strong commitment to their patients and profession, will be eligible to apply for funding to attend conferences, short-term courses, or participate in online study courses. This is an opportunity that will extend HVO’s impact, by encouraging and developing future leaders in the local health care system, and strengthening the support network of professional colleagues.

This is one facet of HVO’s expanded vision of developing and strengthening health care systems and infrastructure. These new capacity-building projects are designed to extend HVO’s work of strengthening and empowering the global health workforce.

There is a lot of excitement and energy around these efforts and I encourage you to join us in whatever way is appropriate for you - as a volunteer, a member, or a donor. HVO’s work is making a difference and these new initiatives will allow our impact to be even greater.

Sincerely,

Nancy

Nancy A. Kelly, MHS
Executive Director

“The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”
-Nelson Henderson
Please Note: New projects are added regularly and volunteer assignments are made on a rolling basis. For the most up-to-date information on volunteer sites and scheduling, contact the HVO Program Department: info@hvousa.org or (202) 296-0928. Visit the website www.hvousa.org.
News & Events
HVO MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to Award Honorees

Many HVO volunteers have been lauded in the last few months. Congratulations to each of them, and many thanks for their dedication to improving global health!

June Brady, MD, MPH, DTM&H, was honored by the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on International and Child Health with their Hillman-Olness Award at the national conference in October 2014. Dr. Brady began her career in neonatology and extended her outreach to international health. The Hillman-Olness Award for “Lifetime Achievements in Global Health” honored Dr. Brady for her “outstanding contribution to medical education and pediatric training programs.” Dr. Brady has lectured frequently in The Gambia, Kenya, Botswana, and Uganda. For five years, she served as Chair of the Postgraduate Training Program in Paediatrics at the University of Zimbabwe. There, she and her husband, Dr. George Hyde, a pediatric surgeon, partnered on the development of a pediatric surgery program. Described as a “consummate clinician and teacher”, “an inspiring role model” and someone who “embodies the spirit of international health” through her work and through the personal relationships with local staff that she developed over many years, HVO is grateful for her dedication and commitment. Dr. Brady has volunteered with HVO in Equatorial Guinea, Zimbabwe, Uganda, and Malawi.

The American Society of Anesthesiologists honored Lena Dohlman, MD, MPH with the Nicholas M. Greene, MD Award for Outstanding Humanitarian Contribution at their October 2014 annual conference. Dr. Dohlman has focused much of her career on education, in the US and internationally. She has provided over 27 years of service to HVO, and has served in almost every capacity open to HVO volunteers. Her nine volunteer assignments have taken her to Malawi, St. Lucia, South Africa and Vietnam. From 2009-2012, she served as project director for the South Africa Anesthesia Project, and she was a member of the HVO Anesthesia Steering Committee from 1997-2012, serving as committee chair from 1997-2008. In 2007, Dr. Dohlman received HVO’s Golden Apple Award for her work designing and delivering primary trauma courses as part of HVO’s anesthesia project in Vietnam. She initiated and promoted a strong partnership between HVO and the Society for Education in Anesthesia (SEA), to support

A planned gift ensures that HVO will be able to continue to make important educational strides in the improvement of health care in resource-scarce countries.

When you write or review your will, please consider leaving HVO a charitable bequest as an investment in HVO’s future. You may bequeath a specific amount of money or a percentage of your estate. Another relatively simple option is to designate HVO as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or the assets of a retirement plan.

If you are interested in creating a charitable bequest in your will or in discussing some other charitable aspect of your estate planning, please contact Nancy Kelly at giving@hvousa.org. If you have already made a charitable bequest, please let us know! We will honor all requests to remain anonymous.

Thank you to the following people who have made such a commitment:

Anonymous (2)
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and expand the number of available fellowships. The SEA-HVO Fellowship now funds as many as 9 final year residents annually and, since 2001, 75 residents have received the Fellowship and many have served on subsequent international assignments. Dr. Dohman has also given tirelessly to the ASA, serving on their Overseas Teaching Program and the Global Humanitarian Outreach Committee. Her work stressed the need and importance of humanitarian outreach as a vital part of the ASA.

The American College of Dentists presented Arthur Ingram Hazlewood, DDS, MPH with the William John Gies Award at their October 2014 conference. The award is the highest honor the College bestows upon Fellows and Dr. Hazlewood was recognized “for his truly exceptional leadership and accomplishments in dentistry, dental public health, education, humanitarianism, care to the underserved, dental advocacy, and global outreach.” Dr. Hazlewood has served on numerous dental task forces and has been a prominent member of the dental community in New York city and state. He has provided consulting and advisory services in Canada, Barbados, Peru, and China and has worked with the UN Development Program and NIH. An HVO member since 1998, Dr. Hazlewood has served in Guyana, conducted site assessments in Ghana and Haiti, and served on the HVO Dentistry Steering Committee 1998-2001.

Janna Beling, PhD, PT was recently presented with the Medal of Honor by the Vietnamese government’s Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. The ministry, which oversees rehabilitative care and veterans’ affairs, recognized Dr. Beling in appreciation of the many HVO volunteers who have worked to improve rehabilitation in Vietnam. Dr. Beling has served as HVO project director for the physical therapy project in Da Nang since 2008, and has made seven volunteer trips to the site.

In March, William Creasman, MD, was honored with the Foundation for Gynecologic Oncology’s 2015 Humanitarianism and Volunteerism Award, which was presented at the SGO’s 46th annual meeting on Women’s Cancer. Established in 2013, the award honors “an individual for their exemplary local, national, or international volunteer and outreach efforts in women’s cancer care, research, or training.” Dr. Creasman was honored for his leadership in teaching gynecologic oncology to residents in Honduras and Africa, and for his service on HVO’s Oncology Steering Committee. In 2013, Dr. Creasman received HVO’s Golden Apple Award for his commitment to education.

Linus Chuang, MD, MPH, MS was honored with the Harry Long, MD Award by the Society of Gynecologic Oncology at their annual meeting on Women’s Cancer. The award honors contributions to multidisciplinary mentorship, collegiality, and teaching in the field of gynecologic oncology. Dr. Chuang’s commitments to education have taken him to HVO projects in Honduras, Vietnam, and Paraguay and he serves on the Oncology Steering Committee. He was honored with HVO’s 2012 Golden Apple Award.

The American Dental Association has announced that Francis G. Serio, DMD, MS, will receive their highest honor, the Humanitarian Award, at the annual meeting in November. The award honors dentist members “who have distinguished themselves by outstanding, unselfish leadership and at least a 10-year commitment to their fellow human beings in the field of dentistry” in underserved populations. Dr. Serio is being honored for over three decades of service. An initial trip to the Dominican Republic to provide dental care in a remote region led to the development of the Dominican Dental Mission Project, to which he has devoted himself since 1982. Dr. Serio has led students and other dentists each summer for 33 years to provide dental care services as well as dental and medical supplies for the local hospital and some 60,000 residents in a very rural area. Dr. Serio’s commitment to improving global oral health is well known to HVO. He has volunteered in Haiti, Guyana, and Jamaica; he has conducted site assessments, served on the Oral Health Steering Committee for nine years, and has served as Project Director for Haiti.

Thank you to all of these dedicated volunteers!
In Memory of Eugene Bleck, MD 1923-2014
Guenther Knoblich, MD shares his thoughts on the passing of a mentor

The orthopaedic community recently lost a giant when Dr. Eugene Bleck passed away. He is best known as the author of the seminal *Orthopaedic Management in Cerebral Palsy* and was a world authority on the subject. A devout Jesuit and Navy veteran, he took his training at Duke University as a fellow of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. He went on to establish the pediatric orthopaedic program at Stanford and was a founding member of the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America.

Dr. Bleck traveled extensively teaching orthopaedics. He visited clinics and taught in Southeast Asia, Europe, and South America and was an honorary member of the Indonesian Orthopaedic Society. He left a legacy through his work and advocacy for a pragmatic, child-centered approach to cerebral palsy which has affected the care of disabled children around the world.

In his later years, Dr. Bleck remained involved in the Stanford Orthopaedic Surgery Department as Professor Emeritus and self-styled court jester. He remained generous in sharing his ideas, which were often fascinatingly contrarian and always imbued with compassion and good sense. His residents and colleagues remember him as a man of remarkable intelligence, grace, and wit.

HVO Closes Projects in Peru

Since its inception in 1986, Health Volunteers Overseas has been linked with EsSalud, one of the major health systems in Peru. Beginning with an orthopaedic project and expanding over the years to include projects for eight other specialty areas, HVO sent health experts to various cities within the EsSalud system to provide clinical and didactic training to their staff. 455 assignments were completed by volunteers in anesthesia, dermatology, hand surgery, hematology, internal medicine, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthopaedics, physical therapy, and wound care. Unfortunately due to changes internal to EsSalud, HVO has not been able to continue its linkage with EsSalud.

Special thanks are extended to Dr. Gaston Barnechea, an orthopaedic surgeon who was instrumental in not only starting the initial orthopaedic project in Peru but also worked diligently to extend HVO’s reach to a wider specialty audience within EsSalud. Thanks are also extended to the various HVO on-site coordinators within EsSalud: Ana Herrera, PT (physical therapy), Jose Hornejo, DDS (oral surgery), Dr. Felix Garcia (anesthesia), Dr. Jose Catacora (dermatology), Drs. Ricardo Illescas, Olga Velarder, Nelson Ramiro-Rorado, and Carlos Pacheco (internal medicine), Drs. Juan Ramon Navarro, Renee Eyzaguirre, Mariela Fuentes, Jose Malaga, and Katya Urrutia (hematology), Drs. Julio Echevarria, Blanco Castillo, and Beatriz Barletti (hand surgery) and Pilar Tirado, RN (wound care). Their many years of commitment to their profession and their support for HVO volunteers have been most gratifying.

HVO and Bhutan to Partner on Residency Training

In January, HVO signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the newly established University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan. Over the next five years, HVO has agreed to assist with training residents in the fields of ophthalmology, general medicine, general surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology, and anesthesiology. In addition, training will be provided for nurses in the new 2-year BSc. Program for nurse anesthesia. The intention is for those trained to become staff and/or faculty of each respective department.

HVO has been working with Bhutan since the late 1980’s when Dr. Robert Stein explored the need for orthopaedic training in a country where there were no orthopaedic physicians. His commitment led to the establishment of an HVO orthopaedic project. The success of that project led to other HVO specialty
Recognition for Belize Nurse Anesthesia Students

Suzanne Brown, CRNA, recently sent this update on the Belize nurse anesthesia project.

Belize, a country of about 350,000 permanent residents, has four regional hospitals and one referral hospital. However, there are no on-going educational programs to train nurse anesthetists. The Ministry of Health requested assistance from HVO and, since 2000, HVO has trained two cohorts. Clinical sites for students are rather limited, so it has been rather challenging at times to work with sixteen students in four operating rooms.

On the 11th of January, a Recognition and Awards dinner was held for the Belize Nurse Anesthesia students. Seven students were recognized for their completion of the major portions of the Nurse Anesthesia program. All seven of the students have completed their academic requirements and successfully taken the certification exam. The students have additional clinical case requirements that will be completed in the next few months. Their program recognized the clinical constraints and began with a stratified case load requirement. Students had a basic number of cases required for graduation, and an additional number of cases required before they could begin working alone as graduates.

There were three students who were offered some additional assistance with academics and those students are anticipated to complete their program in June. They will then take the certification exam in June. It is anticipated that the program will finish with ten students completing the Nurse Anesthesia Program. The University of Belize will be awarding all the students a post baccalaureate degree that will allow them to be licensed as Certified Registered Nurses in Belize.

Originally there were sixteen students admitted to the program. The University selected the students, and HVO became involved shortly after the selection process. Not all of the selected students had a bachelor’s degree upon admission, and provisions were made by the University for all students to obtain their bachelor’s degree during this post baccalaureate program.

Lecia Bevans, CRNA, and a graduate of the first HVO program in Belize, joined the program in September of 2013 as the University of Belize faculty member. The program was coordinated by Suzanne Brown, Kate (Durkan) Hammond and Richard Henker. Kate Hammond was able to utilize this project as a part of her capstone project, and was able to bring some funding from the AANA Foundation for an electronic tracking/evaluation program (Typhon) that was extremely valuable in coordination of an international program.

Consistent communication utilizing Skype, e-mail and even internet teaching all were very valuable in the completion of this program. Numerous volunteers donated their time and talents to the education of this group of students who will utilize their skills to increase the level of anesthesia care in Belize.
News & Events
HVO’s Expansive Vision

HVO’s Expansive Vision for Capacity Building Projects  continued from page 1

The project includes computer-based instruction, supervised patient care, on-line mentoring by orthodontists, and in-person instruction. Oncology volunteers have set up long-distance monthly tumor boards. HVO is looking at ways to expand on this, using a global panel of experts who consult and collaborate. Such innovative projects will not replace the face-to-face training opportunities but will be used to augment volunteer service and strengthen the exchange.

Expand HVO’s In-country Outreach

HVO also is expanding its outreach within countries. In many resource-scarce countries, resources and infrastructure tend to be concentrated in one or two major cities. As a result, most of HVO’s projects have been located at large teaching institutions in these urban centers. In recent years, HVO has developed partnerships with smaller institutes located away from the larger cities. These partnerships have strengthened educational resources and provided professional development opportunities to areas in need. HVO’s projects that address the needs of populations far from the capital cities not only improve access to quality health care, but develop the triage and referral capabilities of these institutes.

Expand HVO’s Programming Areas

To address the changing needs of global health care, HVO intends to expand its programming in several different areas: trauma care and rehabilitation, women’s health, and hospital administration and management. The incidence of trauma has increased significantly over the last decade, as a result of road traffic accidents, civil unrest, and war. Over 5 million people die each year from injuries and 90% of those deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries. HVO currently has projects in 20 countries address-
at hospitals. Developing and strengthening systems will benefit providers - freeing their time to focus on patient needs, patients - who will enter a system where their needs can be more adequately addressed, and communities - who will feel more confident that, when needed, their hospital is ready to serve them.

Expand HVO’s Sustainable Impact
Two other areas of focus will be developed. The Wyss Scholarship for Future Leaders in Global Health will support professional development opportunities for local health care providers. This will allow our colleagues abroad to attend conferences, regional trainings, etc., further increasing their knowledge and expanding their professional network.

HVO’s evaluation component will be expanded, enabling onsite evaluations and empowering our colleagues with tools to report on project impact. More data will be collected and analyzed, so that the information gathered can be more quickly used to adapt projects as needed, and build on successful elements.

HVO is energized by the opportunities that are available and eagerly anticipates sharing them with our volunteers, members and donors.
Special Thanks
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...to the following individuals and companies who have so generously donated teaching materials, equipment, supplies and other support:

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HVO KnowNET
www.hvoknownet.org

Health Volunteers Overseas offers all active members access to an essential resource for HVO program information - the HVO KnowNET. This members-only site brings together all the information needed for a successful volunteer trip overseas and provides resources on global health, teaching and training, and a wide variety of health care topics. Be sure to contact membership@hvousa.org to gain access today!
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# Special Thanks

## TRIBUTE GIFTS

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<th>TRIBUTE GIFT</th>
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<td>Gertrude Ahbel-Dallas, MD</td>
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Reflections from the Field
VOLUNTEERS REPORT ON THEIR ASSIGNMENTS

**Dr. Dean Laochamroonvorapongse, MD, MPH ∙ Anesthesia ∙ Vietnam**
I also gave a PALS lecture to 70+ nurses because I was told that they were interested in pediatric resuscitation. The rest of the time I spent there was encouraging, supervising, and performing ultrasound guided peripheral nerve blocks. They are very skilled technically and just needed our reassurance and affirmation that they were performing these blocks correctly. At the end of two weeks, I saw them taking the initiative to use the ultrasound independently and hope this trend continues.

**Darren Smith, Psy.D ∙ Mental Health ∙ Bhutan**
I can say confidently that I felt useful and that their needs as budding [mental health] therapists were certainly met. I feel as though they are able to use the skills that I taught them to better treat their patients moving forward, and ultimately, I think that is what’s most important.

**Brett Fink, MD ∙ Orthopaedics ∙ Nicaragua**
I expected to teach much of what I know about foot and ankle procedures to the surgeons there, but I found my trauma knowledge to be much more helpful. I learned mostly how a group of extremely intelligent and resourceful surgeons there can make do, and provide reasonable care at a negligible cost. It was a truly remarkable experience.

**Stephanie Windler, PT, DPT, NCS ∙ Physical Therapy ∙ Malawi**
My fondest teaching memory at the rehab hospital was with a patient named Kingsley. Kingsley is a 22 year old man with a T11 complete spinal cord injury. Day after day, I noticed him come to the gym. He would start with his upper body exercise routine, perform sitting balance exercises and stand in the parallel bars with his leg splints. In speaking with the student who was treating him, I realized that the therapists and students were not addressing his wheelchair mobility skills. In one week, we taught him how to do a wheelie, navigate curbs and ramps, outdoor terrain and complete a floor transfer. Kingsley was so happy and thankful to have learned these new techniques and felt prepared to get back into the community. The students were so happy to have taught him these skills.

**Donna Venezia, MD ∙ Internal Medicine ∙ Cambodia**
For those doctors who volunteer and are uncertain if they’ve made a difference, there were two different instances where I was uncertain about the next step in the management of an endocrine and a rheumatology patient and the junior doctors correctly (I looked it up) told me the next appropriate step - saying that previous volunteers had given them this info in lectures. These are clearly bright, young doctors who want to and do learn!
Membership & Donation Form

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The Volunteer Connection, HVO’s biannual newsletter, is available by mail or electronically for those who prefer. Subscriptions are free to HVO members and donors. Previous issues are available on the HVO website under “HVO News.” The newsletter is produced by the communications staff at HVO.

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