

# The Volunteer Connection

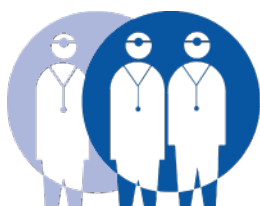
## In This Issue:

Spinal Care in Uganda | Anesthesia in Uganda  
Oral Diseases MOOC | Role of the Oncology Nurse



*“Educating medical staff means they can move forward and help more of the population, and that’s what leaves a lasting impact. This was the biggest surprise to me – the impact of education.”*

*- Robin Babadjouni, MD*



**Health Volunteers Overseas**  
*Transforming Lives Through Education*

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Dear Friends,

The Oxford dictionary defines collaboration as “the act of working with another person or group of people to create or produce something.” At HVO, we use the word “collaboration” often, and that’s because collaboration is at the heart of everything we accomplish. On any given day, there are dedicated and

talented professionals working throughout HVO’s global network to create the reality we want to live in – one where quality health care is easily accessible to all.

These collaborations all look different. Some are teams of interdisciplinary volunteers training local teams of health professionals, like Dr. Perry’s spine surgery group you will read about in this issue. Some are collaborations between organizations, like the partnership formed among HVO, the ADA, and the FDI World Dental Federation to create a Massive Open Online Course on the global burden of oral diseases. Many collaborations are among individuals, HVO volunteers and learners, building relationships and community as they work together to enhance their knowledge and skills. There’s even HVO’s small staff, working together to support HVO’s partners, volunteers, and learners and to advance HVO’s mission.

One of the many benefits of collaboration is our diversity of experiences, skills, and perspectives. There are no one-size-fits-all solutions to global health care, and we must rely on each other to achieve the mission we have set for ourselves. Helen Keller once said, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” In the many years I have spent at HVO, it has amazed me exactly how much we can do together. Together, we are at work in twenty countries. Together, we provide education in over fourteen different health specialties. Together, we are addressing inequities and changing the way health care is practiced. Thank you for being part of our great collaborative journey.

Sincerely,

*April*

April Pinner, MSPH, RD  
Executive Director

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## A Holistic Approach to Spinal Care Education in Uganda

Dr. Tiffany Perry, a neurosurgeon and HVO volunteer, has been leading multi-disciplinary teams to Uganda to teach on topics related to spinal care since 2017. Her first trip to Uganda, however, came well before her affiliation with HVO, while she was still completing her spine fellowship with Duke in 2010. She enjoyed the trip and the work, and just a few years after her return found herself doing a second spine fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic. There, she met another fellow who was from Uganda, and they became friends. Their friendship and her past trip kept Uganda on her mind, and when a colleague, Dr. Isador Lieberman, told her about the work he was doing there through HVO, she decided to join his team for a scouting trip. Once again, she loved the experience. “I knew this was what I wanted to do. And I knew that wherever I landed in my career, I needed to make international medicine part of what I do,” Dr. Perry said. “With the support of my chair, Dr. Keith Black, and the department, I organized my own team. However, I wanted to be able to offer not just surgical care – if we’re going there to help and to teach, we need to go help and teach in all aspects of spine care.”



Photo courtesy of Dr. Tiffany Perry



Photo courtesy of Dr. Sam Ochung

So, in 2017, Dr. Perry recruited an anesthesiologist, a physical therapist, two nurses, a surgical resident, and two surgical technologists and headed back to Uganda. She returned each subsequent year with only two exceptions, one due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the next due to the Ebola outbreak in 2023. Each year, she vets a new team of volunteers from her place of employment at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, California.

Her most recent trip, in early 2024 to Mulago National Referral Hospital in Kampala, included nine volunteers: a physical therapist, two nurses, two surgical technologists, a surgical resident, and a Medtronic representative. Medtronic donates the instrumentation for the surgeries, and the team’s patients donate to sponsor the trip for the entire team, including medical supplies which the team leaves behind for the hospital to continue utilizing.

“This was a phenomenal group,” said Dr. Perry. “Collaboratively, with the surgeons and residents from Uganda, we performed sixteen surgeries and saw more than eighty patients. More than fifty patients had individual therapy sessions with our physical therapist.” The days were long, beginning at seven each morning. The neurosurgeons presented lectures to a group of approximately twenty-five residents and attendings in the lecture hall. After an hour-long lecture, they would head to the operating room (OR) where demonstrations and teaching continued.



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Meanwhile, the nurses offered lectures to their colleagues at the nursing school in the afternoons while the physical therapist, Brittany Butler, worked with seven physical therapists and physical therapy students. Together they rounded on patients, provided treatment plans and education to families of patients, and went through clinical case studies and clinical reasoning together. “It was incredible to see what the physical therapists there were using to help their patients achieve their goals and to understand the differences in approaches to education. We would bounce ideas off each other,” said Dr. Butler.



Photo courtesy of Dr. Tiffany Perry

In the OR, much of the teaching was done by moving through processes together. “They don’t have posterior cervical instrumentation, so we brought over the screws that are needed and taught how they’re used. We were able to perform surgeries with them and teach residents the anatomy and give them the opportunity to place posterior cervical screws,” said Dr. Perry. “It was remarkable to get to teach something they don’t normally do. We also put in the very first lumbar expandable inter-body cage at that hospital. For that, we basically take out the disc completely, then mallet in a cage that will expand, and place bone in that disc space to get the patient to fuse.”

Dr. Robin Babadjouni, who is in the sixth year of his spine surgery residency, worked with Dr. Perry in both the OR and the lecture hall. “We were able to give lectures every day about general knowledge in the field, and [the attendees] always had great questions. There were always four to six surgeons in the OR with us every time. I couldn’t tell you just one thing we learned together because it was basically endless.” This was his first overseas volunteer trip, and he hopes to continue volunteering: “This opened my eyes to global health. It’s something you learn about but don’t really understand unless you experience it. I would definitely do this trip again as I get on with my career. I could say it sparked a passion.”

Dr. Perry and Dr. Babadjouni had the opportunity to work with Dr. Sam Ochung, a Ugandan resident in his second year of orthopedic training. He says their visit has inspired him to specialize in spine surgery. “Before, I thought I would be a trauma surgeon or an arthroplasty surgeon,” said Dr. Ochung. “But having worked with Dr. Perry’s team and the techniques I learned, I realized I could make a great spine surgeon. It also made me appreciate the fact that spine surgery is quite unique and has a lot of need, and not only in Uganda—there are a lot of spine trauma and tumor cases worldwide. The team inspired me in so many ways and made me really love spine. Their zeal, their love for the discipline...when they demonstrated the skills and techniques and the outcomes of their surgeries, it was amazing, and I learned that spinal care is about having the right techniques, the right tools, and the love for it. It is a wonderful area to specialize in.”



Photo courtesy of Dr. Tiffany Perry

Dr. Ochung was initially inspired to pursue medicine by an uncle he admired, who was the first doctor in their village and worked for the United Nations. Dr. Ochung began volunteering at just eleven years old with the Uganda Red Cross Society, giving first aid to those in need in the community. He said, “I love serving humanity. I love volunteering.” He was a good student,

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always top of his class, and was given state scholarships to study medicine. He studied several areas, but his interest lay in orthopedics. Working with Dr. Perry's team was a great experience, and he appreciated the opportunity to learn how to insert pedicle screws and other implants the team had brought. The drawback, he said, was that their time was so short: "It was an amazing experience, but the time was so short. In the future we would like more time with volunteers and hope there is an opportunity for an exchange program that would allow residents from Uganda to come to the United States to gain experience there." More time, he feels, would inspire more students to pursue spine surgery, and make an even bigger difference.



Photo courtesy of Dr. Tiffany Perry

One impact Dr. Ochung sees already is on the use of antibiotics post-surgery. Previously, they prescribed antibiotics for every patient after their surgery to prevent sepsis, which can be prohibitively expensive and contributes to antimicrobial resistance to antibiotics. But Dr. Perry's team showed that by ensuring that the OR environment remained sterile, combined with good surgical techniques and resources, patients were unlikely to develop sepsis. In the time the team was there, none of the patients developed sepsis, even without antibiotics. "It was like a miracle," said Dr. Ochung. "To operate on a patient and only give them Tylenol."



Photo courtesy of Dr. Sam Ochung

The HVO volunteers agreed that working together is what allowed them to make as much of an impact as they did. Dr. Babadjouni said, "Going the way we did, I think it's essential, because there are so many moving parts to set up a surgery and execute it safely, to take care of the patient after...being a surgeon alone, you can't make as much of an impact as you can with a team you trust." Dr. Perry agreed: "I am one person. But as a team, we really increased our value to the hospital. We are so much more effective on an educational level as a team. There's so much more strength in numbers on so many levels – emotional, educational, and physical capabilities." Dr. Butler had a similar perspective: "We're all

in separate fields but we are working as one big team to maximize patient recovery and outcome. For patients and providers to see a team in action and how well people can collaborate and communicate with each other was really important."

Each agreed that their biggest impact was through education. "While doing surgeries is helpful to a handful of people, educating doctors is what helps the system as a whole," said Dr. Babadjouni. "We had an impact on the sixteen patients we operated on, but the biggest impact we made was on the doctors. Educating medical staff means they can move forward and help more of the population, and that's what leaves a lasting impact. This was the biggest surprise to me – the impact of education. Every morning when we were giving lectures, I've never been so motivated to give a lecture before because the residents were so motivated and excited to listen that it made me want to be better too."

## HVO Stories



Photo courtesy of Dr. Tiffany Perry

Dr. Butler also felt that by educating the physical therapists, she was making a bigger difference than by just treating patients. She said, “One of the best parts of this trip is that we had the opportunity not only to collaborate with colleagues who were licensed professionals, but also the opportunity to teach students coming up in the field. Just showing up for the time you are there and then leaving only allows you to have an impact on an extremely small percentage of a population. So to be able to go and educate team members on how to continue to provide skilled services to patients was one of the most important parts of the trip and had a lasting effect. You’re able to reach a much larger group.”

At the end of her time, Dr. Butler noticed that one of the biggest contributions she made was less about any particular techniques and skills and more about the manner in which her Ugandan colleagues and students were interacting. She felt that they acted with more confidence and assertiveness: “Specifically one student, I couldn’t get him to answer any questions in the beginning. But at the end of the week, we were working with a patient, and he went right into education for the family and walked through all the steps to safely turn the patient, completely unprompted. It was a proud moment to see him so confident, going right into treatment and education for the family.” She also observed that after their time working as a team educating families on how to watch over their loved ones, the whole space livened up and felt more energized and hopeful. Dr. Butler said that looking around at the end of her visit, she thought, “We’ve really turned this clinic into a place of healing.”

Ronaleah Bodtcher and Ryan Walton, the two nurses on the team, felt they were able to have an equal impact on the twenty-five nurses they worked with and taught. One important process they demonstrated was counting all items before a surgery began and re-counting them before closing the incision to make certain that nothing was left behind in the patient. Another was an effective way to scrub in pre-surgery, ensuring that they and the environment was properly sterile. “Everyone was very welcoming towards us and engaged and wanting to see and learn how we do things,” Ms. Bodtcher said. “They always wanted to learn the reasoning behind things. We always felt comfortable sharing our processes, and they were open to learning how to improve.” Mr. Walton shared, “The education portion of the mission was so important. That way, medical workers will use that information to help their patients and teach it to their students as well. And this will continue on and on.”



Photo courtesy of Dr. Sam Ochung

Dr. Ochung was appreciative of the team’s efforts and enjoyed their collaboration. In addition to inspiring him to pursue a fellowship in spine surgery, he is also interested in volunteering his own skills wherever needed. “Thank you to the team for sacrificing time to come here,” he said, “and for inspiring the young residents and to the organization for giving them resources to be able to come.”



## HVO Stories

It took many people to make the visit the success it was, and Dr. Perry said none of it would have been possible without Stella Nyange, who works with HVO in Kampala to help visiting volunteers' assignments run smoothly. Dr. Perry said she called Ms. Nyange for assistance at two a.m. the night of their arrival, and Stella was up and ready to help. That morning, Ms. Nyange drove Dr. Perry to the airport to help her transport the medical supplies that had been held there. The team could also not have functioned without the two surgical technicians, Nar Sarkissian and Diana Plascencia, who prepared all of the trays so the team could function and perform every surgery while there. CRNA Kali Schwindt was the anesthesia provider who managed all anesthetic medications and ensured the safety of patients before, during, and after surgery.

Collaboration and teamwork are essential to the heart of HVO's mission – to improve the quality of health care for everyone, regardless of geographic location. Dr. Perry's team and their Ugandan colleagues worked tirelessly together on all the possible ways they could care more effectively for patients and their families, changing outcomes not only for the patients present during the visit but for all the patients who come hereafter, as well as for future students of spine surgery, physical therapy, and nursing. Multiple disciplines working together allowed for an especially holistic approach to both education and patient care. We are so grateful for everyone's efforts and commitment to global health, and we hope you feel as inspired as we do!



Photos courtesy of Dr. Tiffany Perry

## HVO Stories

### A Legacy of Anesthesia Education



Photo courtesy of Dr. Ali Hemyari

The SEA-HVO Travelling Fellowship is a scholarship program that funds anesthesia residents in the final year of study who wish to spend four weeks teaching at an HVO project site. Each year, seven fellowships are awarded, each one funded by a different generous donor. Dr. Harry M. Zutz is one such donor. “Harry Zutz was with HVO from the beginning,” said Nancy Kelly, former Executive Director of HVO. “He contributed to design of the organization and the programs. All the things that we have now, he was a part of. He volunteered to help me set up the

anesthesia program and did a lot of site assessments in those early days. He was very much a champion of HVO and would go out and give talks. He was diligent, believed deeply in the mission, and, if something didn’t go right the first time, he’d figure out a different way to do it.” When Dr. Zutz passed away in 2016, he continued his lifelong support of HVO by leaving behind a legacy gift to fund the fellowship.

This year’s recipient of the Dr. Harry M. Zutz Memorial Fellowship was Dr. Ali Hemyari, a resident at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Hemyari spent his month providing daily lectures and bedside training to forty students with the equivalent of CRNA experience at the Kabale University School of Medicine in Kabale, Uganda. He covered over thirty topics and provided feedback to students on the OR cases he observed. While working with students in the OR, he helped to implement safety practices like color coding medications and keeping syringes with local anesthetics away from IV medications. He also spent time going over the understanding and use of sterile techniques.



Photo courtesy of Dr. Ali Hemyari

Dr. Hemyari guided his students in their first caudal block for infants and young children performed at the hospital. This type of pain treatment is similar to a one-shot epidural but is suitable for children. It is an especially practical and relatively safe technique, which provides excellent analgesia without having to use narcotics which can be risky when there is sparse monitoring. By the time he left, students were enthusiastically performing them under supervision and feeling comfortable. “I think it is going to be continued as a treatment for pain in children, and the surgeons were impressed and thankful,” said Dr. Lena Dohlman, project director of HVO’s anesthesia project in Kabale, longtime volunteer, and founder of the SEA-HVO Fellowship. Besides encouraging the first caudal block, she says that Dr. Hemyari also showed students how to use ultrasounds for diagnostic purposes as a quick, practical, and often more



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accurate technique than x-rays. Dr. Dohlman was particularly impressed with Dr. Hemyari's patience, cultural sensitivity, careful teaching, curiosity, and dedication. She believes he saved several lives during his few weeks there, in addition to creating a lasting impact on safe anesthesia practices and education.

Dr. Dohlman started the SEA-HVO Travelling Fellowship in 2001, a program that has now sponsored more than 150 resident volunteers. When starting the program, she quickly sought out Dr. Zutz. "Harry Zutz was one of the first people I got in touch with, and he was wonderful to work with" she said. "We would get applications from all over the country, and Harry would help select the fellows. He was fantastic at guiding the residents going to his site in Africa and was very appreciated for helping them with preparations." During Dr. Zutz's active years as a volunteer, he visited Uganda multiple times. In the 1990s, he made contact with Dr. Henry Bukwirwa, who later became the on-site coordinator for HVO's anesthesia project in Kabale and who worked with Dr. Hemyari during his month-long stay. Dr. Bukwirwa is now the Chair of Anesthesia at Kabale University School of Medicine. It was his early interactions with Dr. Zutz that inspired him to reach out to HVO to partner with his university.



Photo courtesy of Dr. Ali Hemyari

It is fitting that Dr. Hemyari visited Kabale, sponsored by Dr. Zutz's legacy gift, to work with Dr. Zutz's former colleague and partner on a project Dr. Zutz and Dr. Bukwirwa helped launch. Dr. Hemyari continues to keep in touch with both Dr. Bukwirwa and his students, and he hopes to volunteer with HVO again in the future.

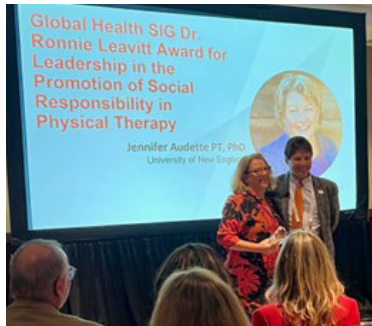
If you are interested in learning more about making an impact through HVO's Legacy Circle, please contact Danielle Stonehirsch at [d.stonehirsch@hvousa.org](mailto:d.stonehirsch@hvousa.org).



Photos courtesy of Drs. Lena Dohlman and Ali Hemyari

## News & Events

### Dr. Jennifer Audette Recognized for Contributions to Advancing Global Health

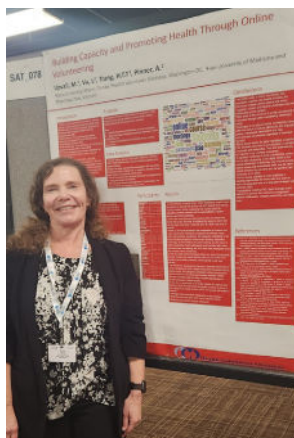


HVO member Jennifer Audette, PhD, PT was honored by the APTA Academy of Leadership and Innovation with the Dr. Ronnie Leavitt Award for Leadership in the Promotion of Social Responsibility at the recent Global Health Reception at APTA Combined Sections Meeting. This award recognizes individuals whose contributions and actions have demonstrated leadership in the promotion of social responsibility through service, scholarship, and advocacy. Dr. Audette has been a member of APTA since 1986 and a member of Health Volunteers Overseas since 2007. She began her HVO volunteer work in 2008

with her first visit to the rehabilitation project in Suriname, where she worked with colleagues and students on the development of what would later become a robust physical therapy program at Anton de Kom University in Paramaribo. In 2019, her dedication to global health and HVO's mission was recognized with HVO's Golden Apple Award. Dr. Audette is an Associate Professor at the University of New England and serves as an Executive Board member and Futures Network Mentor for World Physiotherapy. HVO extends congratulations on this prestigious award!

### Dr. Winokur New Hospital Director at LFHC

Dr. Robert Winokur visited Lao Friends Hospital for Children on his first HVO assignment in the fall of 2023 to train emergency room doctors on non-surgical orthopedic topics. After his trip, he kept in touch via weekly virtual follow-ups. When the hospital director decided to move on, he recommended that Dr. Winokur take his place. Dr. Winokur loved the idea and took up his position as the new hospital director at LFHC in March of this year. We look forward to hearing more from him as he settles in. It is always wonderful to hear about the meaningful connections our community members make through HVO.



### Building Capacity and Promoting Health Through Online Volunteering

In March, Michele Upvall, PhD, RN, CNE attended the Consortium of Universities for Global Health's 2024 Conference and presented a poster reflecting on HVO e-learning model. The poster, "Building Capacity and Promoting Health Through Online Volunteering," focused on three of HVO's e-learning projects: Physical Therapy, Rwanda/Ghana; Oral Health, Nepal; and Anesthesia, Bhutan/Cambodia/Laos. HVO is grateful to Dr. Upvall for taking this opportunity to share our work with a new audience.



# Advancing Oncology Nursing in Vietnam

In September 2023, a team of HVO volunteers and colleagues at the National Cancer Hospital in Vietnam collaborated on a two-week training course for oncology nurses. The course took the team months to plan and required a commitment to communication and partnership. Volunteers provided a week of lectures on various agreed upon topics to enhance the oncology nurses' knowledge followed by a second week of hands-on practice and role play using small group instruction. The students in the course left with new skills, new connections, and new stethoscopes, which were graciously donated by volunteers.



“Although oncology nursing looks different from country to country depending on resources, education, and patient population, the one thing we all universally experience is the array of challenges in caring for cancer patients. At times it can be the most uplifting and happy experience—for example, when a patient receives news that they’re in remission. Other times it can be a physically demanding and heart wrenching experience caring for those in emergency situations, in pain, suffering, and dying. We hope that the information and tools imparted to the nurses at K Hospital will have a long-lasting impact on improving cancer care not only at K Hospital but throughout Vietnam.”

- Amy Sacco RN, MS, OCN

To learn more about the workshop, scan the QR code to watch a video featuring volunteers and trainees.





## In Memorium

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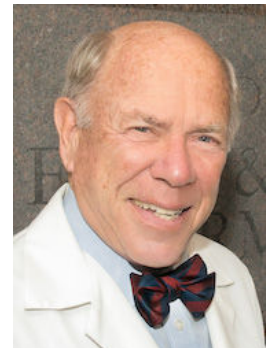
### Sem Chenda, MD



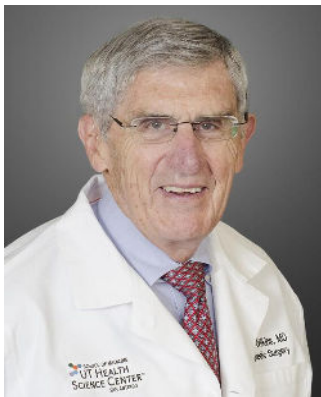
Over twenty years ago, Dr. Sem Chenda sent HVO a request for assistance providing anesthesia education at Angkor Hospital for Children (AHC). His request was the beginning of a decades-long, productive partnership. Dr. Chenda served as the site coordinator for the project, oversaw its growth and development, and watched as students became teachers before he left AHC to earn his MD. The project eventually expanded to support exchange programs between nurse anesthesia students in the US and Cambodia. He will be remembered for his great contributions to anesthesia education at AHC and the essential role he played in making this partnership possible.

### Robert Volz, MD

It is with great sadness that we share the news that Robert Volz, MD passed away several months ago. He was a respected member of our community for over three decades. Dr. Volz joined HVO in 1992, when it was still just Orthopedics Overseas and served as a board member from 1997 to 1999, helping to guide the organization in the early days of transition to a division of Health Volunteers Overseas. He also completed two volunteer trips to Bhutan and Vietnam to share his wealth of orthopaedic knowledge with colleagues overseas. As a member of the HVO Legacy Circle, he continued to demonstrate support with generosity and foresight, so that HVO can continue the work he believed in.



### Kaye Wilkins, MD



The global health community said goodbye to Dr. Kaye Wilkins at the end of last year. Dr. Wilkins was a renowned pediatric orthopaedic surgeon known for his dedication to service and humanitarianism. He was recognized as Humanitarian of the Year by the Arthritis Foundation of San Antonio, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, and the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America. In 2007, he won the American Airlines American Way essay contest, receiving one million air miles and two million Hilton Hotels bonus points. He donated all of it to the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America so they could use it to help physicians from low-resource countries travel to the United States for training they could bring back to their home countries. He was a member of HVO from 1994 until his passing in 2023, and in that time served as

project director for the orthopaedic project in Haiti and as a board member for Orthopaedics Overseas. He volunteered his knowledge and skills, traveling to Haiti, Peru, India, Malaysia, Ecuador, and Chile. He will be greatly missed.

# In Memory of Tshewang Thinley, MD

In the ten years Dr. Tshewang Thinley served as the on-site coordinator for HVO's orthopaedic project in Bhutan, he touched the lives of many in our community. He accomplished a great deal for his department and for orthopaedic care in Bhutan. He will be greatly missed.



He was Bhutan's first board-certified orthopaedic surgeon and an excellent one. He was a wonderful person, respected by his colleagues, and loved by his patients. His sincerity and kindness were balanced by his delightful sense of humor. I was privileged to know him and work with him. He certainly taught me more than I taught him. He had a special gift of orthopaedic talent combined with a caring respect for his patients. He will be missed for sure.

- Samuel Baker, MD

Dr. Thinley was the only orthopedist in a country of 700,000 and was touring with the King when I arrived in 2001. When he returned to Thimphu, it became obvious that this gentleman had an incredible presence and the skill set to meet the needs of his country in a humble and caring way. Tshewang was a gifted clinician and taught me a great deal about orthopedics, Buddhism, and life. I was very fortunate to be able to spend this time with him.

- Jon Keeve, MD



Dr. Tshewang Thinley made the Bhutan orthopedic program one of the most pleasant experiences that I have ever had volunteering.

- Robert Derkash, MD

He was a remarkable man.

- Pat Howson, MD

Dr. Thinley was very instrumental in including the PT students on his rounds and was very supportive of their input on patient care. I really enjoyed collaborating with him in devising protocols for some very difficult problems.

- Asha Bajaj, PT, DPT



May his memory be a blessing to those who knew him.

- Debbie Maya

I do not think I can write anything worthy because he was worth everything. At this time we miss him, and patients come to the clinic and weep remembering him.

- Ugyen Thinley, MD

Dr. Tshewang was a wonderful teacher and colleague. His calm demeanor and wise counsel helped keep the ship at the National Referral Hospital on a smooth and always upward course. It was always a pleasure to work with him in the outpatient clinic. We talked orthopedics, politics, Buddhism, and many other topics. He was a seasoned surgeon and a good friend. His granddaughter was the light of his life, and he loved showing pictures of her and telling anyone who would listen of all her wonderful qualities. His passing is a sad loss to me personally, to his family, and to the legacy of Bhutanese orthopedics.

- Robert Hoffman, MD





# Global Oral Health MOOC Launched

Health Volunteers Overseas is pleased to share an incredible new resource developed by the FDI World Dental Federation and the American Dental Association (ADA) with support from HVO—a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) titled “The Challenge of Oral Disease: A Call for Global Action.” The MOOC is designed to teach participants about the global burden of oral diseases and is based on the second edition of the Oral Health Atlas, released at the FDI’s 2015 Annual World Dental Congress in Bangkok, Thailand. It was created by HVO volunteer Dr. Elizabeth Shick in collaboration with two of her colleagues, Dr. David Williams and Dr. Habib Benzian. The course takes three hours and is broken into eight chapters, each of which covers an important oral health topic.

## The course will:

- Describe oral health and oral disease, including the importance of oral health in general health.
- Explain key strategies for oral health promotion, oral disease prevention, and treatment.
- Identify oral health risk factors and ways to mitigate them.
- Discuss the oral health workforce and each person’s role on the oral health care team.
- Describe critical elements of the global oral health agenda and associated policy implications.



“It is imperative that both oral health providers and non-oral health providers fully understand oral disease, its risk factors and epidemiology, and the interventions and policy measures that may be implemented to improve oral health. This free online course, developed with FDI World Dental Federation and generously supported by the American Dental Association and Health Volunteers Overseas, provides a primer for professionals, students or trainees working in health care. The easy-to-follow format will ensure learners gain a comprehensive understanding of oral disease and are ready to take action on a local, national or global level.”

- Elizabeth Shick, DDS, MPH

To learn more and access the MOOC, visit: <https://www.fdiworldddental.org/new-online-course-addresses-global-challenges-and-opportunities-improve-oral-health>

or scan the QR code:





# Special Thanks

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American Physical Therapy Association · American Society of Clinical Oncology  
American Society of Hematology · British Society for Haematology



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. To discuss making a bequest in your will or other charitable aspects of your estate planning, please contact Danielle Stonehirsch at [d.stonehirsch@hvousa.org](mailto:d.stonehirsch@hvousa.org).

If you have already made a charitable bequest, please let us know. We would like the opportunity to express our gratitude and will honor all requests to remain anonymous.

Thank you to the following people who have made this commitment:

Anonymous (7)  
Charles & Sandy Blitzer  
Richard Coughlin, MD, MSc  
Jay Cox, MD  
Nancy Cox  
Kim Dunleavy, PhD, PT, OCS  
Denise & Dennis English  
Germaine Fritz, DO  
Dr. & Mrs. David Frost

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*Transforming Lives Through Education*

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**Health Volunteers Overseas** is dedicated to improving the availability and quality of health care through the education, training and professional development of the health workforce in resource-scarce countries. HVO designs and implements clinical training and education programs in child health, primary care, trauma and rehabilitation, essential surgical care, oral health, blood disorders and cancer, infectious disease, wound management, and nursing education.

*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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