

The Rita Feinberg Fellowship Spinal Orthopaedics – Moshi, Tanzania

Goal: The volunteer will work primarily with selected members of the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) Orthopaedic surgical faculty who are tasked with caring for spine trauma. The volunteer will be engaged in all aspects of training on the diagnosis and treatment of spinal injuries. He/she will effectively serve as the “Guest Faculty Expert in Spine,” participating in ward rounds and conferences to support discussion on treatment strategies for new and existing spine patients, and consulting with the KCMC faculty as requested on spinal cases. The specific goals of this fellowship include:

1. Primary Goal: To enable safe and effective surgical treatment for patients with cervical and thoracolumbar spinal trauma, to reduce the current volume of extended non-operative care and the associated prolonged hospitalization and severe morbidity. In addition to improving outcomes, this will also reduce burden on nurses and families caring for these patients.
2. Secondary: To refine the current non-operative care model, from the emergency department through the rehab facility, including improved orthotics care.
3. Tertiary: To support medical education for the medical students and orthopedic residents regarding appropriate diagnosis, examination, triage and care for spinal injuries.

KCMC Background: HVO has had an ongoing orthopaedic project at KCMC since 2013. This project recruits short-term volunteers to provide broad orthopaedic training to orthopaedic surgical faculty, residents, medical students and assistant medical officers. This fellowship will serve to complement and expand the ongoing training activities through intensive training and mentorship of select orthopaedic staff in spinal care.

Volunteer Requirements: Practicing or recently retired board certified/eligible orthopaedic or neurosurgeon with significant experience in surgical and non-surgical care of spine trauma; including surgical decompression, reconstruction and postoperative management (cervical, thoracic, and lumbar). A recent graduate of an accredited US spinal fellowship program would also qualify.

Length and Dates (if applicable): 3-6 months, timing is flexible.

For more information, contact April Pinner, at a.pinner@hvousa.org

Fellowship Background: Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO) is a nonprofit organization committed to improving the availability and quality of health care in resource-scarce settings through the education, training and professional development of the health workforce. The core of HVO’s model relies on the utilization of short-term volunteers. However, HVO recognizes there are critical needs at many of our partner institutions which are most effectively and sustainably addressed only through the placement of a long-term volunteer. The Rita Feinberg Fellowship has been established to enable HVO to better meet these needs and to provide financial support to volunteers able to commit to assignments of 3-6 months in length.

This fellowship will cover the volunteer’s round-trip airfare and housing costs, as well as assignment-related expenses such as visa, medical/nursing council registration, etc. In addition, the volunteer will receive a modest stipend to cover food, transportation, and other incidental costs while on assignment (amounts for housing and stipend will vary based on location).