

Kelly McQueen, M.D., M.P.H., to Receive 2017 Nicholas M. Greene, M.D. Outstanding Humanitarian Contribution Award

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The Nicholas M. Greene, M.D. Outstanding Humanitarian Contribution Award will be conferred upon Dr. Kelly McQueen at ANESTHESIOLOGY® 2017 in Boston.

The award was created in honor of the late Nicholas M. Greene, M.D., who founded the ASA Overseas Teaching Program (OTP) in 1991. The Committee on OTP was renamed the Committee on Global Humanitarian Outreach in 2008, with Dr. McQueen serving as its first chair. The first Nicholas M. Greene Award in 2010 was conferred upon Dr. Phil Bridenbaugh for his humanitarian contributions, which included serving as chair of the Committee on OTP for many years.

This year, as in years past, the GHO Committee entertained multiple meritorious nominations for the prestigious award. Committee members were tasked to adjudicate which nominee had the greatest impact on global humanitarian outreach during the course of their careers. The choice of Dr. Kelly McQueen as the seventh awardee brought the award full-circle from its inception.

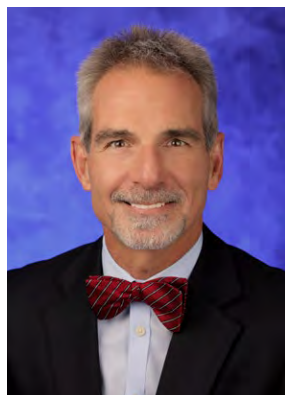
Dr. McQueen told me, *"I always wanted to serve in the poorest countries around the world – for as long as I can remember. This was a driving reason for my medical school interests, and as early as my second year in medical school I was able to rotate overseas. As is true for so many, my life was changed by the needs I saw, the tragedy I witnessed and the relationships made."*



Kelly McQueen, M.D., M.P.H.

Completing her anesthesiology residency at the Mayo Clinic in Arizona in 1995, and generally uncertain about her decision to go into medicine, Kelly volunteered for the ASA OTP – first organized at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center (KCMC), Moshe, Tanzania.¹ Overlooking the majestic mountains carrying its name, KCMC was the hospital where Dr. Greene had established the first OTP in 1991. The OTP helped to train more than 20 anesthesia clinicians annually who were then deployed around Tanzania to provide anesthetic care. Kelly prepared relentlessly for the teaching experience, including reading about ether and draw-over vapor anesthesia, before arriving in early November. *"And yet I was not prepared ... not prepared for all the eye- and heart-opening experience, the beauty, the insight into another world and the friendships I would treasure."*

Increasingly optimistic about her chosen career from the overseas training month, Dr. McQueen joined a private anesthetic practice in Arizona, negotiating one-eighth time away to continue to volunteer for humanitarian aid agencies and charities abroad. Parlaying this time into an exceptional record of volunteerism and academic writing on the subject, Kelly realized that the challenges of international anesthesia provision were much larger than she could address as an anesthesiologist volunteer. Completing an M.P.H. at Harvard Medical School in 2002, she went on to pursue research in low- and middle-income countries with a focus on anesthesia infrastructure and the related outcomes of interventions. Leaving private practice to join academia, Dr. McQueen is now a Professor of Anesthesiology and Director of Global Health Development at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Having volunteered for close to three decades for organizations such as Operation Smile, Medecin Sans Frontiere and, of course, the OTP and ASA GHO committees, Dr. McQueen has deeply earned the many humanitarian awards she has already received from the University of Vermont, Arizona Medical Association, Colorado Chapter of the American College of Surgeons



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and the International College of Surgeons. Serving on the Lancet Commission on Global Surgery as an international anesthesia expert, Kelly contributed significantly to the successful passing of a World Health Assembly Resolution in 2015 promoting “Strengthening [of] emergency and essential surgical care and anaesthesia as a component of universal health coverage.”

Fortunate that she is now living in the “Era of Global Surgery,” Kelly is focusing her future work on assisting in the development of national surgery plans with the hope of increasing access to safe anesthesia in the perioperative period on an international basis.

For all the work that Dr. McQueen has done in improving safe anesthesia care around the world, the ASA GHO Committee is justly proud to name her the 2017 Nicholas M. Greene, M.D. Outstanding Humanitarian Contribution Award recipient.

References:

- 1. McQueen KAK. A change in perspective: experiences with the OTP in Tanzania. *ASA Newsletter*. 1996;60(11):9-11.



Kelly McQueen, M.D., M.P.H., with Jeanne d'arc Uwambazimana, M.D., President of the Rwanda Society of Anesthesiologists.



Dr. McQueen, center, with colleagues during the World Congress of Surgery in Toronto in 2015.