

Global Humanitarian Outreach: Tackling Large Problems In a Shrinking World

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It is with great anticipation that I introduce the June 2012 ASA NEWSLETTER dedicated to global humanitarian outreach. In the years since the last ASA NEWSLETTER dedicated to global issues (Overseas Teaching Program, 1995), the interest in global anesthesia, crises in low-income countries, and global health in general has exploded among medical students, anesthesia residents and ASA members alike. The world has grown smaller, and the ASA membership is interested in and committed to safe anesthesia within and beyond our borders.

This issue brings to you, the readership, a spectrum of articles on global humanitarian outreach – academic partnerships, disaster relief, equipment and biomedical issues, and the role of the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists in global education. I hope it provides you with information on outreach of interest and inspiration to become involved if you are not already. Surgery and safe anesthesia are underserved in more than 85 countries worldwide. The time is now to become engaged in improving access to and availability of safe anesthesia in all corners of the global. Whether you invest money or time, please consider learning about the global anesthesia crisis, and help where you can.

Many thanks to Dr. Bacon and his excellent ASA NEWSLETTER staff for revisiting global issues as an entire newsletter issue. I am grateful for the membership interest and support of this important topic.



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American Society of
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GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN OUTREACH



Dr. Jeanne d'Arc Uwambazimana (left) and Dr. Kelly McQueen with the first Lifebox Pulse Oximeter delivered in Rwanda. Dr. Uwambazimana was the last remaining anesthesiologist in Rwanda after the 1994 genocide. She is holding a photo of the first donor of the Lifebox to Rwanda – a personal friend.



Dr. McQueen readies a small patient for surgery as part of Operation Smile in Iraq.



76,999 TO GO.

TODAY, TENS OF THOUSANDS OF OPERATING ROOMS DON'T HAVE A PULSE OXIMETER.

And without a pulse oximeter, millions of lives are put at risk. That's why scores of hospitals, medical organizations and private donors are taking a stand against unsafe surgery. They're making contributions to send a pulse oximeter to an operating room in need. And they're ensuring that all patients have access to the care they deserve.

77,000 ISN'T A SMALL NUMBER. BUT IT'S NOT AN IMPOSSIBLE ONE. TOGETHER, WE'LL MAKE IT ZERO.

Visit www.lifebox.org/makeitzero to become part of the mission.

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