

Mark W. Newton, M.D., to Receive 2016 Nicholas M. Greene, M.D., Outstanding Humanitarian Contribution Award

Berend Mets, M.B., Ph.D., FRCA, Chair
Committee on Global Humanitarian Outreach

The Nicholas M. Greene, M.D., Outstanding Humanitarian Contribution Award will be conferred on Mark W. Newton, M.D., at the ANESTHESIOLOGY® 2016 annual meeting in Chicago this October. The award was created in honor of the late Nicholas M. Greene, M.D., who founded the ASA Overseas Teaching Program in 1991. The Committee on Overseas Teaching Program was renamed the Committee on Global Humanitarian Outreach (GHO) in 2008, providing the first Nicholas Greene Award in 2010.

This year the GHO Committee received nine meritorious nominations for this prestigious award. Committee members were asked to adjudicate which nominee had the greatest impact on global humanitarian outreach during the course of their careers. Dr. Mark Newton is the sixth awardee.

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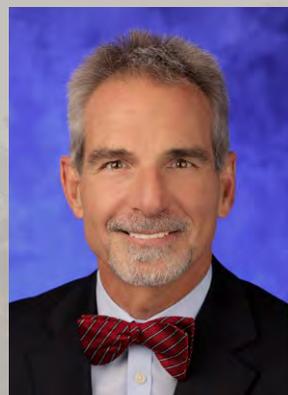
MARK W. NEWTON, M.D.

Mark was born and raised in Amarillo, Texas. Becoming aware of poverty and the plight of others at an early age as his family cared for the homeless in Texas and neighboring Mexico, he decided to act. “This is the time when I became aware of poverty and decided to be involved once I was educated,” he said.

He completed medical school at University of Texas Medical Branch (Galveston) and residency at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center (Houston), and as early as 1997 started work in Kenya. Here, Mark developed a non-physician anesthesia program with the Kenyan government, located at the Kijabe Hospital, while helping direct the hospital in anesthesia education and clinical care delivery.

More than 130 graduates are now providing safe anesthesia around Kenya, and 45 students help support the anesthesia care in nine operating sites and approximately 10,000 surgeries annually at Kijabe Hospital. In addition, a pediatric fellowship has been developed with the University of Nairobi with nine graduates and part of their training in Kijabe. This is only part of what Dr. Newton has achieved in the area of humanitarian outreach. He has additionally taught and provided clinical care in more than nine other African countries, helping support anesthesia training in countries such as South Sudan and helping the medical leaders of Somaliland develop a medical school post-civil war. During the civil war in South Sudan in 1998, Mark had to run from the O.R. as a plane was circling to bomb the hospital. Dr. Newton still spends the vast majority of his time in Kenya but as a faculty member and Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, he also teaches and practices in the USA. Undeterred, “Mark and his wife Sue continued serving in Africa over the last 19 years, helping develop a Masai community school, which started under an Acacia tree.

In recognition of his humanitarian work, the GHO Committee is proud to name Dr. Mark Newton the recipient of this year’s Nicholas M. Greene Award.



Berend Mets, M.B., Ph.D., FRCA, is Chair, ASA Committee on Global Humanitarian Outreach, Chair, Committee on Representation to the WFSA, Council Member, World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists, and Professor and Chair, Pennsylvania State University, Department of Anesthesiology, Hershey, Pennsylvania.



Fellows from Malawi and Kenya learning pediatric anesthesia.



Above: Teaching pediatric regional anesthesia to a fellow from Kenya.



Left: Teaching difficult airway techniques to residents from Kenya and Vanderbilt University.

Below: Annual CME Anesthesia Meeting in Kenya.

