



PREPARING FOR MISSIONS OF HOPE



M.O.S.T. coordinator Pat Robinson entertains one of the team's young patients.

Sharing a common mission, physicians, nurses, pharmacists, interpreters and other volunteer members of the Mercy Outreach Surgical Team (M.O.S.T.) travel to some of the poorest regions in Mexico each year for two, weeklong outreach missions. The team's purpose is to perform life-changing surgeries on children and adults who have been hidden in the background because of their medical conditions.

Partners in Compassion

Upon invitation from Mexican Rotary Clubs, M.O.S.T. volunteers Ricardo Escandon, Salvador Hernandez and Sam Carpenter scout potential hospitals to assess available medical equipment and facilities. The small Mexican clubs, often with only a dozen members, are the liaisons to organizing the outreach operations.

Photos of the operating rooms, recovery rooms and other areas of the hospital are taken by team members to identify equipment needs. They also discuss the importance of follow-up care and seek support from local hospital administrators. Post-operative care is critical to M.O.S.T. missions and committed local support must be established before each trip.

The team also meets with officials such as the Mexican State Secretary of Health, the local mayor and representatives from the Mexican social services agency, Desarrollo Integral de La Familia (D.I.F.), to garner support and build credibility among area residents.

D.I.F. is a vital resource that helps spread the word among local families and sponsors a screening clinic for potential patients a few weeks before our team arrives. D.I.F. also coordinates necessary follow-up care and assists with the importation of needed supplies for the missions.

"Thanks to preparation and constant communication, M.O.S.T. missions run like clockwork," says seasoned M.O.S.T. volunteer Ricardo Escandon. "The team is able to successfully treat so many patients because everything is pre-planned and ready to go when members arrive."

Mobilizing Modern Medicine

Planning to perform surgery in another country entails more than just packing a few bags. After a location has been determined, the traveling M.O.S.T. team

is assembled – from anesthesiologists and surgeons to volunteers who admit patients and comfort anxious parents.

M.O.S.T. coordinator Pat Robinson helps pull the team together and collects medical credentials and passports from all the volunteer staff – items that are necessary to obtain work permits to operate in Mexico. Additionally, she secures travel arrangements for all of the volunteers.

Surgical supplies and pharmaceuticals are ordered, packed and labeled for importation. M.O.S.T. volunteers Molly Schmeltzer, R.N., and Sue Freymiller, R.N., then prepare a list of each item to satisfy importation requirements. Most anesthesia agents, pain medications, antibiotics and other medications are purchased by the local hospital administrator. Those not available in Mexico are packed and sent with the supplies. These tasks must be done months in advance to ensure that the missions run smoothly.

Continued on next page



M.O.S.T. volunteer pharmacist George Olijnyk prepares medications for the team's surgeries.

Fulfilling a Mother's Wish

In September 2007, M.O.S.T. visited Tijuana to perform a marathon of surgeries. From cleft lips and palates to hernias, our team performed corrective surgery on 33 patients during the two-day weekend.

Among the crowd of grateful participants were the parents of 4-month-old Benjamin, who traveled more than an hour to seek care for their newborn son. Benjamin was suffering from a hernia – a common condition among children that occurs more often in boys.

“Without surgical treatment, there was a risk that Benjamin’s condition could have resulted in a life-threatening situation,” says Eugene Rumsey, Jr., M.D., the volunteer M.O.S.T. surgeon from Scripps Mercy Hospital who performed the corrective surgery. “The medical procedure helped to put Benjamin out of harm’s way and put his parents at ease.”

Given the limited income of Benjamin’s parents, the family was unable to afford the routine surgery without help from M.O.S.T. Grateful for the charitable care, Benjamin’s parents were relieved that their child would receive the needed treatment.

Although Benjamin’s mother had apprehension about her child’s surgery – as any mother would – she expressed



The parents of 4-month-old Benjamin are grateful that M.O.S.T. performed corrective hernia surgery that put their son out of harm’s way.

extreme trust in M.O.S.T. This was not her first interaction with our team. M.O.S.T. previously performed corrective eye surgery on one of her other children.

“Medical missions like this serve to free the spirit and restore the soul – for the parents, patients and physicians involved,” says Dr. Rumsey, Jr. “I find that the children we treat, heal us as we heal them. It is so easy to overlook this in our practices, but our patients really give us energy.”



A beautiful child happily awaits her turn to receive corrective surgery.

*Continued from cover
“Preparing for Missions of Hope”*

Changing Lives

Together, M.O.S.T. volunteers and local physicians work endless hours to care for as many children as possible. During the last weeklong trip to Uruapan, M.O.S.T. performed 295 procedures in just four and a half days, ranging in severity from simple repair of birth marks to complex cleft lip and palate repairs.

M.O.S.T. missions are filled with life-changing events – for both the patients who receive treatment and the volunteers who provide comfort and care. Oftentimes, children who undergo surgery have been shamefully hidden from the outside world. The procedures performed by M.O.S.T. help to restore confidence and self-esteem – and the results are immediate as children and their parents smile with pride in the recovery area.



George Ochoa, M.O.S.T. president, comforts a crying patient.

Our volunteers are also forever changed. They experience the great rewards of giving – often joining parents in tears of happiness and soothing crying babies, as if they were their own. Giving up vacation time, temporarily leaving behind their practices and families, M.O.S.T. volunteers are dedicated to making a difference.

Remembering Eugene Rumsey, Sr., M.D.

Although Eugene Rumsey, Sr., M.D., was known for his precision and surgical skills, M.O.S.T. patients, volunteer physicians and staff will remember him most for his good-natured spirit. With a warm heart and healing hands, Dr. Rumsey was grateful for the opportunity to help others.

Since his first M.O.S.T. trip to Zacatecas, Mexico, in 1993, Dr. Rumsey was committed to lifting the spirit and self-esteem of children and adults he treated through M.O.S.T. As a M.O.S.T. volunteer physician, he was dedicated to our mission and proudly boasted his involvement – to encourage others to take action and offer support.

Many Thanks

Thank you to the following donors who made generous gifts in memory of Eugene Rumsey, Sr., M.D. If you would like to make a tribute gift in memory of Dr. Rumsey, please call 619-686-3836.

Christine and Rand Allan
Mr. and Mrs. William B. Anderson
Mrs. Debra Blum
Mrs. Gladys L. Bridge
Mr. Samuel Carpenter
Dr. and Mrs. David Collins
Ms. Marijeanne Crabtree
Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Damschroeder
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph B. Devin, M.D., FACS
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Devlin
Ms. Kimberly E. Edwards
Evanco Realty Advisors, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Fehrensen
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon T. Frost
Mrs. Jeanne Frost
Ms. Beatrice H. Gengenback
Judge and Mrs. David M. Gill
Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Glazener
Dr. and Mrs. Edwin L. Glazener
Ms. Gretchen Glazener
Ms. Judy Grimaldi

Mr. and Mrs. Jack M. Guidi
Dr. Donald I. Guttman
Mr. Stephen E. Hanes
Dr. and Mrs. John S. Hattox
Dr. and Mrs. Vital E. Haynes
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Herman
Hillcrest Urological Medical Group
Mrs. H. Holthusan
Mr. and Mrs. William F. Hooper
Horseless Carriage Club of America -
San Diego Region
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Irmer
Dr. and Mrs. J. Robert Jacobs
Ms. Marie H. Judd
Joseph F. Kennedy, M.D.,
and Ms. Geri Ann Warnke
Dr. and Mrs. Gilbert Kinyon
Mr. and Mrs. Howard B. Kirtland
Mr. John G. Rebelo and
Mrs. Brenda Marsh-Rebelo
Dr. and Mrs. William C. McDade



Eugene Rumsey, Sr., M.D. (left), pictured with his son Eugene Rumsey, Jr., M.D., was a charitable humanitarian who spent his life helping others.

Mary C. Murphy, M.D. and
Leo J. Murphy, M.D.
North American Communications, Inc.
Dr. and Mrs. Ralph R. Ocampo
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Ottemann
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Price
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Rentto
Patricia Ann Robinson, R.N.
Dr. and Mrs. James E. Sandell
Mr. and Mrs. Richard F. Santore
Scripps Mercy Hospital Medical Staff
Mrs. Doris Southward
Mrs. Ilene E. Swartz
Mr. Charles R. Swimmer
Ms. Frances L. Tennyson and
Ms. LaVerne Chavez
Ms. Gale Hays Van Ort
Dr. and Mrs. Jordan Waldman
Mr. Gary Walker and Ms. Hermine Bliss
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth M. Winterstein
Dr. and Mrs. George G. Zorn

*If errors or omissions exist, please call
Valerie Carbone at 619-686-3568.*

Upcoming M.O.S.T. Missions

Tijuana, Feb. 8-9, 2008
Tehuacan, April 6-12, 2008
Tijuana, June 6-7, 2008

20 Years of Compassionate Care

In 2008, M.O.S.T. will be celebrating its 20th anniversary.

Learn More About M.O.S.T.

**For more information or to
volunteer, contact:**

Pat Robinson, M.O.S.T. coordinator
619-686-3633 or
Robinson.Patricia2@scrippshealth.org
www.scripps.org/mercymost

Mailing Address:

Mercy Outreach Surgical Team
Scripps Mercy Hospital, MER 99
4077 Fifth Avenue
San Diego, CA 92103

Making a Difference

Each year, M.O.S.T. delivers modern medical care to disadvantaged children and adults who live in some of the most remote regions of Mexico. From infants to teens, our team is dedicated to serving as many patients as possible.



Thanks to generous donors, physicians and staff who volunteer their time and expertise, M.O.S.T. operates with minimal overhead expenses. However, every few years our team must update and replenish vital surgical equipment – so we need your help.



Following each M.O.S.T. mission, our equipment is carefully inspected for any needed repair. Unfortunately, several vital surgical tools can no longer be repaired. Support for critical supplies is needed to replace surgical instruments, suction machines and anesthesia equipment. Some equipment has not been replaced since the program first began.

Your assistance is needed to ensure that M.O.S.T. can continue to promote human dignity and provide life-changing care. All gifts, no matter the size, make a difference.

For more information about how you can help support the mission of M.O.S.T., please call Mercy Hospital Foundation at 619-686-3836 or make a secure donation online by visiting: www.scripps.org/mercymost.

WAYS TO GIVE

If you wish to be part of the valuable work of Mercy Outreach Surgical Team, please complete this form:

The Gift of Healing

M.O.S.T. relies heavily on your philanthropic support. Here are just a few examples of what your gift can accomplish:

- \$150 provides surgery for one child
- \$500 sponsors one team member
- \$10,000 supports a two-day mission in Tijuana
- \$15,000 covers team travel
- \$25,000 provides supplies for one mission
- \$100,000 sponsors the team for one week

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

- Enclosed is my check made payable to: Mercy Hospital Foundation – M.O.S.T.
- Please send me volunteer information.
- I would like to invite a speaker from Mercy Outreach Surgical Team to present at my organization/school.

Please clip and send this form to: **Mercy Outreach Surgical Team**, Scripps Mercy Hospital, MER 99, 4077 Fifth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92103

M.O.S.T. Mission Statement

Mercy Outreach Surgical Team (M.O.S.T.) is a volunteer group dedicated to providing medical and surgical care to underprivileged children and adults of other nations.

Our mission is threefold:

- to bring hope, comfort and the opportunity for a better life to children and adults through corrective surgery;
- to share medical knowledge and expertise with colleagues in a host country; and
- to provide an opportunity for team volunteers to experience the spiritual rewards of service.

In addition to caring for those in need of surgery, M.O.S.T. shares valuable knowledge and medical techniques with local physicians and nursing staff in Mexico.

Each year, M.O.S.T. provides care during field programs, when surgical teams with needed supplies and equipment travel to Mexico to set up surgical programs in local communities. Mexican Rotary Club members and representatives from cities in Mexico coordinate these efforts and contribute to the logistics and support of the programs. Volunteers donate time and contribute to the expenses for the field programs.

M.O.S.T. is supported by donations of personal skills, money, supplies and equipment. Tax-deductible donations can be made to:

Mercy Hospital Foundation (M.O.S.T.)
4077 Fifth Avenue, MER 99
San Diego, CA 92103-2105
619-686-3633
www.scripps.org/mercymost



Board of Directors

Executive Board

George Ochoa, *President*
Salvador Hernandez, *Vice President*
Sandra Kohler, *Secretary*
Douglas Arbon, M.D., *Medical Director*
Patricia Robinson, R.N., *Coordinator, Treasurer*

Board Members

Eddie Avedikian, Pharm. D.
Robert Cairncross
Samuel Carpenter
Marcia Cavanaugh, R.N.
Kent Diveley, M.D.
Ricardo Escandon
Jose Gil
Beth Ilko
Larry McCarthy, M.D.
Daniel Ness, M.D.
Harry O'Halloran, M.D.
Molly Schmeltzer, R.N.
Stacey Schultz, R.N.
Thomas Vecchione, M.D.
Jordan Waldman, M.D.

Ex-Officio

Mary Braunwarth
Tom Gammieri
Sister JoCeal Young

Advisory Board

Thomas Sullivan, M.D., *Chair*
William Davidson, M.D.
Robert Jacobs, M.D.
William McDade, M.D.
Eugene Rumsey Jr., M.D.
Michael Sise, M.D.



Mercy Outreach Surgical Team

Mercy Hospital Foundation
4077 Fifth Avenue, MER 99
San Diego, CA 92103-2105

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
P A I D
San Diego, CA
Permit No. 2325