

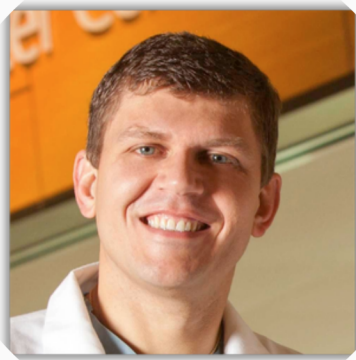
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HEAD & NECK OUTREACH



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM HNO!

BY CHAD ZENDER, MD



The last several years have been a historic time in our lives, and the need to partner with colleagues in other countries has never been more important. During the pandemic, we had to cancel two trips to Uganda - one in the spring of 2019 and one in the fall of 2021. Even with those challenges, we worked to find other

ways to support our colleagues at the Uganda Cancer Institute. We needed to take advantage of virtual educational opportunities as well as continue our partnership with MedWish to ship supplies to our friends overseas. Fortunately, we were able to return to Uganda for our 12th trip since 2014 in May of this year. It was another successful trip that focused on education, working with residents from Makerere University, and surgical care. The progress that Dr. Oti and the UCI have made in the last 3 years during a pandemic was truly amazing. Three new radiation bunkers that are operational, initial construction efforts for a new cancer building and improvements in the ENT residency are just a few of the achievements. It is an honor to share with you the wonderful progress our partners have made and our ability to continue our work to improve the care delivered to head and neck patients across the globe with your support. ●

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PANDEMIC PIVOTING

BY KATRINA HARRILL, RN

Two weeks before Covid-19 made its way to Cincinnati that we had to cancel our Spring 2020 trip to Kampala. With borders closing and travel becoming increasingly unpredictable, we made this difficult decision not realizing that it would be two years before we would see our friends and colleagues again. However, with international travel at a halt, our organization began to explore ways to continue our contributions through our partnership with Dr. Jeff Oti and and by establishing new local service opportunities.

Medwish is an organization that collects unused and non-expired medical goods and equipment from around the US and then sorts them for organizations like HNO that can use them for international service. During our hiatus, HNO was able to partner with Medwish to ship several pallets of necessary equipment to help continue to support Dr. Oti's work in Uganda. Some of the equipment included an anesthesia machine, light sources, exam chairs, and microscope.

On the local level, HNO facilitated small teams of individuals to work at Cincinnati Freestore Foodbank to prepare distribution boxes for those in need. ●



SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

BY KATRINA HARRILL, RN

We finally arrived back in Kampala on May 14, 2022. It felt surreal to be back and to have been away for so long. We were greeted by some familiar faces like Edward, our driver, who picked us up from the airport. We were also introduced to new ones like Gerty, our cook at the guest house. It was a short trip but packed from start to finish with taking care of patients, some of whom had waited years for our return.

One such patient was Zahara. She had a tracheostomy and was breathing through a tube that was placed in her neck as a result of an accident. With the tracheostomy, she could not speak without covering her tube. However, with a tracheal reconstruction, she could have the tube removed and would be able to communicate normally again.

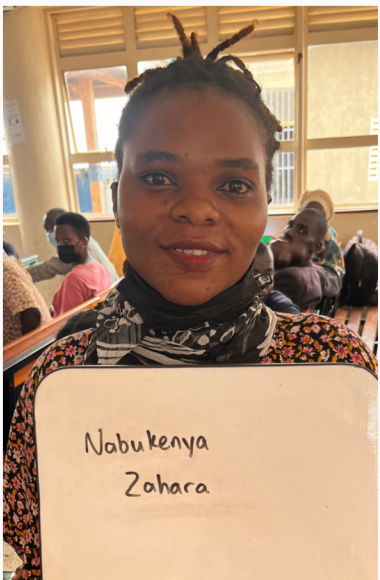
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In the fall of 2019, we had given her a slip of paper with the date we would return in March 2020 for her surgery. She waited for two and a half years until she could speak. Finally, on May 18, 2022, she spoke for the first time since her accident. She cried with joy and her family cried with her.

Meanwhile, our team was acutely aware that others could not wait. As time between our camps had grown so had the suffering of individuals not able to have surgery. The overwhelming turn out of patients who needed surgery at this camp in particular was sobering. It reminded each of our participants, both new and veteran, of why we continue the work of global outreach and education. ●



FALL HIGHLIGHTS

BY KATRINA HARRILL, RN

If Covid has taught us one thing, its the ability to pivot quickly. Our October camp was not excluded. Initially, we had planned an outreach trip to travel to Fort Portal, Uganda. This area is about 6 hours west from the Uganda Cancer Institute in Kampala, the capital city of Uganda.

Unfortunately, just weeks before our planned departure, Uganda experienced an outbreak of the Sudan Ebola virus disrupting initially just our location. We quickly made alternate plans to work in Kampala, but as the weeks passed, it became clear that travel to Uganda would not be wise.



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Fortunately, Dr. Zender's mentor, Dr. James Netterville from Vanderbilt University, had been planning an overlapping trip to Malindi, Kenya. Combining their resources, the two teams were able to join efforts. HNO team met with Dr. Netterville's team for their second week and working together, delivered care to approximately 30 additional patients at Tawfiq Hospital. We were fortunate to be able to serve alongside of such a wonderful group to help so many in need. ●



residents, nurses and staff. We are so fortunate to have helped in his training. What always impressed us was his dedication to our patients and our craft, his selfless nature and of course contagious laugh. He genuinely cared about others and loved being with his friends. We can't imagine why such a promising and wonderful young man would be taken from us so young, but perhaps that isn't a question for us to ask. Viktor Frankl's book goes a long way to help us gain perspective when we feel great loss and sadness. To paraphrase one important message in his book was, "Man's purpose isn't to find the meaning of life but to have a meaningful life." Ian Bwete had a meaningful life and helped others to do so as well. He will be sorely missed. ●



IN MEMORIAM: DR. IAN BWETE

BY CHAD ZENDER, MD

There have been many lives lost during Covid. Closest to HNO was Dr. Ian Bwete (35) who passed away on June 23, 2021. We previously partnered with Dr. Bwete on Ugandan surgical outreach missions aimed and caring for patients with complex head and neck needs. He additionally was involved in training Ugandan surgical



PLANS FOR 2023

BY KATRINA HARRILL, RN

Head and Neck Outreach has continued to expand its impact even during the challenging climate. Recently, we added an additional team member. Lindsey Holm is our new administrator. Lindsey is a Cincinnati native whose experience includes supporting several academic and administrative departments at the University of Cincinnati. We are excited to continue to see how our impact can grow with her on our team.



Lindsey Holm
HNO
Administrative Assistant

Next year, we are looking forward to both a fall and spring trip to Uganda again. Partnering with Dr. Otiti again, we have identified the next surgical fellow who will work with our camps for further advanced training in head and neck surgery. This program will run over the course of a year. When complete, they will be able to provide additional access to patients for head and neck surgery. ●

CONSIDER HNO IN YOUR END-OF-YEAR CHARITABLE GIVING PLANS

HNO is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. It is operated solely by volunteers and all financial support comes from participants and the generosity of donors. Your tax deductible donation allows us to provide supplies, training, and personnel to seek the most sustainable solutions for head and neck care in developing countries around the world.

To make a donation, visit
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FROM YOU!**

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