Disability and the Developing World

Disabled people are the world’s largest minority, and 80 percent live in developing countries. More than 650 million people—10 percent of the world’s population—live with a disability. And in developing countries, 90 percent of children with disabilities don’t attend school. Women and girls with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to abuse.

Many disabilities are repairable with reconstructive plastic surgery. Interplast was the first international organization to use reconstructive plastic surgery as a means of rehabilitating and reintegrating those who had been outcasts because of their disabilities and disfigurements.

Nearly 200,000 poor children are born with cleft lips and palates annually. Children with clefts and congenital deformities are often ostracized from their communities and denied an education simply because they look or speak differently. More than 6 million people in the developing world each year suffer severe burn injuries, which often turn into disabilities that most cannot even imagine, and something that never happens in the United States: heads fused to necks unmoving; fingers stuck together useless; legs contracted and bent, preventing walking.

Interplast provides corrective surgery and related care for the world’s poor. In the last 40 years, the organization has provided more than 80,000 surgeries for those with clefts, disabling burns and a myriad of other congenital deformities and injuries. By doing so we not only heal bodies, we help those with disabilities have a second chance at life and help them gain access to the most basic of needs—things like attending school and gaining a livelihood.

Photos by Phil Borges (right) John Urban (left).
Message from the President and CEO
Susan W. Hayes

This year, we celebrate 40 remarkable years during which Interplast has grown from one man’s pioneering vision into a leading international humanitarian organization. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to help shepherd its course during this exciting time.

But even as we celebrate the strength of our program and cherish the smiles on the faces of the children whose lives we change, we must remain focused on the task before us. Just this year, the United Nations estimated that the number of people who experience chronic hunger surpassed 1 billion. The global economic crisis has increased the ranks of those who go hungry by 10 percent in one year alone.

This is important to us at Interplast because those whose primary concern is filling an empty belly will almost certainly not have adequate access to health care. It means that a boy born in rural Mali with a cleft lip or a Nepalese girl whose foot and shin are fused together after a cooking accident are even less likely to receive the kind of care that can heal their bodies and lessen their ostracism from society.

As it has time and again, Interplast will respond to this new challenge. Over the decades, Interplast has remained at the vanguard, nimbly adapting to societal and technical advances in the developing world, responding to changing needs, building the surgical capacity in the Global South, and continually pushing the envelope to provide the greatest number of high-quality reconstructive surgeries to those in need. Surgical team trips—the model for much of the past 40 years—continue to provide an opportunity for medical professionals to share their knowledge and provide on-the-job training for accomplished international partners. Over time, however, it has become clear that the best and most cost-effective means of delivering surgical care is to empower local professionals who can deliver that care year-round. Today, our international partners perform more than 70 percent of all Interplast surgeries (with Interplast oversight, training and support). Thanks to the economies of our 11 Surgical Outreach Centers in nine countries, we have doubled the number of surgeries we perform annually in the last five years, with only a 30 percent increase in cost—and no sacrifice in quality of care.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the original vision of Interplast’s leaders and the continuing support of donors like you. What you have accomplished this year is nothing short of a miracle. In this time of economic worry, Interplast actually increased donations in FY09, raising more money than any other year in its history. Thank you for forging ahead with us and helping us provide hope and healing to more children around the world.

Sincerely,

Susan W. Hayes
Interplast President and CEO
Transformations Gala
Celebrating 40 Years of Healing

On November 7 at the Ritz-Carlton in San Francisco, nearly 500 members of the Interplast community gathered to celebrate Interplast’s 40 years of healing. The event raised nearly $740,000 to support life-changing surgeries, medical education and empowerment programs in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Despite the economic climate, this amount represents a 10 percent increase from what was raised last year.

“We are grateful to Interplast’s generous donors who, even in the midst of this terrible economy, continue to reach out to help children around the world,” said Nicole Friedland, Interplast chief development officer.

The event honored Dr. Goran Jovic, the only plastic surgeon in Zambia. In his 10 years of partnership with Interplast, he has transformed more than 1,500 lives. Wearing a tuxedo for the first time, Jovic accepted the Donald R. Laub Humanitarian Award, named after Interplast’s founder and given to an individual who exemplifies extraordinary humanitarian service.

Interplast also recognized Sheila Wolfson, a Bay Area philanthropist and former board member who has spent four months overseas volunteering with Interplast medical teams. She and her husband Mark Wolfson have helped bring new donors and millions of dollars to Interplast. With tears in her eyes and overcome with joy, Sheila Wolfson accepted the William C. Lazier Leadership Award. The late William C. Lazier was the architect of Interplast’s evolution as a leader in international development within reconstructive surgery.

In addition, Interplast honored The Smile Train with the Partners in Progress Award and celebrated its 10-year partnership with them. Together, Interplast and The Smile Train have made possible nearly 18,000 life-changing surgeries for children with cleft lips and cleft palates. The Smile Train’s co-founder and president Brian Mullaney accepted the award, with DeLois Greenwood, vice president of The Smile Train, in attendance.

Also in attendance were event co-chairs Dottie and Bob King and Marion and Gerald McGovern. Adding to the celebratory sparkle of the night, celebrities Adam Curry, former MTV VJ and serial entrepreneur, and Micky Hoogendijk, Dutch actress from “Raising Helen,” attended and supported Interplast.
“Interplast, which began as a small group of Stanford medical volunteers who wanted to change the world for children with clefts, disabling burns and hand injuries, has transformed into a global partnership providing surgeries and building local medical capacity for the poor in 14 countries,” said Susan W. Hayes, Interplast president and CEO. “We were so grateful for the opportunity to celebrate 40 years of healing in collaboration with many devoted partners, volunteers and supporters who help us transform the lives of thousands each year.”
Top photo: Actress Micky Hoogendijk and Adam Curry, former MTV VJ and serial entrepreneur, presented a check from the new Pascaud Foundation to Susan W. Hayes, Interplast president and CEO, and Daniel Higgins, chairman of the Interplast board of directors.

Center photos: (left) Susan and Joe DuCote, Interplast board member; (middle) Elena Lebedeva and Al Smith, former Interplast board member; (right) Richard Thaler and France Leclerc, Interplast board member.

Bottom left photo: Karlina Bedard; Dipak and Radha Basu, Interplast board member; and Charlie Bedard.

Bottom right photo: Interplast board members Kevin Young (left) and Russell Hirsch (right) with his wife Sara Hirsch.

Photos by Chung Nguyen
Gail Cohen
Gail Cohen is the chair of Burson-Marsteller’s Global Healthcare Practice and as such oversees the strategic growth and development of the practice across all regions. Bringing 20 years of experience to this position, Cohen has pioneered some of the industry’s most successful pharmaceutical campaigns and has led numerous award-winning programs. She is a recognized expert in pharmaceutical marketing and issues management. Prior to joining Burson-Marsteller, Cohen served on the leadership council for Chandler Chicco Companies (CCC) and was responsible for driving new business initiatives, overseeing the agency’s affiliate relationships with Asia-Pacific and the Americas, and assisting in creating unique branding platforms. She has led successful public relations programs for Fortune 500 companies and has managed global communications campaigns for large clients such as Johnson & Johnson, Sanofi Aventis, Bristol Myers Squibb and Novartis. Prior to joining CCC, Cohen worked in boutique agencies focusing on consumer communications across a broad array of luxury goods, beauty products and celebrity clients. Cohen holds a bachelor’s degree, magna cum laude, from the S.I. Newhouse School of Communications at Syracuse University.

Thomas C. McConnell
Thomas C. McConnell is a managing director at Vanguard Ventures with an investment focus on medical devices. He has 24 years of investment experience in venture capital and was named to the Forbes Midas List in 2007. Prior to joining Vanguard, McConnell was a general partner at New Enterprise Associates (NEA). He spent 14 years at NEA investing in medical device and biopharmaceutical companies, and five years investing in the telecommunications sector. During his career, McConnell has played a leadership role in the venture capital industry. He served as chairman of the National Venture Capital Association (NVCA) in 2001-02 and as president of the Western Association of Venture Capitalists (WAVC) in 1995-96. Before becoming a venture capitalist in 1985, McConnell was a product manager at Apple Computer and a consultant with the Boston Consulting Group. He received a bachelor of arts degree in engineering science, summa cum laude, from Dartmouth College and a master of business administration degree with distinction from the Stanford University Graduate School of Business. He serves on the board of directors of two private medical device companies, Asthmatx and Dfine. McConnell spent a year in 2007-2008 collaborating with PATH (Program for Appropriate Technologies in Health) in an effort to raise a fund focused on investing in medical products for the developing world.

Emil Wang
Emil Wang has more than 20 years of experience as a founder, CEO or senior executive of venture backed companies based in Silicon Valley. Most recently, Wang was CEO of Questra Corporation, a provider of intelligent device management. Prior to that, Wang was founder and CEO of Latitude Communications, a provider of enterprise voice and web conferencing solutions. Latitude went public in 1999 and was later acquired by Cisco. Wang was also CEO of Proficient Networks, a provider of BGP route optimization solutions and the senior vice president of sales and marketing for Aspect Communications, a provider of call center solutions that went public in 1990. Earlier in his career, Wang was a product manager for ROLM Corporation, responsible for the introduction of Phonemail, ROLM’s voice messaging solution. Wang also worked for Bain & Company, a strategic management consulting company and has been a practicing seismic engineer for John A. Blume & Assoc. Wang received a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Princeton University, a master of science degree in structural engineering from Stanford University, and a master in business administration degree from Stanford University. Wang has served on a number of private and philanthropic boards.
Leadership

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Susan W. Hayes

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Director, Medical Services
Charu Garg

Director, Medical Services
Ivan Chieregatto

Medical Services Director Emeritus
Richard Gillerman, M.D.

International Partnerships

Bangladesh
Dr. Shadquat H. Khundkar,
Surgical Outreach Center Director

Bolivia
Dr. Jorge Terrazas,
Surgical Outreach Center Director

China
William Chiang

Ecuador
Dr. Jorge Palacios,
Surgical Outreach Center Director

Ghana
Dr. Pius Agbemorku,
Surgical Outreach Center Director

India
Dr. Yogi Aeron,
Surgical Outreach Center Director

Indonesia
Dr. Purnen Panjchar
Surgical Outreach Center Director

Malaysia
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Dr. Oumar Coulibaly

Nepal
Dr. Kiran Nakarm
Surgical Outreach Center Director

Nicaragua
Dr. Mario Perez,
Surgical Outreach Center Director
Dr. Humberto Briceno
Dr. Jetty Icaza

Peru
Dr. Jorge De La Cruz,
Surgical Outreach Center Director
Dr. Percy Rossell,
Surgical Outreach Center Director

Philippines
Dr. Shafquat H. Khundkar,
Surgical Outreach Center Director

Sri Lanka
Dr. Chandini Perera

Vietnam
Dr. Pham Thi Ha

Zambia
Dr. Samson Mpho,
Surgical Outreach Center Director

Founder
Donald R. Laub

Interplast Receives Grant from W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Interplast recently received a $50,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to provide 200 reconstructive surgeries to impoverished children in Ecuador, Nicaragua and Peru. Local partner surgeons at Interplast year-round Surgical Outreach Centers will perform the surgeries.

Children with burn injuries often cannot hold a spoon to feed themselves or use their legs to walk, rendering them a burden to an already impoverished family. Children with cleft lips and palates often suffer severe shame and in some societies are shunned.

“Interplast is deeply grateful to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for their generosity. Despite these economic times, it is important to remember parents across the globe who struggle to provide food for their children and for whom surgery is completely beyond their reach," said Susan W. Hayes, Interplast president and CEO. "Thanks to Kellogg, surgery and renewed hope will be provided for 200 families who had no other access to care. The health of their children and dreams of productive, normal lives will be restored because of this new grant.”
Transformations Gala

Held on November 7 at the Ritz-Carlton in San Francisco, the Transformations Gala hosted close to 500 guests. Twelve luxury items were auctioned off, helping the event raise nearly $740,000 to support life-changing surgeries.

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Donate Online:
www.interplast.org

Interplast has transformed lives for 40 years. The first organization of its kind, Interplast provides free reconstructive plastic surgery for the poor in developing countries. Interplast treats children and adults with clefts, disabling burns and hand injuries. Unlike many organizations, Interplast’s focus is to train and to empower developing world doctors to perform surgeries on their own for generations to come.

www.interplast.org