



Orthopaedic Relief Services International- Fall Newsletter 2023

Hello and thanks to our friends and supporters,

This past summer has been a very productive month for ORSI with delivery of life and limb saving equipment into both Haiti and the Ukraine.

Operating Room Equipment in Haiti and Ukraine

Together with our partner FOT, we have delivered many **epidural** and **extremity block kits**, as well as other equipment, to the Anesthesia department of La Paix State Hospital in Haiti. These kits and equipment allow for painless surgery without general anesthesia and extensive care infrastructure.



Currently, neither the operating rooms in Haiti nor Ukraine that we work with have proper surgical power tools for their operating rooms. If they are lucky, they use hardware drills, but more often need to use hand drills, chisels, and saws. To address these needs, we have purchased high quality state-of-the-art **operating room (OR) drills and saws**, complete with multiple tool attachments, new batteries/charging stations, and beautiful sterilization cases. One set has been received by the Haiti General Hospital in Port-Au-Prince and one set by Dnipro Pediatric Trauma Hospital in Ukraine. These tools and instruments will markedly improve outcomes and ultimately save limbs and lives.



Our collaborators in Haiti (top) and Ukraine (bottom) are excited for their new OR tools!

Perhaps most exciting is that we are now in the process of providing a third large state hospital with **OR X-ray machines**. X-ray machines in the operating room are incredibly beneficial: they decrease complications, improve accuracy, decrease bleeding and incision size, decreased time to recovery, and decrease length of hospital stays. These truly are limb and life-saving machines. Doing orthopedics without x-ray is like making bread without dough!

Over the past year we have purchased and delivered 2 beautiful x-ray machines into the operating rooms of two state hospitals in Port-au-Prince. We are now in the process of delivering a **third X-ray machine** into the operating room of Haiti's second largest city, Cap Haitian, Haiti.

Tourniquets for the Battlefield in Ukraine

We have purchased close to **five more miles of Velcro** from our vendor in California, and it is being sent to our factory partner Medical Innovations in Lutsk, Ukraine. This material will be used to manufacture an additional **11,000 tourniquets for the**



Dr. Ron Israelski ready to ship 5 miles of Velcro to Ukraine

battlefield in Ukraine. That will bring our total of these life-saving devices for the battlefield to **25,000 tourniquets delivered to the front lines**- that's potentially a lot of lives saved!!! In total we purchased 14 miles of material and saved hundreds of thousands of dollars by working with our partners, rather than purchasing military surplus or using other sources. This is a great project that is incredibly cost-effective and engages the local population in their war effort.

Additionally, ORSI has facilitated a relationship with the Canadian Ukrainian foundation. Their relatively “deep pockets” and generosity will help us to supply funding for the year-round manufacture of tourniquets, ideally to the tune of **an additional 50,000 tourniquets.** This relationship would not have occurred without ORSI mediating and making formal introductions; we are very proud of our networking results! Our trip to Ukraine allowed us to solidify our relations with strategic partners for shipping product from US, as well manufacturing huge numbers of Cat 3 like tourniquets with our factory partners in Ukraine.

Education: Expanding the Grand Rounds Lecture Series to a Third State Teaching Hospital in Haiti

We continue to deliver biweekly core orthopedic surgical lectures into the state hospital system in Haiti. We currently present to two programs in Port-au-Prince, but are excited to announce that we will extend the series to include a third teaching hospital in Cap Haitian, Haiti as well!

Furthermore, we have expanded this Grand Rounds series into Hospital Escuela, a large teaching hospital in **Tegucigalpa, Honduras!** In many resource-limited settings, the case mix and infrastructure capacity are very similar, so the lectures have great relevance in Honduras as well as Haiti. With this collaboration in place, we are looking in the future to see if we can extend into **Lagos, Nigeria** and are working on building those relationships as well.

2023 Upcoming Events

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL OF LA PAIX ORTHOPEDIC GRAND ROUNDS

IN COLLABORATION WITH ORSI

28 JULY
Joshua Hymen, MD
Orthopedic Surgery, Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery

11 AUGUST
Anthony Sorokin, MD
Orthopedic Trauma Surgery - Spine Surgery

25 AUGUST
Francis LeFebvre, MD
Orthopedic Trauma Surgery

8 SEPTEMBER
Katherine Rosenwasser, M.D.
Orthopedic Surgery, Pediatric Orthopedic

About The Event
Virtual Zoom sessions between International and Haitian state orthopedic departments.
Time: 7:00 AM to 8:00 AM (ET)
Links will be provided prior to the conference.
All sessions are recorded for future viewing and available on Vimeo website
<https://vimeo.com/user130221198>

Topics

- Management of Pediatric Hip Dysplasia
Joshua Hymen, MD
- Principles of IMN of long bones
Anthony Sorokin, MD
- Shoulder Instability
Francis LeFebvre, MD
- Septic Hip & Knee Arthritis Management
Katherine Rosenwasser, MD

More Information
Contact: cbarsudejan@gmail.com

We have a lot of great lectures lined up for the rest of 2023 Grand Rounds

Lastly, we are now discussing the possibility of resuming deployments of surgical teams to Haiti. We will initially consider a trip to Cap Haitian, where the security situation is much better. Our goal is to initiate these trips by the new year, hopefully by late fall.

Once again, we want to thank all of our friends, collaborative partners, and others who have supported our efforts to provide infrastructure, clinical, and educational support to areas around the world. Your support has helped us to help alleviate suffering and assist in training the next generation of orthopedic surgeons globally.

With warm regards and respect,

Ron Israelski MD
President ORSI