



OPERATION MEDICAL NEWSLETTER

Thanks To You

Providing Global Healthcare

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am deeply honored to become the third President of Operation Medical. In 2013, our small group of founding members laid out the plans for this organization and then started the hard work to make it a reality. Since then, Op Med has been able to help hundreds of individuals in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean during our surgical camps and with our breast cancer treatment program in Haiti. We now start the difficult task of determining how to move forward in this era of a global pandemic to continue our outreach. We anticipate that the need for our type of assistance in developing countries will be even greater after these months of quarantine and even less access to routine medical care. We also understand the need to be able to travel and work safely to keep our volunteers and patients healthy. This may be as great a challenge as getting Op Med "off the ground" in the first place, but thanks to you – our volunteers, benefactors, board members and friends – we've been able to be of service to the world during these past seven years and I am confident we will be able to do so again.

Ken Arthur, MD



WHAT'S NEW

Meeting via video conference, our Executive Committee and full Board of Directors elected Dr. Scott Barnes to the President-Elect position and Mike Zelko as Treasurer. George Grode will continue as Vice President. Many thanks to Jewel Cooper, who most recently filled the Treasurer's position and will continue as a Board Member. Also, thanks to Immediate Past-President Brett Delone for his contributions and commitment to Op Med!

We also want to send a very special thanks to Mary Jensik, one of Op Med's founding members and a longstanding Board member and officer, for her years of dedication, service and friendship to our group as she has decided to end her time on the Board of Directors. We could not have done this without you, Mary, and we will miss your insight and experience.

While political unrest had limited our ability to resume in-person care in Haiti in the past year or so, now COVID-19 is the main roadblock to arranging a trip to the island. The pandemic has also led to the cancellation of a mission to Kenya for this fall. We will continue to monitor the situation with regards to transportation, virus risk and vaccine availability throughout the summer, but we are still currently scheduled to return to Valsad, India and our Kasturba Hospital family in early 2021.

THANKS TO YOU!

Last April 2019, Operation Medical held a Fifth Anniversary Celebration and Volunteer Recognition event. The event was a great success as 170 people gathered to celebrate the good works of Operation Medical.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have maintained a healthy fiscal position this past year and have been able to share the success.

In particular, we thank Dr. Gautam Mishra for his designated financial gift which enabled Operation Medical to purchase a portable anesthesia machine from the UK and gift it to Cambay General Hospital in Khambhat, India.

The machine was delivered to the hospital during the January 2020 surgical camp. This much needed piece of equipment for the operation suite will enable the hospital to perform more surgical cases for their community.

Thank you, Dr. Mishra!



Dr. Mukul Parikh, Team Leader-Operation Medical & Dr. Jatin Patel, Anesthesiologist, Cambay General Hospital

SPECIAL REPORT: PARTNERING WITH LOCAL HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

According to the online Free Dictionary website (www.thefreedictionary.com) the acronym PPE has 63 definitions from Purple People Eater to Personal Protective Equipment. It would be a fair assessment that few people knew even one of these definitions six months ago. Now, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, PPE is a household word.

Not only is PPE used every day by healthcare personnel to protect themselves, patients, and others when providing care, PPE is used by everyday people doing everyday tasks such as grocery shopping.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) update published on May 18, 2020 PPE shortages continue to pose a tremendous challenge to the U.S. healthcare system because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Healthcare facilities are having difficulty accessing the needed

PPE and are having to identify alternate ways to provide patient care.

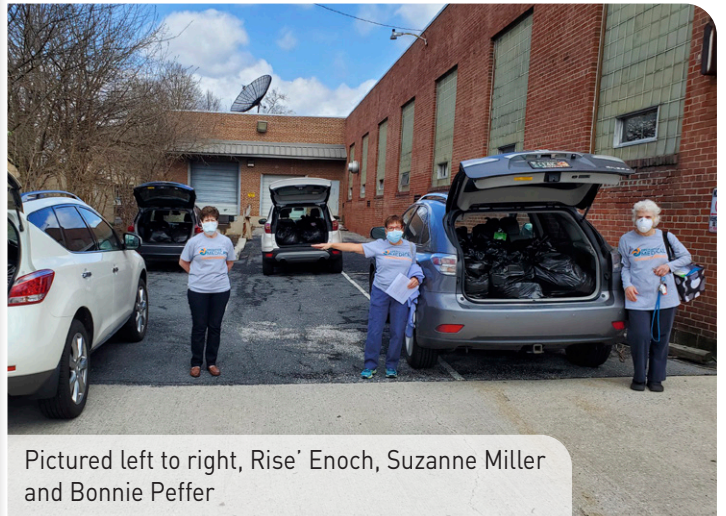
Early this spring, Operation Medical made the decision to donate all of the PPE in their warehouse to local healthcare providers. The warehouse committee wasted not a moment in gathering and organizing thousands of items for UPMC Pinnacle and Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health. Operation Medical volunteers Rise' Enoch, Suzanne Miller, Bonnie Pepper and Lisa Pedersen loaded up their SUVs and made the deliveries.

UPMC PINNACLE

Masks	750
Surgical Gowns	92

PENN MEDICINE LANCASTER GENERAL HOSPITAL

Sterile Gloves	8,086 pair
Exam Gloves	1,100 pair
Shoe Covers	105 pair
Bouffant Caps	375
Hooded Hats	309



Pictured left to right, Rise' Enoch, Suzanne Miller and Bonnie Pepper



Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health Foundation

Raising philanthropic support for Lancaster General Health.

June 29, 2020

Ms. Lisa Pedersen
Operation Medical
44 Hersha Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17102

Dear Ms. Lisa Pedersen:

On behalf of the Lancaster General Health Foundation, thank you for making a gift-in-kind donation of gloves, shoe covers, bouffant caps, and surgeon's hooded hats to LG Health. In this ever-changing climate, many have asked how they can support LG Health during this time. Your donation will help our staff on the frontlines of the COVID-19 outbreak response by providing vital supplies. Now, more than ever, we appreciate your donation.

Our health system was established more than 125 years ago through our commitment to serving the health care needs of our community. Times like this highlight how important a strong health system is to our community and how vitally important our community's support has been to help advance our mission. As the largest healthcare provider in the community, we are humbled by your support and donation of supplies. It shows me that in this challenging and uncertain time, we really are in this together.

Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health's high-quality, compassionate patient care and service to our community has been deeply appreciated for more than 125 years. Thank you for partnering with us to advance the health and well-being of the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Groff
Executive Director

ABOUT US:

Operation Medical is an organization of volunteers made up of trained medical professionals and other individuals committed to promoting and providing high quality medical care and education to communities that do not have adequate access to medical care.

Our emphasis is on the medical needs of the community, with the safety of our patients and our volunteers our #1 priority. Our safety and quality protocols ensure our patients receive the best care possible. All trips are carefully coordinated with local hosts and their medical community in order to optimize the success of our visit and make certain our volunteers have a positive experience. We audit results and provide training for all of our partners.



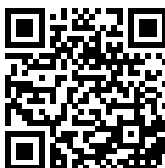
HOW TO SHARE HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

You have received this first issue of our new quarterly newsletter because you shared your email with us in the past five years. This newsletter aligns with our goal to provide an electronic communication platform which will hold down printing and mailing costs while keeping you informed of our current initiatives, upcoming mission trips and more.

Please consider sharing with friends and family. Know that we will never share your contact information with anyone outside of Operation Medical or any third-party advertiser or organization.

You can make sure we have your most up-to-date information three ways:

1. Log on to www.operationmedical.org, and click on the Subscribe tab, complete the contact form and submit
2. Use your smartphone to scan the QR code here to be taken directly to the contact form
3. Email us at info@operationmedical.org



If you would like to speak with someone, you can reach us at 717-685-9199.

We invite you to follow us on Facebook



CONTACT US:

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