



Thanks  
To You

## OPERATION MEDICAL NEWSLETTER

Providing Global Healthcare

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We hope that this Operation Medical Newsletter finds you well. With clinics in full force, we hope that vaccination rates will help us return to normalcy in living, traveling, and resuming mission trips to those in need.

In this newsletter, we want to highlight three messages. First is a special "Thanks to You" recognizing the remarkable contributions made by one of our founders and multi-year Haiti Team Leader Dr. John Judson, who passed away this past November. Second is a description of how we at Operation Medical are providing for the safety and security of our volunteers as we confront a viral pandemic and social unrest in countries where we have historically engaged in medical/surgical missions. And third, we welcome two new members to our volunteer Board of Directors, Melissa Rau and Shawn Robinson.

Rest assured that Operation Medical is sustaining its commitment to recruiting new medical professionals anxious to serve those in greatest need and we remain engaged in significant dialogue with concerned medical leaders in countries in need of our services.

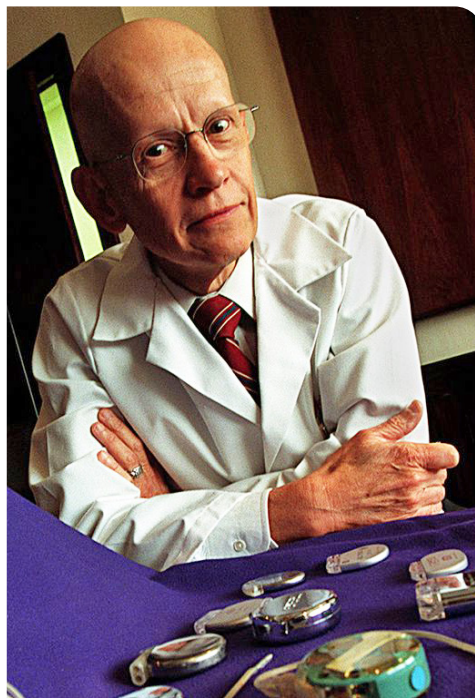
Ken Arthur, MD



### JEFF SEGIL, MD ON DR. JOHN JUDSON

The man who introduced me to mission work. For that I am eternally grateful. John practiced what he preached - a deep commitment to providing high quality health-care to those in need around the world. I did three missions to Haiti with John and his ability to work within local systems to achieve common goals was outstanding. He did this through actions, of committing to local people, caring for them, being compassionate towards them. By understanding their local concerns, stresses, and realities, he was able to best bring forward options that would improve their lives. He lived local, ate local, prayed local.

*(continued on page 2)*



### THANKS TO YOU!

Sadly, this issue's "Thanks to You" is a memorial recognition for Dr. John Judson, cardiac surgeon, whose life of service to those in need near at home and far abroad serves as an inspiration to all who had the pleasure of knowing him. Included among his contributions were over 80 surgical missions to Haiti, additional missions to Nicaragua, Dominican Republic and Ethiopia, piloting over 30 Angel Flights of critically ill Pennsylvanians to specialized care hospitals, serving as Medical Director for Hamilton Health Center, which is the Harrisburg region's Federally Qualified Health Center serving the poorest local residents and serving as a Board Member for Harrisburg's Allison Hill Community Check-Up Center.

John realized a decade ago that continuity for his Haiti mission surgical assistance and the addition of much needed specialized women's health services could be best attained by joining together with a team of medical professionals serving other areas, including India and Africa. He, therefore, became a founding member of Operation Medical and continued his service as part of this organization since its inception. We remain eternally grateful.

We have asked John's colleague, Dr. Jeff Segil, who joined with him on Haiti missions to offer his reflection on working with him. That reflection begins at left. In addition, we are posting a link there to the United Way of Capital Region's very detailed Humanitarian Award tribute to John and Ann Marie Judson for their combined contributions to advancing health and human services initiatives in Central Pennsylvania.

## JEFF SEGIL, MD ON DR. JOHN JUDSON (continued)

As a trip leader John brought a team together by helping us bond through adversity, educating us, and leading by example. I have never worked with a more caring and compassionate physician, who consistently practiced what he preached, and put others before himself on a daily basis.

I am eternally grateful for his leadership and education, for opening my eyes to the greater medical community around us. We are all grateful for his impact on the world, and all those he touched every day in his actions.

He leaves a legacy of caring committed medical individuals who will carry on his work.



Dr. Judson (bottom row right) and  
Dr. Segil (top row, second from right)

Please follow this link to the United Way of Capital Region's Humanitarian Award tribute to John and Ann Marie Judson <https://www.cpbj.com/awards-136/>

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

Since its inception in 2013 Operation Medical has successfully undertaken fifteen medical/surgical mission trips to India, Haiti, Africa and Nepal, with two or three trips per year. Our due diligence in planning and preparing for these trips has enabled us to feel a high level of confidence in the security and safety provided for our volunteers and for the patients we treat.

The increasingly frequent outbreaks of viral disorders, most recently COVID 19 and its variants, and recurrent political unrest in Haiti, caused us to cancel two of our three scheduled mission trips in 2020 and to at least delay trips in 2021. We are still evaluating the prospects for one or two mission trips to Kenya in the Fall of 2021 and to India in January 2022.

The steps we have taken over the past 8 years to plan and prepare for safety and security in inoculation, transport to and during missions, safe drinking water, meals, sleeping, lavatory and international communications arrangements will be continued and added precautions will be implemented as needed. As a refresher, we have tended to return to underserved health regions where we have had prior good support and success, especially within India and Haiti. We are pleased that throughout our many mission trips we have never encountered any spread of infection

to our volunteers nor transmitted any to our patients.

When we receive requests from new locales, we conduct an assessment of needs and available resources in the requesting area via oral and written communications between our most experienced Mission Trip Leaders and the medical and administrative leaders of the requesting parties. Dr. Scott Barnes takes the lead on requests from Haiti and Dr. Mukul Parikh does likewise for all other countries. The dialogue seeks to identify needs for specialty care, education, supplies, equipment and training on that equipment. An understanding of the prospective number of patients, the process of identifying and pre-screening those patients, the range of their surgical and other medical needs, a description of the operating theater, availability of anesthesia and pharmaceuticals, and the plan for post-surgical follow-up care after the mission is over, are all important.

If we see a potentially good fit for our services, a member of our Board or Advisory Board, most frequently Kiran Patel, makes a pre-commitment site visit, at his own expense, to conduct an onsite assessment of the facility where medical/surgical services would be provided, how our team of volunteers would be transported and where our team of volunteers would be quartered. Local

government or military officials are consulted in some instances. These long distance and onsite assessments are critically important elements of our readiness assessment.

**We are pleased that throughout our many mission trips we have never encountered any spread of infection to our volunteers nor transmitted any to our patients.**

We continually monitor U.S. Department of State travel advisories and any travel restrictions promulgated by the mission site countries. We follow Centers for Disease Control recommendations right up to our departure dates. Infectious disease specialists in local Central Pa health systems are consulted related to vaccinations and inoculations and to obtain prescribed medications for prevention and treatment.

We are commencing a review of protocols we can establish, where prudent, for additional masking, social distancing, hand washing, travel insurance and even exit arrangements in the unlikely event that a mission must be cut short.

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS



### Melissa Rau

is the Director of Operations for Linwood Estate. Previously, she was the Executive Director for The Elegance at Hershey and Drug-Free Pennsylvania. Through her professional work experience of 25 years, 13 being directly in the non-profit industry, she is pleased to be helping Operation Medical with raising awareness and the necessary funds to carry out our life-saving missions.

In her spare time, she enjoys traveling and spending time with family and friends. Melissa resides in Dillsburg with her husband, Chris, and two dogs.



### Shawn Robinson

is a Team Leader in Highmark Blue Shield's Financial Investigations and Provider Review Department. His team is tasked with conducting provider audits and recovering claim payments related to fraud, waste and abuse.

Shawn earned a BS in Business Administration and a MBA in Business Administration from Mount Saint Mary's University. He is also a Certified Professional Coder. In addition to serving on the Board of Directors of Operation Medical, Shawn serves on the Board of Directors of the Case Management Unit. He enjoys spending time with friends and family.

## 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.



## CONTACT US:

**Web:** [www.operationmedical.org](http://www.operationmedical.org)

**Email:** [info@operationmedical.org](mailto:info@operationmedical.org)

**Phone:** 717-685-9199

Operation Medical  
44 Hersha Drive  
Harrisburg, PA 17102

## DONATE AT:

<https://www.operationmedical.org/donate/>

## HOW TO SHARE | HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

You have received this issue of our 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](http://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](mailto: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



**Request a Copy of Our Annual Report and Donor Letter Online at**  
[www.operationmedical.org](http://www.operationmedical.org)