Thank you to the Aaron & Suzanne Hofmann Endowed Chair for Humanitarianism in Orthopaedics, University of Utah Orthopaedic Department Faculty and the Martha Ann “Markie” Dumke Healy Endowed Fund for Humanitarianism in Orthopaedics.
LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF OUR GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Hello,

We are excited to keep you apprised of the Global Health effort this past year in the Department of Orthopaedics. Obviously, we have been hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic and have shut down all activity indefinitely. Accordingly, several attendings, residents and fellows missed trips to places such as Sucre, Bolivia; Tegucigalpa, Honduras; Antigua, Guatemala; Dominican Republic; and Beijing, China. The good news is that we did not have anyone stranded on an international trip during the pandemic!!

Despite this, many things occurred these past two years that we are excited about. We finalized the creation of our Global Interactive Map, which shows everywhere we’ve been and what we are doing. This is located in our UOC lobby and is a great way to keep informed of what is going on. We are pleased that our patients are using it and we believe this is a great way to show any possible donors what we are doing. It certainly had a positive benefit during this year’s residency interview session, as many students now are interested in programs that have a reasonable global health component. We are getting some of the finest students who want to come to Utah partly because of this global health effort, as we are more dedicated and organized for it than many other orthopaedic residencies. We hope that you will show your friends and keep yourself up-to-date using the map as well.

An organizational trip was made last year to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia where we met friends who will come out to spend time with us when the international travel restrictions are lifted. Similarly, we went to Zacatecas, Mexico in the central plain area where many Salt Lake City residents originated from and where there is a foundation from Salt Lake that helps the community already. Finally, we did an organizational trip and humanitarian trip to Marrakech, Morocco where our hand therapists worked in a neurologic therapy unit, which is unique to their country. We also met medical doctors in Morocco who would like us to return in the future, which we are looking forward to doing.

Our attendings have gone to Ecuador, Uganda, Bhutan and Panama (Shriners Hospital). All of these areas are potential growth areas where larger trips may go in the future. We are proud to share that our fellows and residents went to Cape Town, South Africa; Pune, India; Cochabamba, Bolivia; Tegucigalpa, Honduras; and Santiago, Chile and all had excellent experiences. Santiago, Chile is another area where residents in orthopaedics there will travel to our department for about a month at a time to directly learn from our attending staff.

Once again, all of this is possible because of the help of Aaron and Suzie Hofmann and their professorship. We thank them and look forward to doing bigger and better things in the future when the world becomes safer again. Please stay safe yourselves.

Thank you all for your dedication and involvement in this global health endeavor.

Douglas T. Hutchinson, MD
Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery
MEET OUR GLOBAL HEALTH TEAM

Rebecca Johnson currently serves as the Director of Research & Academic Affairs for University of Utah’s Department of Orthopaedics and has over 20 years of program management experience across clinical research, global health and environmental science, both domestically and internationally. During her early career, Rebecca worked in philanthropy and development for non-profit health, science and educational programs. While developing and managing multiple marine science centers’ educational outreach programs for the Living Planet, she was integral in fundraising for the aquarium in Salt Lake City, Utah, an organization that Rebecca continues to support on a volunteer basis.

Since completing her Masters of Public Health in 2009, Rebecca has managed the development of a clinical research unit and lab in Tanzania, and multiple NIH studies to further understand the pathology of pediatric severe malaria. Rebecca also supported multiple industry-sponsored HIV ART clinical trials for the University of Utah Infectious Diseases Division, evaluated reproductive health clinics and youth programs in Guyana on a mission for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and revamped surgical suites for Globus Relief in Chamba, India.

In her current role, Rebecca supports the academic careers and research of 58 full-time faculty and their high impact investigational efforts that cut across the field of musculoskeletal health. Outside of work, Rebecca enjoys travel, nature, and spending time with her family, and in her spare time, skippering sailboats on the Great Salt Lake and dancing Argentinian tango.

Dr. Douglas Hutchinson, Professor in the Department of Orthopaedics, specializes in hand and microvascular surgery. Dr. Hutchinson currently serves as the chief of Hand Surgery at Primary Children’s Medical Center, the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and Shriners Intermountain Hospital. He is the Hofmann Endowed Chair for Humanitarianism in Orthopaedics at the University of Utah where he passionately leads and educates residents, fellows and attendings internationally as well as treats underserved patients all over the world. Dr. Hutchinson’s clinical interests include pediatric and congenital hand surgery, surgery of the wrist and elbow, and all hand problems in all ages. He trained at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, completed residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia and fellowship at the Raymond M. Curtis National Hand Center in Baltimore.

Trudi Millet is the Global Health Program Coordinator for the Department of Orthopaedics at the University of Utah. In addition to being a dedicated mother of three incredible kids and one fur baby, she enjoys running, sky diving and traveling. She is passionate about humanitarian work and feels privileged to apply her immense administrative skills locally at the University Orthopaedic Center and abroad. Her humanitarian experience includes directing two Salt Lake Valley 5K’s races and served as secretary for the Chosen Half Marathon’s core race team, both of which raised funds for those in need locally. Recently, she completed a site visit in Marrakech, Morocco where they met with local medical residents, surgeons and hospital staff. She looks forward to supporting our attendings, residents and fellows to return in the near future to treat patients and exchange knowledge with their beautiful community. Trudi is incredibly proud and excited to be a part of the amazing Global Health team with the Department of Orthopaedics at the University of Utah.
Sharing Our Program Effort Through Technology

OVER 220 PATIENTS

10 COUNTRIES

6 NEW SITE ASSESSMENTS

3 Hand Therapists

3 FELLOWS

5 RESIDENTS

4 Faculty

KEY NUMBERS/FAST FACTS
"When embarking on a humanitarian mission, prepare yourself to be...Satisfied, frustrated, challenged, fully engaged, unprepared and flexible."

-Ross Feller, MD

"Rules of engagement are different—finite resources necessitate difficult decisions:

E.g. Operations that NEED to happen, things that CAN be fixed, often are not. Kids lose limbs they wouldn’t if their parents made more money. People spend years in wheelchairs.

Stakes are high:

There is not much of a social safety net, those that are disabled stop being able to provide for their family. People drop out of school. Families bankrupt themselves to pay fees for care."

- Luke Myhre, MD
“In India, the trauma volume is large and many die before getting to the hospital. Statistics show there are 108 fatalities per 100,000 people, which is ten times that of the United States.”

- Anjinkya Rane, MD

“Our mission trip to the Dominican was such an amazing, eye opening experience that allowed me to positively affect the lives of so many great people. It was perhaps the single most memorable and powerful experience during my hand fellowship”.

- John Wilkinson, MD
In order to prevent pressure on the power grid in certain areas of Cape Town, they practice ‘load shedding’ where the power goes out during certain stages of the day. Here is the schedule while I was in Hout Bay. We used headlamps in order to cook.

- Iain Elliott, MD

On my trip to Bolivia, I learned an incredible amount about hand surgery, but more importantly, I learned how a well established organization can teach local surgeons and provide long term follow up in order to provide an impact long after the trip is complete.

- Christopher Stockburger, MD (Hand Fellow)
"This was an invaluable opportunity as a resident. A humanitarian trip is important to do as a resident because it will likely encourage you to keep doing it as an attending."

- Brittany Garcia, MD and Michelle Zeidan, MD

"It was an incredible experience helping the people and children of Bolivia, and I cannot wait for my next trip abroad."

- Andrew Harris, MD
MARRAKESH MOROCCO (2020)
Douglas Hutchinson, MD, Lana Keizer, CHT
Kathy DeTemple, CHT & Trudi Millet

“For me, the most surprising thing about this Morocco trip was seeing how our hand therapy knowledge could help so much in this primarily pediatric neurorehab center, so fun to broaden the scope of what we get to do most days at the UOC.”

- Kathy DeTemple, CHT

Bhutan (2020)
Thomas Higgins, MD (Orthopaedic Trauma Surgeon)

“The Bhutanese people are wonderful, welcoming, and astonishingly generous. As usual, my experience in Bhutan made me humbled to see how much people accomplish with limited resources, and how dedicated medical professionals are to perfecting their craft. While we are blessed with material abundance here in the States, it is clear how much I had to learn from Bhutan in terms of positivity, creativity, and determination.”

- Thomas Higgins, MD
“Hand Therapy had the opportunity to go to Santa Cruz and Cochabamba, Bolivia and Marrakech, Morocco this past year. There are very few hand surgeons and hand therapists in these countries. The therapists have never taken care of hand surgery patients and have no idea about wound care or splinting. They come from many different hospitals and some even work through the evening, even after a full work day.”

- Lana Keizer, CHT
DEVELOPING NEW PARTNERS

Blanding, Utah
We visited Blanding, Utah where we discovered a need to bring free specialized orthopaedic surgery to the Navajo Community. We were excited to see the great spaces they have available for us to hold clinics and perform surgical cases, and their willingness to help us navigate the complicated insurance issues we will inevitably face. In addition, the San Juan County Health Department has storage space for us to use. We look forward to continued discussions with the San Juan County and Blue Mountain Hospitals in hopes to deliver care to this beautiful and unique community here in our own backyard.

San Salvador, El Salvador
Dr. Hutchinson was pleased to visit Dr. Aaron Hofmann’s clinic in El Salvador where he was able to learn from Dr. Hofmann’s well-established surgical mission program that provides total joint surgeries for those in incredible need. Dr. Hutchinson had the opportunity to help surgically and observe the ins and out of bringing large teams on missions, as well as working more efficiently as a team.

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
Dr. Hutchinson and Rebecca Johnson traveled with Dr. Ray Price, Director of Global Surgery and local partner, to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in June of 2019. During this trip they were able to visit multiple government, private and teaching hospitals to include the National Trauma and Orthopaedic Research Center. This trip proved incredibly fruitful in developing a long-lasting relationship, as well as opportunities to treat patients. Due to the success of their site visit, the Mongolian orthopaedists we had the pleasure of collaborating with, Dr.’s Maidar and Boldbayar, will come to the University of Utah in the future to train in arthroscopy and shadow our Adult Reconstruction Team.
Zacatecas and Guadalupe, Mexico
The Global Health team of Dr. Hutchinson, Andrew Bracken and Rebecca Johnson had the chance to travel to Zacatecas and Guadalupe, Mexico in December of 2019. This trip evolved from a meeting with our local Mexican Federation and partnership with Globus Relief. They were greeted with much hospitality and support from local government, particularly the mayor of Guadalupe, Julio César Chávez Padilla. During this site visit, potential collaborators expressed the interest in shoulder arthroscopy training for both orthopaedic attendings and residents, medical school lectures, virtual and hands-on training, hand therapy and performing cases at the government hospitals. We look forward to future trips to Mexico to treat patients and engage in knowledge exchange. Gratefully, Dr. Burks is considering a mission trip when we are able to re-engage after this pandemic.

Salt Lake City, Utah
We look forward to our inaugural Hand Surgery Day here at the UOC in association with The Touching Hands Project. On this day, we will provide free hand surgery and therapy to the under-served in our own community. It is our hope that this successful pilot project will lay the groundwork for other sub-specialties who are interested in creating their own.

Opportunities to collaborate and join forces to support the underprivileged are all around us!