For over a decade, One World Surgery (OWS) has been providing patients in Honduras with high-quality surgical care. We have transformed the lives of over 40,000 patients through surgeries and consultations at our Holy Family Surgery Center. Our commitment to serving Honduras remains strong as we expand to include primary care services for our patients in Honduras and our medical missions in Honduras continue to hit capacity.

However, the need for safe surgical care goes beyond Honduras. Due to the success of our sustainable model in Honduras and the patient need in the Dominican Republic, we have made the prudent and strategic decision to expand our services to serve the Dominican Republic (DR). On Thursday, September 12, 2019, we officially held our groundbreaking ceremony for the new Dominican Republic site. The groundbreaking ceremony took place during the first primary care medical mission and was attended by over 50 guests.

One World Surgery has launched a capital campaign “One Patient. One Family. One World.” to raise $6 million for the new DR site. The new DR site will consist of a surgery center, primary care clinic, visitor center, chapel and an educational and conference space. As in Honduras, this new surgery center will offer high-quality surgical care in multiple surgical specialties. Since the launch of the campaign last year, One World Surgery has raised $3.55 million of the $6 million goal from supporters.

One World Surgery will serve its first surgical patient early 2021 when construction of the surgery center is complete. When the DR center is fully operational, OWS expects to perform 3,000 surgeries, carry out 25,000 consultations and offer volunteer opportunities to 1,500 people each year between its two centers by 2025.

For more information on the new surgery center and on how to participate in the campaign, please visit oneworldsurgery.org.
Providing patients with the best possible surgical care has always been the focus of One World Surgery’s work. In order to provide the most successful surgical outcomes, quicker recoveries, and healthier futures for patients, OWS is excited to expand its services to include primary care.

One World Surgery First Primary Care Mission: September 7-14, 2019

OWS hosted its first primary care medical mission from September 7th to 14th in the Dominican communities where One World Surgery’s future medical center will be located. The medical mission was attended by 13 volunteers from OptumCare and provided primary care and consultations to approximately 500 patients with acute and chronic health conditions.

“Coming from diverse backgrounds, we instantaneously morphed into one powerful, cohesive unit of caring leaders driven by the same goal: to help those in need,” says Dr. Tengis Riznis, primary care volunteer.

Primary care medical missions will continue to take place in the neighboring communities until construction for the second OWS center is completed in early 2021.

Staff Spotlight: Darren Eblovi, MD

Dr. Darren Eblovi joined our One World Surgery team in August to serve as the interim Medical Director of our new site in the Dominican Republic. Dr. Eblovi has been volunteering with One World Surgery since 2016 when he investigated the cost-effectiveness and economic impact of surgeries performed at our Holy Family Surgery Center in 2017 and recently published his findings. Dr. Eblovi has a strong passion for and background in global health. He served for 2.5 years in the Peace Corps in El Salvador with the Rural Health and Sanitation Program, researched iron deficiency anemia and intestinal parasites in children of Guatemala, and evaluated the impact of newborn resuscitation trainings for birth attendants in rural Ghana.

Dr. Eblovi and his wife, Claire Cunningham, One World Surgery’s CEO, and their two sons, Adrian and William, moved to the DR this August to provide on-site support for our new site. They are living on the NPH DR campus where the boys are making new friends and learning Spanish!

“As a family we are enjoying navigating many new challenges from sweltering heat and tarantulas, to Kindergarten in a new language, to designing and implementing our primary care program that will provide needed care to thousands of individuals while identifying the members of the community who will most benefit from surgery when the center opens. We are grateful to the NPH community for whole-heartedly embracing both our family’s transition and the expansion of One World Surgery,” says Dr. Eblovi.

We are so grateful for Dr. Eblovi’s experience, which matched with his dedication to global health will allow for a successful start for One World Surgery in the DR!