

ONE WORLD SURGERY'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

As COVID-19 emerges in Honduras and the Dominican Republic, One World Surgery is working diligently to find appropriate and effective responses for our team and patients.

We are working closely with the leadership of Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH) to prepare, supporting the safety and health of the children and NPH family. The Moscati Center in Honduras will serve as a quarantine site for NPH and select One World Surgery staff who have volunteered to remain on-site to address the medical needs of the children and staff. While the Honduras team prepares, our U.S. team is coordinating the logistics for the procurement of medical supplies needed for emergency response at NPH.

To address the developing needs of our patients, Dr. Merlin Antúnez is exploring the possibility of the Holy Family Surgery Center (HFSC) providing urgent surgeries to ease the burden on the national hospital as they respond to an influx of COVID-19 cases. In the meantime, Dr. Antúnez and the HFSC team are seeing a number of urgent consults and focusing on post-op care. While the situation continues to evolve, One World Surgery will persist in providing care to those in need as possible, employing new and innovative measures to respond during this extraordinary time. Our heart for our global community will persevere through this difficult situation.



UNITING MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS ACROSS BORDERS THROUGH BREAST CANCER EDUCATION



Todd Tuttle, M.D. stated it profoundly, "Breast cancer is usually curable in the U.S. and usually fatal in Honduras." A major reason for the high fatality rate is delay in treatment. After years of medical missions with One World Surgery, Dr. Tuttle's team and the University of Minnesota wanted to expand how they addressed this disparity. They partnered with One World Surgery and medical professionals across Honduras to create the Breast Cancer Education Conference.

The conference's goals were twofold. The first was to provide educational opportunities to students, nurses, and physicians, leading to improved breast cancer outcomes for women in Honduras. The second was to create a coalition of physicians to develop strategies to improve breast cancer outcomes in Honduras. The conference has since initiated a series of meetings between physicians, advocates, and health ministers to enhance cancer resources in Honduras. One World Surgery is positioned to contribute to improved breast cancer outcomes in Honduras through education, research, clinical care, and advocacy.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC UPDATES



Exciting progress continues in the Dominican Republic. Thanks to our partnership with Optum and our primary care volunteers, our initial four medical mission trips have provided 2,308 patient consults in 11 communities and identified 151 patients in need of surgery. As we continue to demonstrate our dedication to the community, we hired a team of local health promoters. Since April 2019, they have interviewed 2,417 households in 71 communities to assess medical complaints. The work of the health promoters complements our primary care medical missions by using those interviews to prioritize patients with high need during clinics. We are also acquiring the needed permits for construction and have selected a construction company to build our surgery and primary care center.

As COVID-19 begins its spread across the country, our nurse Miguelina is working in the frontlines of the communities to continue attending to patients in need. One World Surgery is incredibly proud of Miguelina and the rest of the Dominican team. The transformative impact of their commitment is evident throughout the community!

PATIENT SPOTLIGHT: DITUA DOVILIS



As One World Surgery's services expand to the Dominican, patients are being identified as surgical candidates for the future center. One of those patients is Ditua Dovilis, a 67-year-old Haitian man who immigrated to the Dominican as a child to cut sugarcane. When he was 10 years old, he was in an accident during which he fell off a mule. One World Surgery volunteer orthopedic surgeons also suspect he has Blount's disease, which leads to an abnormal asymmetric closure of the two sides of the knee's growth plates during childhood.

Ditua needs bilateral knee replacements to improve mobility, but surgeons will face a challenge from the scar tissue and ligament tightening that's occurred after decades of this condition. This surgery isn't offered in the Dominican's public health system and, if it was, he likely could not receive it due to his immigration status. While it may exist in the private health system, he is unable to afford it on his income of \$2 a day. For now, One World Surgery is providing continued care for his uncontrolled hypertension as we build our future surgery center to hopefully provide the medical care he has waited a lifetime to receive.