



2008 Mission Report

President Diosdado Macapagal Memorial Medical Centre, Caloocan

6 April – 12 April 2008

Overview:

A group of 31 international volunteers from four countries travelled to the Philippines in April 2008 for a week long surgical mission at President Diosdado Macapagal Memorial Medical Centre in Caloocan, Manila.

This is the fourth year that an Operation Restore Hope mission has performed out of the President Diosdado Macapagal Memorial Medical Centre. The largest total number of patients were operated on this year in comparison to preceding years.

Statistics:

Total patients screened by ORH:	103
Total patients operated on	77
Total procedures	114
Total females	29
Total males	48
Total patients deferred until 2009	20
Total patients to be operated on by local surgeon	6

Total patients who received speech language therapy	82
- <i>Pre-op assessments</i>	37
- <i>Post-op assessments / therapy advice / home programmes</i>	27

Patient Primary Case Breakdown:

<i>Unilateral Cleft Lip</i>	22
<i>Bilateral Cleft Lip</i>	5
<i>Cleft Palate</i>	33
<i>Other (pharyngoplasties, rhinoplasties, craniofacial surgery)</i>	17

Deferred/Referrals:

<i>Paediatric</i>	10
<i>Dental</i>	1
<i>Orthodontics</i>	6
<i>Other</i>	10



Follow-Ups:
Complications

1 palatal fistula

Re-operations:

Revisions of lips, palates, nose, hand

16

Postponement due to electricity brown-out

6

Total international team involved in mission:

31

Surgeons

4

Anaesthetists

4

Nurses

11

Speech therapists

1

Radiographers

1

Dentists

0

Administrators

3

Photographers

1

TV/ Film crew

4

ASK Foundation representatives

2

Total local team involved in mission:

37

Administration

8

Nurses

23

Surgeons

2

Anaesthetists

2

ASK Foundation volunteer General Practitioner

1

Volunteer team runner / translator

1

International Team Members by Nationality:

New Zealand

10

Australia

13

Germany

7

UK

1

Education & Training:

One of Operation Restore Hope's aims is to educate and train local surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses and other hospital and medical staff in the local facilities we work out of.

In 2008 for the second time, a medical conference was held prior to the mission to allow for an exchange of skills and knowledge between Operation Restore Hope team members and local staff.



In addition, for the first time an official 'team debrief' session was held to enable visiting international and local surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses and administration staff to give their feedback and exchange ideas about what went wrong and what went well during the mission. Points raised included:

- administration of medicines and post-op drugs to be given in ward
- time lag for paediatric clearance for walk-in cases during mission week
- advertising via posters during 2008 should enable better registration numbers for 2009 screening day (and less walk ins)
- advantage to local hospital of having catering provided for international team

Training:

In 2008 the following numbers of local staff were trained by Operation Restore Hope's international team:

Surgeons	2
Anaesthetists	2
Nurses	19

Training of local surgeons and anaesthetists:

2008 saw the continuation of training for two local surgeons and two local anaesthetists. Training continues year on year, and the confidence and ability of these professionals is developing strongly. Mission dates will continue to be around the availability of suitable surgeons and anaesthetists to train (ie: outside of conference and annual leave periods).

Training of local nurses:

As an integral part of our operation in Caloocan, the ongoing training of the local nurses is paramount. This year we had more nurses involved, a total of 19, all of whom volunteered their services so that they might learn from us and expand their own level of expertise. The fact that many of them were concurrently working night shift is, in our domain, unheard of.

Several of these nurses had worked with us last year and were overwhelmed by our procedures, equipment and, what we would consider to be standard knowledge. This year, these same nurses were able to step up to the mark and really take advantage of the knowledge and skills we had on offer. In many ways it is far easier to learn to be a scrub/scout nurse than an anaesthetic nurse. Scrub nurses need specific knowledge that is fairly simple in format. Keeping a sterile field, being accountable for all disposable and sharp objects and providing a smooth operating environment for the surgeon. Learning to anticipate the surgeon's needs is easier in an environment where the procedures are repeated many times over. Such as in PDMMC Hospital where the surgery is basically a variation of cleft palates and cleft lips. On the anaesthetic side however, although simple in theory, many things can vary and go badly wrong. The nurses who volunteered to learn these skills are to be highly recommended. This is a skill level that we normally consider



to be very high. We have our nurses in Australia and NZ work in a supernumerary capacity for anything from 4 to 6 weeks before allowing them to work one on one with an anaesthetist. In Caloocan, the nurses had from 1 – 2 days. All of the anaesthetists were extremely patient in allowing the nurses to step up to this level so quickly.

In recovery, the skill level also needs to be high and the ability to react quickly, essential. Again, the excellent support and knowledge of our team of nurses working alongside the local nurses is excellent. Again, the anaesthetist's support in this ongoing training role is also recognised. Overall, the level of training is increasing substantially as nurses volunteer to work with the ORH team year by year. Hopefully, we can bring in more nurses to be trained by the nurses we have already trained. The enthusiasm and quest for knowledge is refreshing and inspiring.

Local Nurses trained by ORH in 2008: 19 in total
David Leo Sarmiento – scrub/scout and anaesthetics
Ron Erik Segovia – scrub/scout and anaesthetics
Maria Corazon (Jing) Portugal – scrub/scout and anaesthetics
Randy Coldrico - scrub/scout and anaesthetics
David Romero – scrub/scout and anaesthetics
Catherine Asuncion – scrub/scout and anaesthetics
Geoffrey Acosta – scout
Rommel Versoza – scrub/scout
Mary Ann Dela Cruz – scout
Ryan Paul Lonzo – scrub/scout
Carla Bianca Corderon – scrub/scout
Jocelyn Andres – scout/cannulation
Kate Remigio – scout
Joselie Martinez – cannulation
Reuban Giad – cannulation
Olivia Garcia – cannulation
Fides Nicolas – cannulation
Aida Oliveros – cannulation
Cecilia Asuncion – recovery

Summary:

Year on year Operation Restore Hope's Caloocan team continue to learn how to perform a surgical mission with greater efficiency and efficacy. The 2008 mission taught our team valuable lessons in many areas – from anaesthetic form translation terms to team safety policy to electricity black out coping strategies in theatre! Each and every lesson will enable us to provide greater benefit to patients, local hospital staff, community medical facilities and the people of the Philippines when we return in April 2009.