

OPERATION WALK LOS ANGELES

THE JOINT JOURNAL

SCREENING 100 PATIENTS CUBA APRIL 2019



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Remember: Our newsletter is electronic only. If you wish to receive the next issues via email, please send your email address to Alejandra Castillo at alejandra@operationwalk.org

The newsletter can also be viewed at www.operationwalk.org/newsletter/

There is a hum that envelopes you as you enter the screening clinic on the first day of an Operation Walk mission. It is a hum of nerves and a hum of hope. In Havana we were greeted by 100 people who needed hip or knee replacement. This was our 6th mission in the past 22 years, and our goal was to reduce the waiting list for those who could not afford joint replacement surgery. The excited hum gets louder as we enter and take our stations to start our 4 hour screening process. We have already collected x-rays and brief histories on the patients, and now it is time for the hands-on examinations which will lead to the final patient selections.



Jeri Ward R.N. coordinating patient screening

One patient explained that she was an author. The pain in her knee prevented her from concentrating on her

writing and traveling to promote her book. Other patients included a diver, farmer, bus driver and a local grocer. The thing these people have in common is that health care does not include joint replacement. Arthritis and other joint diseases are treated with medication and inactivity, robbing people of their ability to work, income and independence.

Our goal is to safely help as many patients as possible. We know we do not have the supplies or time to operate everyone, so after a conference in which all patients are discussed, we have the difficult task of deciding who can be operated this trip. Any patients who can get by with an injection into the joint are given one and can report the following year to see how their arthritis has progressed. Some patients are eliminated due to medical issues that need to be resolved (overweight, high blood sugar or high blood pressure not controlled by medication), but they are encouraged to try again the next year. There are tears (theirs and ours) for those we must turn away, but it is important to keep our heads in the game for the 58 surgeries we will do in the next 3 days.

On the first day of surgery Dr. Dorr is visited by 40 patients who have been operated by the Operation Walk team in the past. Each trip we hold a follow up clinic so patients can come in for an examination, ask questions, or have the opportunity to let us know how their lives have improved. I think this is the best part of the trip. Folks that were in wheelchairs or barely able to walk are now showing us how great their knees are bending, or doing a little dance to show off their new mobility. I think about those having surgery this week, and look forward to seeing their happy smiles next year.

When Dr. Dorr and I leave the follow up clinic, it is we who are humming!



Russell Bodner M.D. and Aneesah Smith M.D. screening patients



WE'VE HEARD FROM THE TEAM!

CUBA APRIL 2019

We're back from a very successful OpWalk trip to Cuba, where we operated 58 hip and knee joints and helped patients walk again! Just days upon our return, we heard back from our team members about what a rewarding and life-changing experience this mission was for them. We know the surgery improves the lives of the patients, but it also has a profound impact on the team.

"AN EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCE THAT I WILL CHERISH FOREVER" - NEDA FARBOD M.D.

"Thank you Dr. Dorr and Jeri for making this trip possible for me, it was an exceptional experience that I will cherish forever. It was amazing to see so many different people from all medical walks of life working like a beautifully oiled machine. It was an enjoyment to be there and contribute in the little way that was possible for me. I can only imagine the effects we have in each individual life we give back their mobility and activity. It is an addictive feeling that makes you want to keep doing over and over again."



Neda Farbod M.D. in the Operating Room and visiting a patient

"MISS YOU ALL ALREADY" - DANG-KHOA VO M.D.

"Jeri, Thank YOU and Mary Ellen for all the work that you do to put these missions together! It was a successful trip, just like the many before and many more yet to come! It still just seems like we had just arrived in Cuba. Until next time! Miss you all already."



Dang-Khoa Vo M.D. and Juan Alvarado, PA visiting a patient

"OPERATION WALK IS A PHENOMENAL ORGANIZATION" - KALYN STEWART

"Thank you so much for involving Gen and me on the mission to Cuba! We had an idea that we wanted to go into the medical field, but through interacting patients, seeing those incredible surgeries, and being influenced by everyone on the trip, I think it is safe to say that we will 100% be entering into the medical field. Everyone on the team was so supportive of Gen and I, and I know I can speak for both of us when I say that words can never express what this trip meant to us. I am still in awe of just how lucky we are to have been able to participate on it. We both learned so much. Operation Walk is a phenomenal organization, and I am so honored to be a part of something so big. I am still trying to take everything in! Thank you so much for everything, and I hope to see you soon!"



"ONE OF THE GREATEST EXPERIENCES OF MY LIFE" - JAKE BOBMAN M.D.

"Dear Jeri and Mary Ellen, Thank you both so much for the incredible opportunity to be a part of Operation Walk in Cuba. This trip was truly one of the greatest experiences of my life. From operating with Dr Dorr's former fellows to rounding each day on the most appreciative patients I've ever treated to making so many new friends with service-oriented health care professionals from across the country, every day was amazing and filled me with gratitude. This trip reminded me exactly why I became a surgeon, and I left Cuba feeling so deeply fulfilled and proud of what we all accomplished as a team. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for inviting me to be a part of this. I am truly in awe of you both for your vision to create such a beautiful organization and for the



incredible amount of hard work and planning you put into each trip and into growing Operation Walk over the last 22 years. You both inspire me. As long as you'll have me, I will be on an Operation Walk trip every year as a resident, fellow, and eventually attending. Thank you again so much. I look forward to seeing you both soon!"

"WHAT A GRATIFYING EXPERIENCE" - PAULA PAULUS, FOUNDER OF THE LAWRENCE D. DORR OPERATION WALK SCHOLARSHIP TO SUPPORT YOUNG SURGEONS ON MEDICAL MISSIONS

"Dear Jeri, I have received the nicest of emails from Jacob Bobman. So full of enthusiasm, and frankly somewhat awestruck with everything he encountered. He loved sitting in with the screening of patients right through to participating with surgery. His observations are so genuine and his experience there so rewarding. He seems to be such a fine young man. I could feel his heart and commitment to what he was doing. He sent along some photos as well, he looks so happy. What a gratifying experience. I feel very humbled to have played a small role in this. I so look forward to doing it again next year. Thank Dr. Dorr for choosing this fine chap. He is a credit to your team."



Jacob Bobman M.D. and Morgan Silldorff M.D., recipients of the first annual Operation Walk scholarship for young surgeons, established by Paula Paulus



LOOKING AHEAD

Having successfully completed our first mission of 2019, we're now focusing our attention on a training trip for Operation Walk Albany that will take place in Havana, Cuba in the Fall of 2019. It is an exciting opportunity to continue helping the people of Cuba, this time through a new partnership with Hospital Ortopédico Docente Fructuoso Rodríguez

We're also working on scheduling a mission trip to Nicaragua in the Spring of 2020. Last but not least, we are excited about welcoming a medical team from London, United Kingdom that is interested in starting an Operation Walk chapter. We hope to support them in their endeavor and continue to grow the network and impact of Operation Walk around the globe.



**Dr. Jared Roberts - Team Surgeon, Albany
Dr. Roberto Balmaseda, and Dr. William Long**



**Lisa Fujimoto PA, Mary Ellen Sieben RN,
Roberto Balmaseda MD, Jeri Ward RN, and
Jennifer DeSanto**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SAVE THE DATE

**Annual Gala - October 12th, 2019
Annandale Golf Club**

Mark your calendars! More details to follow.



**Come walk the Red Carpet with us
on October 12th, 2019**

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF OPERATION WALK IN CUBA

A celebration for our 22nd Anniversary of Operation Walk was a highlight during our Cuba trip. We revisited the Golden Oak tree we planted in 1996, and planted another tree to commemorate our long standing relationship.



Jeri Ward RN and Mary Ellen RN received the honor of being named Honorary Members of the Cuban Medical Board



Dr. Alfredo Ceballos, Dr. Lawrence Dorr, Mary Ellen RN, and Jeri Ward RN planting a tree and visiting the 1996 Golden Oak Tree



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM!

CUBA APRIL 2019

Edwin Abreu Jr.
Juan Alvarado, PA
Maxine Anderson, MD
Paulina Andujo, RN
David Berger
David Bindleglass, MD
Jacob Bobman, MD
Russell Bodner, MD
Kevin Brooks
Michelle Burdette, RN
Yolee Casagrande, RN
Alejandra Castillo
Bryan Chan, MD
Louis Marc Chevignard
Megan Cody, PA
Rudy Costales
Jennifer DeSanto
Michael Desvignes
Rachel Dorosh, PA
Lawrence Dorr, MD
Neda Farbod, MD

Genevieve Fraipont
Lisa Fujimoto, PA
Bert Fuller
Jessica Garuccio, PA
Kathy Goodwin
Cyndi Henderson, MD
Matt Holsbeke, RN
Sierra Holsbeke
Randy Jaramillo, RN
Kervork Karakhanian, RN
Liz Kiggins, PT
Cathy Kinard, RN
John Kumar, MD
Raquel Landsworth Kleinhenz
Cid Lang
Angelica Lat, RN
William Long, MD
Ray Lopez
Jim Morris
Jennifer Okuno, PT
William Petersilge, MD
Jovy Quilala, RN

Zoe Randall
Jared Roberts, MD
Matt Sandusky
Bahar Shahidi, PhD
Kip Sharpe, MD
Mary Ellen Sieben, RN
Morgan Silldorff, MD
Aneesah Smith, MD
Shannon Smith, RN
Jake Stahnke
Kalyn Stewart
Inge Tamm Daniels, MD
Jhen Valdez, RN
Dang-Khoa Vo, MD
Mike Wang, MD
Cami Ward
Charlie Ward
Jeri Ward, RN
Sam Ward, PhD
Jonathan Weiss, MD
Cohan Zarnoch, RN
John Zimmerman



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2018-2019 ANGELS

Jill Baffert
Pat Barkley
Denise Botsford
Louise Bryson
Kathy Cadarette
Barbara Carlsberg
Ever Carradine Brown
Yolee Casagrande
Barbara Casey
Eleda Cohen
Winnifred Crowley
Jinny Dalbeck
Paula Davis
Arlene Deter
Sally Doll
Marilyn Dorr
Kim Evans
Linda Evans
Mitsuko Felton
Susan Flanagan
Susi Gertmenian
Dennis Gertmenian
Cindy Gilbert

Kathy Goodwin
Phyllis Hennigan
Jean E. Hide-Cohen
Cindy Hogan
Cece Horne
Melissa Hotchkin
Stacy Kelso
Joanne Kozberg
Debbie Lanni
Shelly Lowe
Linda Maggard
Margaret Meagher
Carolyn Miller
Theresa Murphy
Caroline Nahas
Yvonne Navarro
Conchita O'Kane
Jill Polsby
Nan Rae
Gloria Raya
Nancy Robinson Van Tuyle
Gayle Garner Roski
Reon Roski

Doris Sarkisian
Diane Saunders
Linda Seiter
Nancy Sheinbein
Jane Song Gee
Jaynie Studenmund
Nora Szechy
Bonnie Thomas
Andrea Van de Kamp
Carolyn Wagner
Jeri Ward
Nina Winterbottom

*You too, can be
listed as a
2019-2020
Operation Walk
Angel.
For more
information
please contact
Jeri Ward at:
jeri@operationwalk.org*



O P E R A T I O N W A L K

**Would you like to submit an article to the newsletter?
Tell us how surgery changed your life! Submit your letters,
questions, and photos to: cami@operationwalk.org**