



## SIGN Surgeons Respond

### **"It is my duty to respond"**

The SIGN surgeons from Ghurki Trust Teaching Hospital responded to the recent Pakistan earthquake by sending teams of medical personnel and setting up a field hospital constructed from shipping containers (which evolved into a permanent hospital). During the recent SIGN conference, surgeons who treated injured from Banda Aceh, Central Java and Pakistan spoke on the need for disaster preparation.

At a meeting held during the SIGN conference, officials of the Orthopaedic Trauma Association, American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, Orthopaedics Overseas, and SIGN discussed a preliminary plan to treat orthopaedic injuries in disasters. SIGN surgeons attending the conference volunteered to be on call to respond. Dr. Rizwan Akram summed it up by saying, "It is my duty".

*Your donations help us to respond immediately with SIGN equipment & training.*



## Expanding Equality of Fracture Care

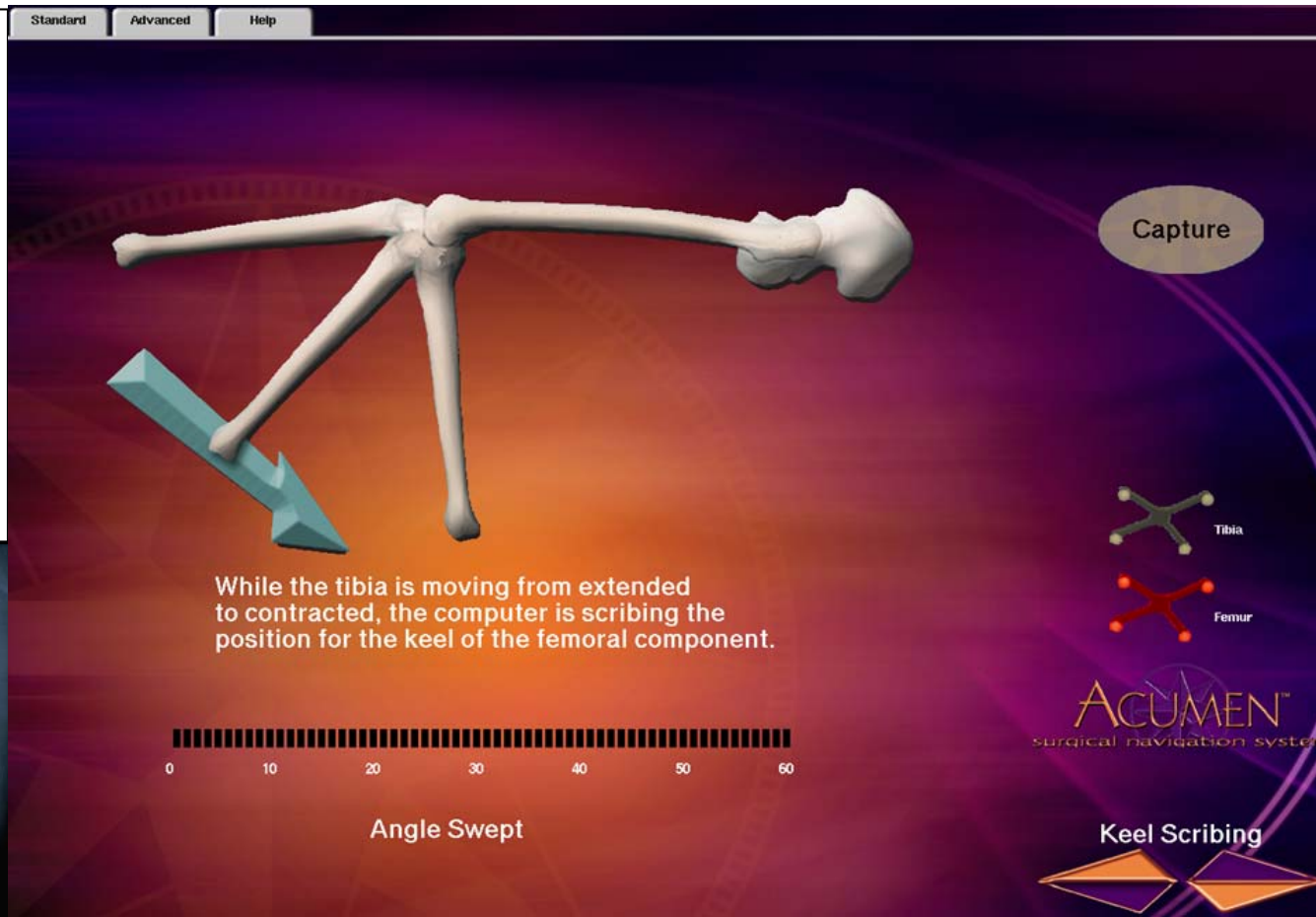
### **Let's Go Africa**

In August 2006, a group of Alaskan doctors, lead by Drs. Stephen Tower and Byron McCord, responded to the need in Africa for a consistent supply of orthopaedic fixation devices and surgical training. After several months of planning and collecting equipment, they flew to Kisumu, Kenya to start a SIGN program and learn about other needs at Nyanza Provincial General Hospital. The surgeons spent their time training local surgeons to use the SIGN system, ex-fix devices and the Alaska Triangle. They returned exhilarated by the experience which has made them champions for African orthopaedic surgeons and their patients. Kenya is one of 20 new programs begun in Africa over the last 18 months. Read their complete trip report at [www.sign-post.org](http://www.sign-post.org). Select Trip Reports/2006/Let's Go Africa



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**Analysis of Fracture Treatment in Developing Countries** was the subject for the 5th annual SIGN conference. Surgeons used the forum to exchange experiences about treating trauma patients. Michael Bosse, MD, President of the Orthopaedic Trauma Association (OTA), and key note speaker, gave two presentations on priority of treatment of multiply injured patients. In the US, trauma teams have many members on call to treat injuries in different organs. SIGN surgeons are the entire trauma team for their hospital. Dr. Bosse reminded us that we must consider all organ systems when deciding timing of orthopaedic procedures.



Charcot joint treated successfully with SIGN IM nail

Computer simulations as well as tactile sense guide placement of fixation devices. Surgeons use whatever technology is available to treat fractures. As technology advances in the United States, SIGN surgeons still use their sense of feel to place SIGN nails in tibias, femurs, humerus and ankles.

Professor Thit Lwin from Yangon, Myanmar presented a technique for using SIGN nails to fuse ankle joints. Patients with arthritis had severe pain that was relieved after fusion of the ankle joint.

## 90 Surgeons Representing 15 Countries Exchange Orthopaedic Knowledge



Of the 40 papers presented in the 3 day conference, 21 were presented by doctors from developing countries in Africa, Asia and Central America. SIGN is reaching a tipping point in number of sites and exchange of orthopaedic knowledge. You can view the complete report about the Conference by going to [www.sign-post.org](http://www.sign-post.org) and clicking on 2006 conference.