

2021 Annual Report

SIGN by the *Numbers* 36 New SIGN Programs 34,283 Patients Healed in 2021 369,219 Patients Healed since 1999

Programs reporting the most SIGN Surgeries in 2021

- 652 Tanzania: Dodoma Regional Referral Hospital
- 631 Cambodia: Kossamak Hospital
- 576 Tanzania: Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute
- 372 Malawi: Kamuzu Central Hospital
- 358 Kenya: St. Orsola Hospital Matiri
- 337 Ethiopia: Soddo Christian Hospital
- 298 Ethiopia: Black Lion Hospital
- 297 Tanzania: Nkoaranga Lutheran Hospital
- 291 Afghanistan: Central ANA Hospital
- 287 Burundi: Kibuye Hope Hospital



Jean, left, is able to stand and walk after SIGN Surgery at Compassion Evangelical Hospital in Guinea — a new SIGN Program in 2021.

Our Vision

To create equality of **fracture care** throughout the world.

Our Mission

To give the injured poor in low- and middle-income countries access to effective orthopaedic care by donating education and implants to surgeons who work in low-resource hospitals.



HQ Improvements

Throughout the year, SIGN Staff made changes to increase efficiency and innovation.

Development Cell

Engineers and Machinists worked together to set up a Development Cell, so that engineers can refine prototypes without interrupting production of instruments and implants.

New Machines

We added two new screw-making machines to increase productivity. Our new Autobagger machine quickly packages implants and ensures we continue to meet regulatory guidelines.

Procedural Learning Center

We completed the Procedural Learning Center, where we can host hands-on training for surgeons. All these improvements work together, enabling SIGN Staff to meet the growing need for fracture care in low-income countries.



Above: Autobagger in the Shipping Department. Below: Star machine for making screws. Below-left: Bioskills lab in Procedural Learning Center.



Trauma Healers

In May 2021, Trauma Healers began airing on PBS stations across the United States. This documentary highlights the need for trauma care in low-income countries. To date, Trauma Healers has

been aired nearly 2,000 times on more than 185 PBS stations nationwide. The documentary is now available on-demand on YouTube. Please view the documentary and share it with your family and friends to hear the stories of SIGN Surgeons and learn how you can support trauma patients in need.

Watch now at signfracturecare.org/ traumahealers

Constant Innovation

We are always looking for ways to improve products, procedures, and training to help surgeons in lowincome countries.



Dr. Duong Bunn in Cambodia tests the VR training system.

Stewardship

Through all our work, we diligently steward the donations the SIGN Family provides us. For the ninth year in a row, we received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator—their highest rating for financial health, accountability, and transparency. We also achieved renewed accreditation from the BBB Wise Giving Alliance and received a Top-Rated Charity award from GreatNonProfits.



Education

To improve education opportunities, we upgraded The Hub with 21 eLearning courses and knowledge pages on SIGN Techniques and Products.

Thanks to PrecisionOS and an Epic Games Megagrant, we received virtual reality headsets and a SIGN Surgery training simulation, which is currently being tested by surgeons.

Engineering

SIGN Engineers tested a skin graft system developed by Randy Huebner, a SIGN Board Member, and Joel Gillard, a SIGN Engineer. This system is designed to help SIGN Surgeons cover open wounds.





The skin graft system will help surgeons treat patients with open wounds.

Record-Setting Healing

SIGN is expanding faster than ever before. We started 36 SIGN Programs in 2021—more than any other year in our history. We delivered 34,283 SIGN Nails to help patients recover from bone fractures. We now support more than 7,000 SIGN Surgeons at

388 hospitals in 54 countries. Since 1999, those surgeons have helped heal 369,219 patients.



CEO Message

We are grateful to SIGN donors for their generosity in 2021. Your gifts allowed us to donate over 34,000 nails and to start 36 new programs! We finished the Bioskills Lab and made progress on new instruments and several research projects related to infection control.

We expect to return to nearly normal activity in 2022! Volunteer US surgeons already have plans to travel to teach SIGN Technique and limb deformity. Digital learning will continue via the online mentorship program and monthly webinars. We will make good use of the new Bioskills Lab so SIGN Surgeons can perfect their surgical skills and SIGN Engineers can obtain a more complete understanding of orthopaedic surgery. SIGN Spine volunteers will continue preparations to start the first site in Eldoret, Kenya, in July 2023. SIGN Surgeons and Engineers will further their research and conduct studies on how to reduce the use of antibiotics and still control infection. We plan to start at least 25 new programs and could very well reach 400,000 injured poor by years end. Please join us again in 2022 as we seek the best possible orthopaedic treatment for our patients!

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CEO

The surgical team at Compassion Evangelical Hospital celebrates with their first patient who received SIGN Surgery.

SIGN Financial Info

Note: Audited Financial Info

2021 TOTAL REVENUE

Program Services Management & General Fundraising TOTAL EXPENSES

\$6,537,340 \$6,539,461

453,707 **\$7,350,508**

ENDING NET ASSETS

\$15,656,405

of expenses directly supported SIGN Programs.

SIGN Officers & Board of Directors

Lewis G. Zirkle, MD, President & Founder, Chairman of the Board

David Shearer, MD, Vice President

Jeanne Dillner, CEO, Secretary/Treasurer

Michael Coscia, MD

Richard Gellman, MD

Randall Huebner Ann Penner Stephen Schwartz Carla Smith, MD, PhD John Staeheli, MD Thomas Vasileff, MD David Whitney, MD Patrick Yoon, MD

SIGN FRACTURE CARE

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