



# SIGN

FRACTURE CARE  
INTERNATIONAL

December 2016

## IMPLANTING HEALING WORLDWIDE



## Healing Should Be the Same, No Matter Where It Takes Place

*By Lewis G. Zirkle M.D.*

Injuries know no boundaries.

It's not fair, but 80% of the patients needing orthopedic care live in developing countries, while 80% of the trained surgeons live in developed countries. With your support we can continue to provide access to education and relevant implants so that local surgeons can give immediate surgical care.

We just returned from visiting SIGN Programs in Myanmar and Bangladesh. I performed surgery with the surgeons and saw the results of their work through X-rays and meeting with patients. This once again confirmed that the surgery done by SIGN Surgeons is as good as any in the world.

They use the SIGN Implants very effectively. We are humbled to see the skill, determination, and sacrifice of these surgeons to treat the injured poor.

Please join us as we continue to expand our vision of creating equality of fracture care throughout the world.

***Give the gift of SIGN Surgery! You can help a person recover from debilitating injury by donating today at [signfracturecare.org/donate](http://signfracturecare.org/donate)***

# The Value of Validation

By Lewis G. Zirkle M.D.

We seek validation for our actions from the time we take our first steps.

## Validation through Reporting

SIGN established the SIGN Surgical Database to evaluate the effectiveness of the SIGN Technique and Implants. The reports submitted to the SIGN Database have consistently demonstrated the innovation and ingenuity of SIGN Surgeons. We feel there are memes circulating in the SIGN Family of Surgeons because the same ideas seem to crop up in different parts of the world. These memes include new uses of the SIGN Implants and new techniques.

We evaluate the results of every surgery on the database by examining X-rays and surgical reports. Our squat and smile pictures demonstrate patient strength, knee motion, and fracture healing.

## Firsthand Validation

A new dimension of validation

occurs when we travel to SIGN Programs around the world. We can see X-rays and discuss them with the surgeons. We then have the opportunity to observe the patients walking, squatting, and smiling. Observing these patients is the true validation of SIGN Surgery. Many have returned to work doing strenuous physical labor – often the only jobs available in poor areas.

## Expanding Programs Are Validation

The SIGN Surgeons in Myanmar and Bangladesh are so impressed with the results of the SIGN Programs in their hospitals that they suggested SIGN should expand to hospitals throughout their countries. They volunteered to teach the surgeons in these new SIGN Programs. Expanding SIGN Programs throughout the country would bring orthopedic care closer to where patients live and reduce the burden of overcrowded hospital wards.



**The squat and smile**



**Meeting patients**



**Dr. Zirkle reviews X-rays**



## Expanding Programs to Meet Need in Myanmar

By Jeanne Dillner, CEO

In 2015, 2100 people were injured in road traffic accidents in Yangon, Myanmar. The number of injuries will only increase as financial conditions improve and vehicles become more affordable. Mixing faster cars and motorcycles with slower, traditional rickshaws is a recipe for dangerous traffic accidents.

The urban hospitals in Yangon are filled with patients from the city and outlying areas who need surgical care. To address this rising need for surgery, the orthopedic residency program at Yangon General Hospital has grown to 52 residents. When these residents graduate, they will be sent to outlying hospitals so that patients can receive surgical care closer to their homes and families. The orthopedic leadership in Myanmar has presented three new hospitals for our program committee to consider, and they are developing a five-year plan so that we can prepare for more program requests.

Expanding SIGN Programs also supports the efforts of Aung San Suu Kyi, the Burmese activist and State Counsellor of Myanmar, to increase access to medical care for all people in Myanmar.



## Help SIGN Implant Hope

Thank you for your continued support of SIGN. Your gifts enable us to provide surgery and care for injured people in the world's poorest places.

### Double Your Donation

Through the end of the year your gift will be matched, which means you are helping twice as many people receive healing surgery.

In order for a donation to be matched, it must arrive at our office by noon on Friday, December 30. Online donations will be matched through 11:59pm PST on December 31.

### Give the Gift of SIGN Surgery

Here's a gift idea for the person who has everything. A donation of \$150 in their name enables a patient to receive SIGN surgery. We will send you a card to put under their Christmas tree.

### IRA

Check with your CPA to see if you are eligible to give a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA account directly to SIGN.

### Stocks and Bonds

When doing your year-end tax planning, consult with your CPA about donating stocks and bonds to SIGN. Not only will your gift help heal, but you may receive some valuable tax advantages as well.

### Employer Matching

Many employers match donations to charities. Check with your Human Resources department to find out how your donation to SIGN can go further.

For all donations, please call us at (509) 371-1107 or give online at [signfracturecare.org/donate](http://signfracturecare.org/donate)

## Double Your Impact in 2016!

From now through December 31 your donations will be matched! See details on page 3.

## Support SIGN While You Shop

You can support SIGN while making your everyday purchases.

On each site, sign into your account and choose SIGN Fracture Care International as your charity. Thank you!



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## Thank You!

Thank you to our **2016 WINE & DINE for SIGN** Benefactors, Sponsors, and Attendees. Your generous gifts and our matching funds raised \$500,000 to provide surgery and care to people in the world's poorest places!

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