



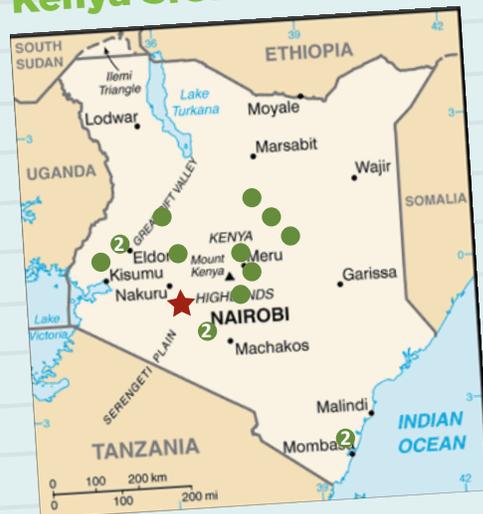
SIGN Field Reports are a new way to take you with us as we walk the world!

Kenya: Kijabe Hospital

Kijabe Hospital was established in 1915 as a small outpatient clinic and has grown to a full hospital facility with 363 beds. It is situated in rural Kenya, about an hour's drive from Nairobi. Kijabe Hospital is sponsored by the Africa Inland Church Kenya. The hospital's mission is to "Glorify God through compassionate health care provision, training and spiritual ministry in Christ Jesus". It has nine operating theater rooms, modern ICU, Dental, and Laboratory/Pathology units.

The SIGN Program at Kijabe Hospital started in 2005. Since then SIGN Surgeons have performed 1,204 SIGN Surgeries and helped thousands of impoverished patients heal from their injuries and get back to their work and families. Dr. Dan Galat recently joined the Kijabe staff from Tenwek Hospital, strengthening the surgical and residency programs. Dr. Anthony Maina, a recent graduate of the residency program, received the Orthopaedic Trauma Association scholarship in 2016 to attend the SIGN and OTA conferences in the United States.

Kenya SIGN Programs



- ★ Kijabe SIGN Program
- Other SIGN Programs in Kenya



Dr. John Mandela (far left) leads his fellow orthopaedic residents in the squat and smile pose. Six weeks earlier, Dr. Dan Galat (far right) was grateful to have a SIGN Nail to treat Dr. John's tibia fracture. Read their story on the next page.

Kenya: Kijabe Hospital



Learning the Hard Way

By Daniel Galat, M.D.
Kijabe Hospital, Kenya

One night in December, two weeks into the national doctors' strike in Kenya, and with cases stacking up for surgery, I received a phone call from one of the third year orthopaedic residents. "Dr. Galat, you won't believe this but your resident, Dr. John Mandela, just injured his leg playing soccer," he said. "He's in casualty, and it looks like he has an open (compound) tibia fracture."

While heading to the hospital to see Dr. John, I chuckled at the irony of operating on my only resident. "You just can't make this stuff up," I thought. At the same time I was thankful for the opportunity to help.

I found John in casualty with a bloody splint on his leg and, trying to lighten the mood, promptly informed him he was going to have to write all patient notes from his hospital bed. **Thankfully, we were able to take him to the operating room that same night to wash the open wound and stabilize the fracture using a SIGN Nail.**

Between Tenwek and Kijabe hospitals, we have treated more than 3,000 patients using SIGN Implants. Now, one of our own trainees has received the very nail he is learning to use to heal others.

Recently, I saw Dr. John at the PAACS (Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons) Basic Science Conference, a two-week intensive course for 1st and 2nd year surgical residents from all over Africa. I was amazed to see him walking without a limp just six weeks from his date of surgery. **Without the SIGN Nail, he would have still been in a heavy plaster cast, walking with crutches, and struggling to get around.** As I watched him interacting and learning with the other 50 residents,



I thanked God for this new generation of surgical trainees who are dedicating their lives to helping others in need. It is a privilege to be involved in the education of these young, bright, committed African trainees who will be part of the solution to the lack of surgical care in some of the world's poorest places.

Dr. John will return to his training post at Kijabe next week, just two months from his injury. I told him he failed his rotation on the Galat service, and will have to remediate! Just kidding ... we'll all be glad to have him back.