



"Put Others First"

Women and girls are a big part of the SIGN Family. In honor of International Women's Day, this newsletter is dedicated to their efforts to put others first.

Lewis G. Zirkle, MD Receives Department of Defense *Medal for Distinguished Public Service*

On February 26, 2018, Dr. Lewis G. Zirkle received the highest civilian honor given by the US Department of Defense, presented by Secretary of Defense James Mattis. For more videos and more information about the award, visit signfracturecare.org/medal

"I accept this award on behalf of the SIGN Family, because all of you have helped. All of the surgeons overseas have contributed, and I'm very honored to have the chance to work with you." —Dr. Zirkle



"In my current job few events have been so heartening as visiting SIGN and recognizing your leadership and your team in Richland. I'm grateful that I was able to be part of recognizing your vision becoming a reality in so many peoples' lives."

*—US Secretary
of Defense
James Mattis*



Secretary of Defense James Mattis

Lewis G. Zirkle, MD

Women and Girls: *A Worthy Investment*

by Jeanne Dillner

This section of the newsletter is dedicated to girls and women impacted by SIGN. Dr. Joyceline Mutwiri has dedicated her life to treating the poor patients in Meru, Kenya. She became a member of the SIGN Family when she joined Dr. Gaido at Cottolengo Mission Hospital, where she learned to perform SIGN Surgery. Seeing the impact the surgery makes on the lives of the patients and their families, Joyceline has decided to obtain a residency in orthopaedics so that she can provide more complete orthopaedic care to the patients in Meru. Marwa from Afghanistan is able to rejoin her classmates in school thanks to Dr. Wardak, who performed healing SIGN Surgery. Sek, from Cambodia, is also an inspiration. At 18, she is the main breadwinner for her family and returned to her job just 30 days



One month after SIGN Surgery, 4-year-old Seth can squat and smile with his surgeon, Dr. Joyceline Mutwiri, at Cottolengo Mission Hospital in Kenya.

after surgery. Each of these young women are choosing to use their gifts to improve the lives of those around them.

Joyceline Mutwiri, SIGN Surgeon from Kenya

Dr. Joyceline had dreamed of being a doctor since she was 10 years old. She tried other jobs, but was never satisfied until she started medical school. She trained as a general surgeon and assisted on orthopaedic surgery.

“As I worked in the hospital, I did my best to provide services, though the needy community and working environment challenge are obstacles. We lack essential drugs, equipment, and material,” she says. “We also have a shortage of medical practitioners.”

When the only orthopaedic surgeon left to work in another country, Dr. Joyceline and her partner took on orthopaedic cases as they were able.

I’m grateful we have SIGN, which is an excellent system to use,” she



Dr. Joyceline (right), and Dr. Gaido, SIGN Surgeons at Cottolengo Mission Hospital.

says. “Now I’m happy when I see a patient with a fracture. They come to you as a doctor, for you to help them. Right now we are so happy because we don’t have to send away the patient.”

Because of the urgent need for orthopaedic care in her community, Dr. Joyceline recently decided to start an orthopaedic residency. She is dedicated to helping people in need, even when she could earn more money by working elsewhere.

“I know I have dedicated my life to my career, but seeing my patient go home happy and in good shape is the most satisfying thing,” Dr. Joyceline says.

As seen on my recent trip to Kenya, Dr. Joyceline continues to put others first. Before attending the SIGN Conference, she traveled home to ensure her father received proper care for a surgery, flew to attend the conference, and flew back to Nairobi to help her father return home.

Women and Girls: *A Worthy Investment*

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*If we are to see real development in the world,
then our best investment is
women.*

—Desmond Tutu

Marwa, Afghanistan

Marwa is a lucky girl. She lives in southern Afghanistan, and her village is the only one in the region that allows young girls to attend school. At age 13, she broke her leg. Her parents took her to the local bonesetter, who attempted to stabilize her fracture using wood and egg carton wraps. His efforts were unsuccessful, leaving her disabled. She found her way to Dr. Ismail Wardak, who presented two options to treat her injury—a spica cast or surgery. Despite being afraid of injections and medical procedures, Marwa opted for surgery because

she could heal and get back to school sooner.

Dr. Wardak used the SIGN Pediatric Fin Nail to stabilize her fracture and start the healing process. Just a few weeks later, Marwa was back in the classroom with her friends. If she had opted for the cast, she likely would have been out of school for three months.

“She was so happy to continue her lessons,” says Dr. Wardak.

Sek Saroeun, Cambodia

Sek Saroeun comes from a family of poor subsistence farmers. The 18-year-old moved from a rural

agricultural province to the bustling capital of Phnom Penh to find work and help support her parents. Crossing one of the city’s busy streets on her way to work, she was hit by a taxi, and the force fractured her femur.

The accident left her unable to work. Without her income, her whole family was stalled on the path out of poverty. Without SIGN, treatment via traction or cast would take up to three months — a long time to be without income and incurring hospital fees. But thanks to SIGN Surgery, she was discharged from the hospital within one week and back to work in one month.

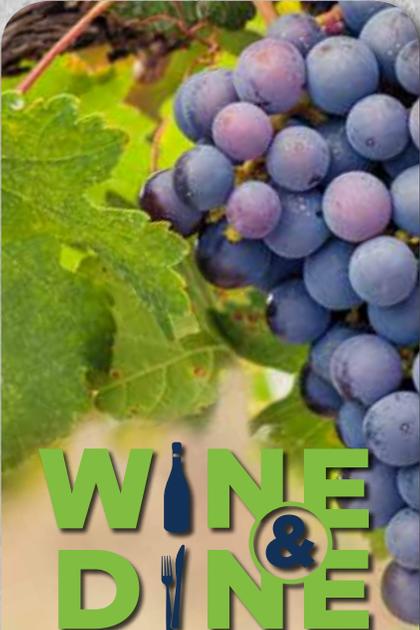


Marwa, 13, is back at school.



Sek, 18, works to support her family.

Save the Dates



WINE & DINE for SIGN

September 22
Portland, OR
Portland Art Museum

September 29
Tri-Cities, WA
Three Rivers Convention Center

September 12-15

2018 SIGN
INTERNATIONAL ORTHOPAEDIC
CONFERENCE
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DOUBLE Your Donation to SIGN

Wednesday, May 9, SIGN Fracture Care International is participating in Seattle Foundation's GiveBIG!

Beginning April 26 until May 9 your donation will be matched when you give at signfracturecare.org/GiveBig

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