

## Questions Lead to Truth

*By Lewis G. Zirkle, MD*

The SIGN Conference is a time for renewing friendships, sharing knowledge about innovations to treat fractures, as well as documenting surgery results in different areas. This is a chance for 131 SIGN Surgeons from 28 countries to present their ideas, methods of surgery, and results of fracture treatment.

We emphasize that the way we think is more important than our body of knowledge. We question, more than provide answers, as we all teach and learn together.

I am impressed by the knowledge and skill displayed by the SIGN Surgeons. In their presentations and questions, they reveal a deep understanding of orthopaedic surgery and a desire to learn more. In the bioskills lab they display great skill and technique.

We all continue to improve.

### CONFERENCE THEME

*"By doubting we  
are led to questions,  
by questioning we  
arrive at the truth."*

*— Peter Abelard*



*SIGN is grateful to The Wyss Medical Foundation for being the primary sponsor of the 2018 SIGN Conference.*

# 2018 SIGN INTERNATIONAL ORTHOPAEDIC CONFERENCE

## Workshops

Hands-on workshops are a critical element of the conference because they provide tactile experiences to help the surgeons learn and remember. Orthopaedic surgeons from the US and around the world lead these sessions, providing expertise and guidance for difficult procedures. Each participant shares what they learned with their colleagues at home, exponentially increasing the level of orthopaedic care in the developing world.

### DEFORMITY

SIGN Surgeons surround Dr. Richard Gellman as he explains how to assemble the TSF Device.



## Lectures

SIGN Surgeons present research about their surgeries and issues that affect them in the developing world. By learning from each surgeon's unique expertise, we raise the level of knowledge and the level of care each surgeon can provide.



### PELVIC

Dr. Anthony Brown and Dr. Sami Hailu, along with Dr. Geletaw Tessema, teach the pelvic fracture course.



### ENGINEERING

SIGN Engineers demonstrate new and existing products for efficient and effective surgery.

*SIGN is grateful to Integra Foundation and Zimmer Biomet for being sponsors of the 2018 SIGN Conference.*



# 2018 SIGN INTERNATIONAL ORTHOPAEDIC CONFERENCE

## Bioskills Lab

Each surgeon had the opportunity to participate in the Bioskills Lab, learning and practicing a new surgical technique on human tissue, which is the closest analog to performing surgery on a live person. Expert surgeons from the US and around the world demonstrated the procedures, then gave feedback as each surgeon practiced.

**Thank you to Surgical Training Institute, MedCure, Science Care, Acumed, Freight Services, and S.W.I.S. Surgical Video, whose donations and support made the Bioskills Lab possible.**

### ANKLE

Dr. Patrick Yoon shows SIGN Surgeons methods to heal ankle and heel fractures.



### HIPS

Dr. Marc Swiontkowski leads the session on treating hip fractures with implants and plates.



### PELVIC

Dr. Anthony Brown and Dr. Paul Whiting assist surgeons with fixing pelvic fractures, which are very complex procedures.



### FLAPS

Dr. Kari Keys, Dr. Grace Um, and Dr. Sarah Goldsberry-Long, all from the University of Washington, teach surgeons how to use muscle flaps to cover the bone in serious injuries.



### ELBOW

Dr. Shawn O'Driscoll guides surgeons through new elbow procedures.



SIGN introduced **the hub**, a web portal to increase communication between SIGN Surgeons and provide additional educational opportunities throughout the year. **To learn more, email [programoffice@signfracturecare.org](mailto:programoffice@signfracturecare.org)**

# WINE & DINE for SIGN

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the **WINE & DINE for SIGN Benefits** this September. You donated over \$275,000, which will be matched to provide healing care for people in the world's poorest places!

Thank you, Benefactors & Sponsors!

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A few thank yous from surgeons who attended the 2018 SIGN Conference.

*I have learnt so much, and yet I still feel so hungry for more knowledge. I hope that my patients will be better taken care of now. —Dr. John Ekure, Uganda*

*To meet all those like-minded people working at a grass-roots level was a real privilege. I am loaded up with ortho gear, ideas, and enthusiasm. Thank you very much! —Dr. David Friend, Zambia*

*We had a lot to learn and each one of us indeed came out with something new. —Dr. Calvin Nyakure, Kenya*

See you at the 2019 Conference!

**2019 SIGN**  
INTERNATIONAL ORTHOPAEDIC  
**CONFERENCE**  
September 11-14, 2019

