Greetings from Port-au-Prince.

We continue to provide medical and surgical care to earthquake victims. In addition, we are working closely with the Haitian Ministry of Health and the United Nations in order to strengthen the health care system in Haiti. Our team is working to improve the infrastructure of the hospitals and to train local health care workers.

As you can imagine, the situation is challenging and difficult. However, we are making progress and we are determined to help as many people as possible.

Many thanks to all of you for your support. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Dean's Report

Published by the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California

Special Report

USC Responds to the Tragedy in Haiti

Two days after a 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit Haiti, the Keck School of Medicine of USC was on its way to the nation’s capital of Port-au-Prince to provide surgical and medical assistance. The quick response to the crisis was spearheaded by Dean Carmen A. Puliafito, M.D., D.D.S., Donald Grenier, M.D., director of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care for Keck, and Randall Custis, M.D., Keck School’s chief of surgery and team leader.

Hospital care in Haiti, since the Medical School for Rock and Surgery of Hospital Los Angeles in Los Angeles, also traveled to Port-au-Prince to offer help. It is a matter of relief for Keck School’s emergency room staff and the professional world to know that they were able to provide hundreds of lives facing devastation and devastation for the need of the people.

In the meantime, the Keck School of Medicine team is working continuously to provide care to victims of the earthquake. We are working closely with federal and Haitian officials as well as representatives from non-governmental organizations.

Please consider sponsoring a physician or physician assistant from the Keck School of Medicine Haiti Relief Fund.

To make a donation, please contact Elliott Law at (626) 457-4066, or you may make a contribution online with a secure credit card service.

Published by the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California

How You Can Help

Please consider sponsoring the surgical medical school for Haiti and completing the surgical medical school for Haiti and the country’s medical schools. Your contribution will help us provide education and training for the future medical professionals of Haiti.

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USC Responds to the Tragedy in Haiti

continued from page 1

organization that normally specializes in the treatment of AIDS patients and is also a neurosurgeon. Ford worked side by side with Gupta and is also chief medical correspondent Dr. Sanjay Gupta, who was in Haiti for one week to explore how USC, in collaboration with Project Gutenberg, can provide full service to the community tomorrow. They need it desperately. Will try to connect with rest of Keck team by e-mail later tonight or tomorrow. Thanks for your ongoing support.

One of our goals is to work with the three local full service hospitals to develop a central command to manage the flow of patients. Our team members expressed concern about the immense resources where they were needed, good intentions were not enough. There was a chance to learn valuable lessons about emergency medicine and the importance of prioritizing resources where they were needed.

In addition to the formidable task of rebuilding this city, a major challenge is to help the vast number of Haitians who will require additional care. Rehabilitation or medical personnel along with surgical equipment will be needed. The combination of funds will ensure that these patients have access to the proper care. Haiti is a long way from being a developed country.

The Mayor of Port-au-Prince (PAP), the city which was named Haiti's capital in 1804, came by the clinic this afternoon to speak with our team. We treated some patients who had not received medical care due to failure and is common in earthquake victims who have been trapped in building failures.

In addition to the formidable task of rebuilding this city, a major challenge is what to do with the many amputees and others with broken bones who will require additional care. Rehabilitation or medical personnel along with surgical equipment will be needed. The combination of funds will ensure that these patients have access to the proper care. Haiti is a long way from being a developed country.

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Some patients were making their way to the hospital, others were waiting in the helicopter pad to be taken to hospital, others had been converted into refugee camps. It was a chance to see the devastation and suffering at close range. The city is essentially in ruins.

The three hospitals are overwhelmed already. Fortunately, a large naval ship, U.S.S. Comfort, arrived on Tuesday. It has 500 hospital beds. That allows us to transfer patients who need more hospitalization to more specialized surgical care than can be done from the ground.

The surgeons and nurses also tended to internal and head injuries, including cutting and piercing wounds, as well as orthopedic injuries. The ideal is to get them to a hospital, but that was not always possible. Many people were rescued from the rubble and are recovering.

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USC Responds to the Tragedy in Haiti

continued from page 3

continued from page 1

The surgeons and nurses also tended to internal and head injuries from falling bricks, many sustained by children. Soon after landing in Haiti, Ford was enlisted to perform surgery on a man who had survived in a collapsed building for 14 days. My heart was needed. I went to him and operated on him. I had the opportunity to serve and be an ambassador for the American people, and also a chance to help people in desperate need. It was a tremendous opportunity to serve and to build a bridge of understanding for the Haitian people. In four hours of surgery, he survived. I was proud and grateful for what our group, USC/LA County Medical Team, has been able to deliver in our tents.

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Ramon Cestero, M.D.

The humanitarian mission was not just an opportunity to help. It was a chance to share valuable lessons about emergency medicine and treatment. “We learned the value of being organized, and to support one another,” said Ramon Cestero, M.D. “We learned that when there is a sense of need, great intentions alone are not enough to support people who need help.”

But there is a chance to help people in disaster zones. “In Haiti, a tremendous opportunity to serve and to be an ambassador for the American people, and to show kindness and compassion to the Haitians,” he said. “There was a sense of joy on our eyes as we helped to treat patients.”

In a series of podcasts posted on the USC/LA County Haiti Medical Aid Team website, team members shared concerns about the inadequate facilities and infrastructure in Haiti. Patients are being treated in make-shift tents in the local community. Many thanks for everyone’s emails and ongoing support encourage us to continue. This is a great way to help the local community.

By the way, we experience daily tremors (aftershocks). They typically begin about 10 seconds and last for about 30 seconds. —Henri Ford, M.D.

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DiSpAtChes FrOM Haiti

literally thousands of severely injured Haitians who had no food, water, shelter and had little or no medical care to speak of and were unable to communicate with the outside world. The situation was compounded by the fact that we were working in some of the poorest countries in the world, at times working for 28 hours straight. As team leader, I would like to personally thank each individual who worked tirelessly with us throughout this humanitarian mission. We were working in some extremely difficult conditions, including vehicle transportation to one of our multiple surgical facilities. Communication problems/limitations led us to return a bit earlier than anticipated. It was only after much discussion that we made the difficult decision. We were disappointed we were not able to continue our work for a longer time period. However, we feel that we made a significant impact in the lives of the hundreds of patients we saw and those whose lives we were able to save and whose health we were able to improve. We would also like to thank the University of Miami Project Medishare for allowing us to join them in this humanitarian endeavor. We would also like to thank the University of Miami Project Medishare for allowing us to join them in this humanitarian endeavor. It was an honor to work with you during this effort.

Greetings from Port-au-Prince.

We will likely return to Haiti for healing purposes, and hopefully, to provide additional care to those who are still in need. Thank you all again for your unwavering support.

—Ramon Cestero, M.D.

Dean’s Report

Published by the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California

KecK/usC Dean’s Report

ReissuRe

Two days after a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti, President Barack Obama and the leadership of the Keck School of Medicine of USC and the County of Los Angeles, with the assistance of the Organización de la Cooperación del Cartel de Puerto Rico to provide surgical and medical assistance. This quick response to the crisis was made possible through the Keck School of Medicine of USC and the County of Los Angeles’ unique strategic capabilities and the powerful leadership of our own university. As the capital of one of our nation’s poorest countries, Port-au-Prince provides a stark contrast to the surrounding areas. The capital city is home to approximately 2 million people, many of whom live in extreme poverty. The city is also home to some of the most densely populated areas in the world, including the densely packed slums known as “casbahs.”

When the earthquake struck, the Keck School of Medicine of USC and the County of Los Angeles, along with the support of our federal and local partners, was able to provide a rapid and effective response to the crisis. This response was made possible through the leadership of Dr. Carmen Puliafito, M.D., the dean of the Keck School of Medicine of USC, and Dr. Demetrios Dementatos, M.D., the director of the USC/LA County Medical Services Disaster Medical Assistance Team (USCMED). The USCMED team was one of the first to arrive in Haiti, providing medical care to the injured, the sick, and the destitute alike. The team was led by Dr. Demetrios Dementatos, M.D., who was joined by a team of medical professionals including surgeons, nurses, and other healthcare providers. The team was able to quickly set up a field hospital in the city of Port-au-Prince, providing medical care to those in need. The response was immediate and effective, and the team was able to provide medical care to thousands of people in the days following the earthquake.

The team’s success in providing medical care to the injured and sick in the aftermath of the earthquake demonstrated the importance of having a strong and effective response plan in place. The team was able to quickly mobilize resources and provide medical care to those in need, even in the face of significant logistical challenges. This success is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the team, and a reminder of the importance of having a strong and effective response plan in place for future disasters.

The Keck School of Medicine of USC and the County of Los Angeles will continue to work with our federal and local partners to ensure that we are prepared to respond to future disasters. This includes working to improve our response planning and coordination, as well as ensuring that we have the necessary resources and personnel in place to respond to future disasters. The team’s success in providing medical care to the injured and sick in the aftermath of the earthquake is a reminder of the importance of having a strong and effective response plan in place for future disasters.
DiSpAtChES FrOM Haiti

Dear friends, family, colleagues, and unwavering supporters,

Jan. 23, 2010:

Greetings from Port-au-Prince.

We continue to provide medical and surgical care to patients. In addition, we are ending our great project involving the images for advertising food and other nutritional goods to the community we are working in. Our organization is requesting donations of images to be used in this project.

We would like to thank you for your financial support to our organization. We ask you to continue to support us in our efforts to provide medical and surgical care to the underprivileged people of this world.

Thank you for your continued support.

—Ramon Cestero, M.D.

Jan. 24, 2010:

Greetings from Port-au-Prince.

We continue to provide medical and surgical care to patients. In addition, we are ending our great project involving the images for advertising food and other nutritional goods to the community we are working in. Our organization is requesting donations of images to be used in this project.

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Thank you for your continued support.

—Ramon Cestero, M.D.

Mental and physical stress associated with treating hundreds of patients and the poorest countries in the world, at times working for 28 hours throughout this humanitarian mission. We were working in some individual member of the USC/LA County team for their incredible initial lack of medical personnel – which our arrival improved – there were dozens of medical teams from multiple nations around the world, but without our involvement. In addition, as of our departure date no patient had received medical and surgical care in a timely manner to continue our work for a longer time period.

However, it is not a question of a significant impact. The underserved patients who we served and iatric care without adequate healthcare. In addition, as our experience demonstrates more diverse abilities of medical teams from multiple nations are participating and providing care throughout the world so that we can meet the initial lack of medical personnel – which we are currently working to improve.

On the other hand, we would like to thank you for your financial support to our organization. We ask you to continue to support us in our efforts to provide medical and surgical care to the underprivileged people of this world.

Thank you for your continued support.

—Ramon Cestero, M.D.