

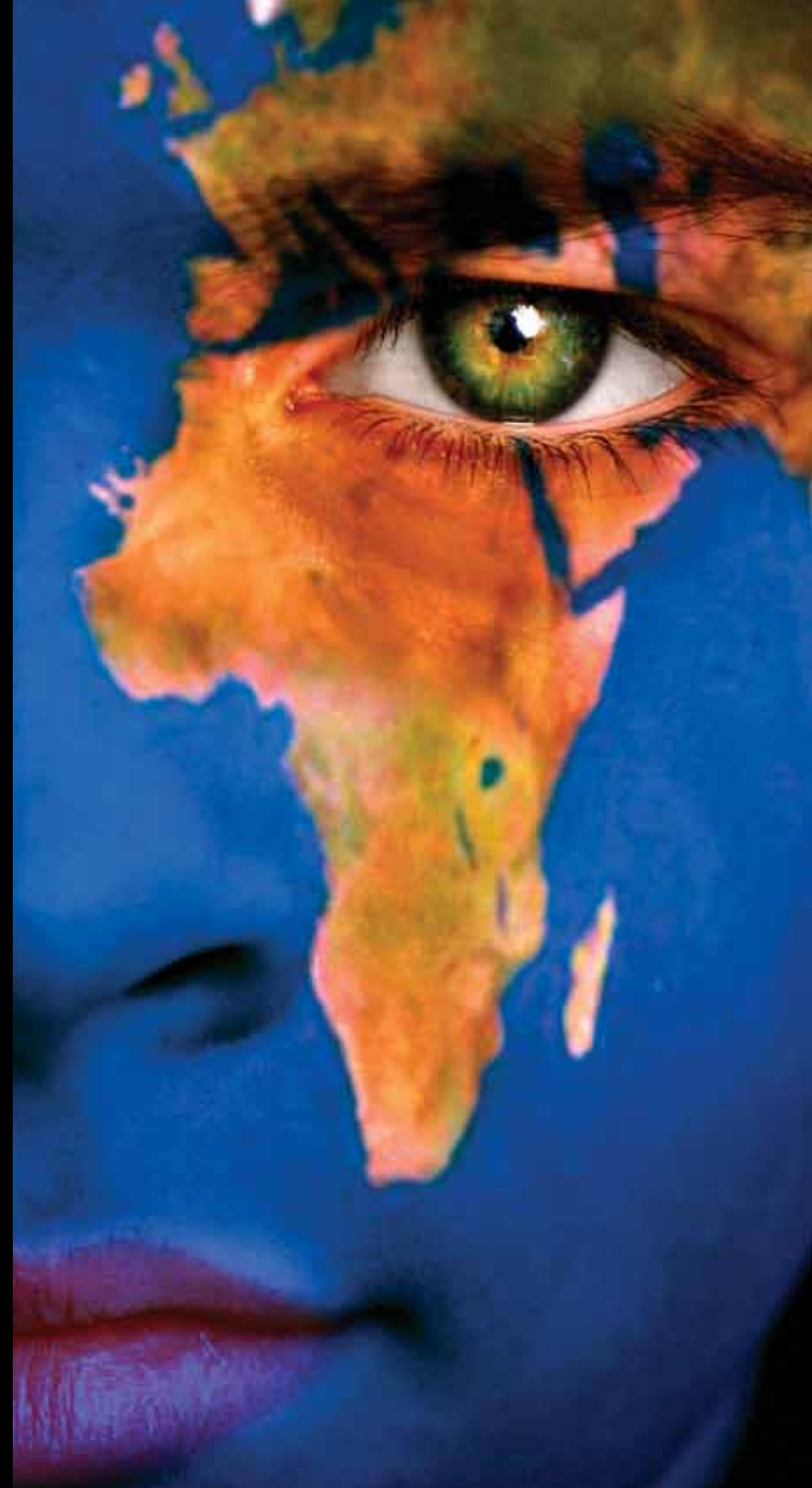


The Foundation for International Education in Neurological Surgery • www.fiens.org



There are Places Where

Modern Neurosurgical Care is Unknown...





But None Where

It's Unneeded.

Since 1969 FIENS has participated in the training of neurosurgeons and the development of residency programs on three continents. Our volunteers have been placed in 20 countries around the world and have helped to treat thousands.

Won't YOU help fill the need?



Volunteers *Make a Big Difference*

Traumatic injuries of the brain and spinal cord are more common in the developing world. Congenital disorders and infections of the nervous system frequently are of the type not seen in the developed world. Yet, in many places, access to adequate neurosurgical care is almost non-existent. Where it does exist, dedicated, hard-working neurosurgeons often find themselves in deplorable conditions with outdated equipment, inadequate medical supplies, and little or no training in new neurosurgical techniques.

How it all started.

In the 1960s, a group of dedicated neurosurgeons banded together for the express purpose of doing something positive for the state of neurosurgery in countries where help was sorely needed.

Their organization, formally founded in 1969 as the Foundation for International Education in Neurological Surgery (FIENS), sends volunteer neurosurgeons to developing countries to teach new neurosurgical techniques and procedures, to help establish neurosurgery residency programs, and improve the standard of patient care.

FIENS volunteers generally spend a month or more abroad, with FIENS providing travel expenses, sometimes equipment and supplies, and the host country may provide living accommodations.

Education and training help others help themselves.

Until developing nations can train their own neurosurgeons, they will continue to rely on FIENS for help. We firmly believe that the only way to end this dependence is through education.

FIENS sends volunteer neurosurgeons to developing countries to teach modern neurosurgical techniques in the operating room.



Thus our ultimate purpose is to educate local neurosurgeons and help establish residency programs. However, during their visits, FIENS volunteers are often called upon to provide critical neurosurgical care by taking the most difficult cases, operating on patients, and assisting local neurosurgeons. Additionally, FIENS volunteers with sub-specialty experience are often the first to introduce new, lifesaving procedures to a country or region.

Volunteering in Nineteen Countries.

FIENS is now involved in 19 countries, including Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Thailand, Indonesia, Nepal, and Vietnam. While the ultimate goal in each location is the creation of a neurosurgical residency program, this is not always possible due to the lack of infrastructure and local neurosurgeons in some areas.

The record of our work throughout the developing world speaks volumes. During 2008 we sent 27 neurosurgeons abroad. In addition, a multitude of surgical instruments from Integra, Life Instrument, Medtronic, and Mizuho was sent or taken to various sites. This was in addition to supplies and instruments personally obtained by volunteers.

The Neurosurgical Training Program of East Africa (NSTP-EA) including Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Tanzania is now functional.

Children benefit when FIENS volunteers train residents in innovative techniques, and find ways to provide much needed equipment and medical supplies.



Currently there are three residents training in Ethiopia. The programs in both Uganda and Tanzania are undergoing revitalization.

They need our help. We need yours.

Countries like these face some of the biggest challenges in providing neurosurgical care, but many more need our help. And we need yours. Our mission statement is: *To sustainably improve neurosurgical education and patient care in the developing world.* The number of countries we can visit and how much help we can provide in each is limited only by funding.

Volunteers change lives...and enrich their own.

FIENS volunteers work in difficult and sometimes extreme conditions, teach with the materials they have at their disposal, and improvise on the spot. All are generous and compassionate individuals who bring hope to those who need it most.

If you are a neurosurgeon who would like to help, please consider volunteering.

For more information, please contact Gail L. Rosseau, MD at 733-250-0451.

Journal Entry 2 *An Ethiopian Funeral*

These Are My Brothers and Sisters

MAY 19th — After attending rounds, **Dr. Tadios** and Liu, the senior resident and I discussed chronic subdural and epidural hematoma. I discussed some fractures of C spine with **Dr. Zenebe** and saw a patient afflicted with malignant glioma affecting the dominant hemisphere and the corpus callosum.

Later that day, Dr. Zenebe took me to the burial ceremony of the father of one of his friends. I stood among some three hundred people in the middle of a field in front of a country church where men stood in somber silence. The women stood among us wearing long skirts with their heads covered by black or white chaddar. I stood out wearing a red shirt that said University of Louisville.

The priest sang into the microphone about the liberation of the soul as it journeyed towards the Pearly Gates. When the singing stopped a group of men picked up the casket and walked behind the church through a crowd of wailing women and teary eyed men. They laid him to rest in the grave next to where his wife was buried. All of us walked back to the front of the church where a retired colonel read the eulogy. Following the eulogy, the priest spoke again, saying, "As Christians we are born twice and we die once." At the end everyone celebrated the deceased's life by hugging and kissing one another repeatedly on alternate cheeks. Then everyone was offered fried corn kernels.

I thought to myself, "These are my brothers and sisters." I stood among them in awe and imagined the happiness of the deceased at meeting his Maker after a successful life. The Sanskrit scholars say that life is a Maya, a transit to the eternal journey to sojourn with the Maker. **I believe happiness and success are not mutually exclusive.** We don't have to smoke cannabis to be happy. However, we do have to get out of the rat race of desire because it is insatiable and will consume us. We must make time to love others and ourselves. We must bring joy to others by challenging ourselves and going places to help others. We should read poetry, learn to laugh at ourselves and always remember Gray's Elegy written in a country churchyard:

Let not ambition mock their useful toil — Their homely joys and destiny obscure.

Since we do not know our own appointed time, we might as well be happy. Life is fragile! The sentence of life has to have a period to be meaningful otherwise it will only be a long sentence. I think Yogi Bera once said, "Make it a practice to attend others' funerals otherwise no one will come to yours." +

Financial

This child from Kenya was treated by a FIENS neurosurgeon. Your financial support of FIENS enables us to send volunteers abroad to the sites shown on the world map. Travel is expensive and we need your help.



Volunteer

As a FIENS volunteer you can educate and perform local state-of-the-art neurosurgical techniques at one of our participating teaching hospitals around the world. As a volunteer your impact is felt by many. You will treat congenital and infectious pathology not often seen in the developed world.



FIENS

Locations

Belize
Ecuador
Ethiopia
Ghana
Guatemala
Honduras
India
Indonesia
Kenya
Korea, DPR
Nepal
Nigeria
Peru
Philippines
Tanzania
Thailand
Uganda
Vietnam
Zimbabwe

Two Ways You Can Help

• Provide financial assistance.

In order to continue in our mission, we desperately need financial support to send volunteers abroad. Please contact Frank Culicchia, MD at 504-349-6985, or send your tax-deductible* contribution to FIENS, c/o Frank Culicchia, MD, Attn.: Administrator, 1111 Medical Center Blvd., Suite S-750, Marrero, LA 70072.

• Volunteer.

FIENS volunteers are some of the best neurosurgeons in the world. They have to be. They work in extreme conditions, teach with whatever materials they have at their disposal, and improvise on the spot. All are generous and compassionate individuals who bring hope to those who need it most. There are more people in need than neurosurgeons available.

If you are a neurosurgeon who has the unique qualities to join us, consider volunteering.

For more information, please contact Gail L. Rosseau, MD at 773-250-0451 or email grosseau@cinn.org.