

Interim Progress Report
AWB sponsored trip to Port au Prince, Haiti
March 26-March 30, 2017
Theme: Pediatric Hematology and Sickle Cell Disease

Introduction: The Pediatric Subspecialty Access Program is a now 5 year old plan developed in the aftermath of the disastrous 2010 Haitian earthquake, supported by The University of California Davis and administered by Drs Douglas Gross and Anthony Philipps, both Professors of Pediatrics at UC Davis School of Medicine. The Program (“PSAP”) has been active in teaching and clinical support in pediatric nephrology, infectious diseases, emergency medicine, neonatology, and radiology at major Haitian public hospitals’ training programs in Port au Prince. Of note, the vast majority of pediatric faculty working at Haitian public hospitals are general pediatricians and access to pediatric subspecialists is very limited. PSAP also has worked in concert with Direct Relief International (DRI), an institution based in Santa Barbara, CA that receives and distributes medical equipment and supplies worldwide, including to Haitian medical institutions.

Interim Report: Academics Without Borders (AWB) recently provided a generous grant to support pediatric medical education in Haiti for a program targeting those with a serious blood disease that afflicts those of African descent. With the support from AWB, faculty from the Department of Pediatrics at the University of California Davis travelled to Port au Prince to train resident physicians and faculty at three major teaching institutions (Hopital Universite d’Etat d’ Haiti, (HUEH), Hopital Universite Mirebalais (HUM) and Hopital Universitaire de la Paix (HUP). Dr. Jong Hee Chung (“Jo”) is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and an expert in the care of children with Sickle Cell Anemia, a disorder related to a genetic mutation particularly prevalent in those of African descent. Dr. Chung’s expenses were funded by AWB. Drs Gross and Philipps accompanied her on the trip and their trip was underwritten by a grant from the University of California Davis and by their own private funds.

During Dr. Chung’s 5 day visit, she met with Dr. Jessy Colimon Adrienne, the Chief of Pediatrics at HUEH and a number of other faculty members at HUEH, HUM and HUP. She gave

a series of lectures related to Anemia, Sickle Cell Disease and other blood related disorders seen in childhood. Her lectures were geared toward trainees, including diagnosis and therapy options available to residents and faculty in Pediatrics (HUEH, HUM and HUP), as well as general medical and surgical residents and faculty (including the Hospital Director) at HUEH. The latter is notable in that Dr. Telemaque, the HUEH overall Medical Director, specifically requested that Dr. Chung address all of the HUEH trainees, a first for our program. Additionally, Dr. Chung examined selected patients at HUEH and HUM on inpatient rounds with faculty and pediatric residents. Lastly, Dr. Chung was invited to speak to the membership of the Haitian Pediatric Society at their monthly meeting.

Dr. Gross and Dr. Philipps attended all of the lectures and rounds and were impressed by Dr. Chung's excellent presentations and grace in answering many questions. She was able to leave all of her lectures on line for future use by other trainees at these institutions and also established the means for faculty and trainees to contact her about any clinical issues arising in the future.

Future Plans: Drs. Gross and Philipps reestablished contacts with the Chief of Pediatrics at HUEH (Dr. Colimon) after political unrest, strikes and hurricane damage necessitated a halt of almost 2 years for the PSAP. Additionally, we set up initial contact with the pediatric physicians (Drs. Severe and Saint Surin) at HUP, a public hospital and teaching institution also in Port au Prince, of which we had not previously been aware. We also formalized a preliminary email telemedicine consultation service allowing the faculty and residents at all three institutions to request assistance in the management of their patients from any of the pediatric subspecialists who have been to Haiti with our program, including Dr. Chung. Our plan is, with the assistance of the grant from AWB, for Dr. Chung to make 1-2 more visits to Haiti over the next 18 months, concentrating on improving teaching and care regarding pediatric blood disorders at HUEH and HUP. In her next visits, she plans to provide the trainees with a "before and after" set of quizzes, to demonstrate student adequacy in absorbing the information provided. In addition, she and Drs. Gross and Philipps will be working to find additional funding for needed medicines such as hydroxyurea and penicillin. Both of these medications can dramatically improve both morbidity and mortality for those with Sickle Cell Anemia

(SCA) and are commonly used drugs in the US and Europe. They are relatively free of side effects, but presently unavailable in Haiti due to cost (\$0.20 per pill).

We are very appreciative for the support of AWB and will continue to provide updates on this important program periodically.

Respectfully Submitted,

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