

NEWS PEACE

“THAT’S HOW IT ALWAYS IS”

by James E. (Jamie) Morgan, Chief Executive Officer

Welcome! Bienvenido!

Whether you supported us on Giving Tuesday, made a gift in honor or in memory of a friend or colleague, or simply felt compelled to support us through our mission—teach one. heal many.—thank you!

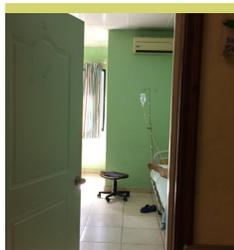
We are so grateful to have you as new friends and supporters of our organization. I am delighted to share highlights with you from a recent trip I made to the Dominican Republic in January.



During my first trip to the DR in the summer of 2015, I had the opportunity to meet a promising young urologist who had been selected for a PFP fellowship in reconstructive urology surgery. Eighteen months later, I had the privilege of seeing Dr. Wellington Ledesma again and congratulating him on completing his fellowship. This June, PFP will announce the selection of another young, dedicated

Dominican doctor to enter the fellowship program. Over the course of the next eighteen months, this candidate will become the country’s second fellowship-trained reconstructive urologist and double the country’s capacity to restore lives.

While at Hospital Salvador B. Gautier—a public hospital and one of the main teaching hospitals in the country, I was reminded of several other hospitals I’ve entered in my travels with PFP: crowded waiting rooms and hallways in dire need of a fresh coat of paint; rooms lacking privacy, each containing only 2 or more metal cots for patients to lie down on a thin mattress covered with a sheet brought from home. The only indication that we were in a hospital room was a single IV pole with a bag of saline for each patient. No instruments. No machinery. No air conditioning.



I was surprised at the number of people in the operating room, as I was the 19th person to enter the small space. Next to PFP IME surgeon Erik Grossgold, operating at the foot of the table, Dr. Ledesma was stationed at the head of the table performing his first solo mucosal harvest, assisted by chief resident, Cesar Vazquez and closely observed by an eager newly-trained urologist, Meri T. Local nurses assisted surgical technician Carmen Baxley,



PFP IME anesthesiologist Ezequiel Ferrara, from Buenos Aires, discussing patient films with medical students and urology residents.

PFP IME, and graciously offered to sterilize the instruments between cases.

Led by PFP IME anesthesiologist Ezequiel Ferrara from Buenos Aires, local anesthesiology resident Henry Montilla administered medication while tracking and documenting vital signs on the patient’s paper chart. Residents and medical students were standing on their tiptoes, craning their heads to catch just a glimpse of the multiple procedures in action. According to Dr. Ferrara, on his tenth training mission with PFP, “That’s how it always is.”

The enthusiasm and desire to learn is compelling. Our partners in Santo Domingo, in Blantyre, and our partners in Tegucigalpa, all want the same thing - to learn. They want to gain experience in quality surgical care so they can both heal their fellow citizens and restore peace of mind within their countries.

The medical professionals we work with are intelligent, capable and compassionate. The doctors and nurses are not ignorant of the conditions of the public hospitals; they are—simply put, pragmatists. When I asked about the funding priorities of the government health system, I learn once again that the needs are too great, and resources are too few.

Because of our founder’s passion to change lives through medicine, Physicians for Peace has been dedicated to teaching and healing for the past thirty years. Because of your interest and because of your financial support, Dr. Ledesma is now fellowship-trained and will continue to repair injuries and restore lives for years to come in Santo Domingo and neighboring communities.

I want to personally thank you for joining our mission to teach one. heal many. and helping change the course of “that’s how it always is” to one of increased capacity and sustainability.

With peace,

Jamie