Do you remember the movie, *Pay It Forward*? This movie starred Haley Joel Osment as a 12-year-old student who wants to change the world by doing a favor for someone and asking the recipient, in return, to do a favor for three different people. Benjamin Franklin and Ralph Waldo Emerson, among others, have written about this concept, often expressed as “You can never pay back, but you can always pay forward.”

At Physicians for Peace (PFP), we are witnesses to the concept of *Pay It Forward* through the Reconstructive Urology Fellowship in the Dominican Republic. Just like in the movie, allow me to start at the end and finish at the beginning:

**January 2018** - Dr. Wellington Ledesma will graduate as the first-ever Reconstructive Urologist in the Dominican Republic; in fact, the first in the entire Caribbean. For the foreseeable future, Dr. Ledesma has agreed to work in the Dominican public hospital system performing vital surgeries and, over the course of his career, improving the lives of thousands of people.

**July 2017** - Drs. Ramón Virasoro and Jessica DeLong, genitourinary reconstructive urologists and PFP International Medical Educators (IMEs), traveled to the Dominican Republic for their 8th training initiative to train local surgeons - including our current Fellow - and perform life-changing procedures.

**July 2016** – Dr. Ledesma begins his fellowship with international rotations in Norfolk, Virginia, Santiago de Chile, Chile and Buenos Aires, Argentina, with the balance of his training in the Dominican Republic.

**July 2015** - The curriculum for a Fellowship in genitourinary reconstructive surgery is developed; a collaborative plan to create an accredited program with colleagues in the Dominican Urology Society and Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo.

**November 2013** – After several pediatric urological surgery missions, and at the request of local Dominican physicians, Dr. Charles Horton, Jr., invites his EVMS colleague, genitourinary reconstructive surgeon Dr. Virasoro, to travel to the Dominican Republic for adult reconstructive training.

You can be a part of this inspiring story as it continues to unfold by paying it forward in support of the second Dominican Fellow who starts his or her training in 2018. Your monthly gift of $100 will help us provide the necessary travel and lodging during the essential international rotations of this Fellowship. A monthly gift of $50 will contribute to further development of the tele-mentoring components that ensure educational continuity for this innovative, multi-national curriculum.

Please join us in our goal to teach one, heal many, and *Pay It Forward* today.

Best regards,

Jamie
Carmen Baxley, CST, PFP IME, receiving an award from PFP, URUS (prominent private group) and the Dominican Urological Society, for her commitment with all three organizations in improving urological care for the Dominican patients

L-R: Wellington Ledesma, Jessica DeLong, Ramon Lopez, Carmen Baxley, Ramon Virasoro, Maria Julia Colaiacovo, Ezequiel Ferrara, Marlin Fernandez and Oscar Suarez

L-R: PFP fellowship director Dr. Jessica DeLong lends support to her fellow, Dr. Wellington Ledesma, who is reassuring the patient about the surgery he is undergoing

Dr. Ledesma and Dr. DeLong discussing the critical steps of surgery while scrubbing