

## Saving Limbs, Restoring Livelihoods

David Ekwee is a 66-year-old farmer with seven children. They live in a village in Uganda. At age 7 he contracted polio and has been in a wheelchair ever since. He has a small farm and works collecting fees at a local market. One day after working at the market, he got into a boda boda — a motorcycle taxi. The boda boda was hit from behind by another motorcycle, knocking David to the ground. His hand was injured and his left femur fractured. Bystanders helped him into a taxi to get to the local health center, but also stole around \$800 that he had collected at the market.

The health center provided first aid, then sent David to the local hospital. The doctors there told him they would have to amputate his left leg and left hand. Instead, David went home, where a family member suggested going to Kumi Orthopaedic Center, about 30 miles away.

Upon arrival, David met Dr. John Ekure, who said that his leg and hand could be saved. "My broken bones required mending," David recalls. "Dr. Ekure was going to use SIGN Implants that were donated by generous, kind-hearted people that enable SIGN to distribute them to poor locations like ours, to support people like me."

The following day, Dr. Ekure used a SIGN Nail to stabilize David's fractured femur. "I was now able to use a wheelchair again, and the next day the pain was all gone." David says. "What a miracle! Thank you to all who have supported the work of SIGN and our local surgeons."

Now David is back at work in the market and tending his home farm, keeping himself and his seven children out of poverty.

**You can help someone like David recover after a trauma injury, and return to full health. Use the included form or go to [signfracturecare.org/donate](http://signfracturecare.org/donate) to provide healing surgery today!**

David and his son leave the hospital after SIGN Surgery.



# Donation Increases Innovation

Acumed, a long-time supporter of SIGN's mission, recently donated three CNC production machines, ushering in a new chapter of SIGN's capacity to manufacture and innovate. We have grouped these machines together between the production floor and engineering office. We're calling this area the Development Cell because these machines enable our engineering and production teams to develop ideas and new products.

SIGN Engineers will use the Development Cell to create prototypes of products throughout the design process. Rather than putting in a request to halt the production of implants that are needed to ship out to SIGN Surgeons, our engineers can now produce the exact prototypes they need, when they need them — while allowing our machinists to continue their normal work. Increased access to prototyping will allow our engineers to innovate more consistently, more efficiently, and more thoroughly. SIGN Engineers have been on the forefront of research in orthopaedic treatment throughout our history, making state-

of-the-art strides in fracture care with products like the SIGN Target Arm, Slot Finder, and Pediatric Fin Nail. Thanks to Acumed's generosity, unprecedented innovations are sure to continue.

The Development Cell will also benefit SIGN's production team. By eliminating interruptions to the manufacturing process from prototyping, machinists will be able to increase efficiency and create more instruments and implants. They will also be able to use the new machines for manufacturing products not on the standard schedule, like first editions of newly developed orthopaedic instruments and fixtures that ensure consistency in the manufacturing process.



**Acumed's longtime support of SIGN provides invaluable benefits to SIGN's efficiency and ability to innovate.**

We are grateful for our relationship with Acumed, which continues to give to SIGN generously for the healing of people across the world with broken bones. Thanks to Acumed's donation of the Development Cell, SIGN is entering another new chapter of increased impact.



**The SIGN Development Cell**



**Hands-on training from Acumed machinist Gilbert Roberts helps SIGN Staff operate the donated machines.**

# Award-Winning SIGN Surgeons

Recently, these three SIGN Surgeons have been recognized by international orthopaedic organizations for their skill in surgery, excellent research, and ability to teach surgeons across the globe.

## Dr. Daniel Sciuto, Kenya



SIGN Surgeon Dr. Daniel Sciuto was awarded Best International Paper at the 2020

Virtual Annual Meeting of the Orthopaedic Trauma Association (OTA).

His paper showed that the “squat-and-smile” test is a valid replacement for x-ray follow-up. One of the benefits of the “squat-and-smile” test is that it can be done remotely. This presents an important opportunity, since patients in low- and middle-income countries often face hardships in returning to the hospital

for follow-up, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Congratulations, Dr. Sciuto, on your impactful work, as well as for this honorable recognition from OTA!

## Dr. Biruk Wamisho, Ethiopia



Dr. Wamisho was recently appointed to join the International Advisory Board of the Journal of American

Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, representing Africa. As the Head of Orthopaedics at Black Lion Hospital, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Dr. Wamisho has overseen an explosion of growth in training orthopaedic residents that are now operating across East Africa.

Being recognized as the representative of Africa in this prestigious publication is a great honor, and Dr. Wamisho will undoubtedly provide excellent insight and advice.

## Dr. Sami Hailu, Ethiopia



Dr. Hailu, along with his team of surgeons at Black Lion Hospital, was awarded the Best

International

Poster of 2020 by the OTA. He analyzed 108 cases of pelvic and acetabular fracture surgeries that he performed without use of a C-Arm imaging machine. Two years after surgery, these patients showed equivalent or better functional status than most of the published series of patients treated in an ideal setting.

This honor highlights the skill and care that Dr. Hailu provides for his patients with complex fractures. It also showcases his ability to lead the pelvic and acetabular fracture fellowship at Black Lion Hospital—the only course of its kind in Eastern Africa.

## Traveling Sets Expand SIGN's Reach

SIGN launched two new traveling sets in Ethiopia and Tanzania to train surgeons and start new SIGN Programs. These Traveling Teaching Sets are controlled by an in-country mentor who provides on-site training in SIGN Technique and loans the set to the hospital for three months. When the hospital reports 10 SIGN Surgeries, they can apply to start their own SIGN Program. The traveling set will then move to a new hospital and begin the process again.

“Most orthopaedic surgeons in Tanzania are trained [at Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute] and then transfer to regional hospitals across the country,” says Dr. Billy Haonga, who manages the Tanzanian Traveling Teaching Set.

The set is currently at Musoma Regional Referral Hospital, which has already reported 13 cases. They are now fully trained and eligible to become a SIGN Program.



Surgeons unpackage their newly received traveling set, hopeful about offering more effective healing.



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# How You've Helped This Year...

## As of Feb. 2021

# 4,381

### Patients Healed

# 2

### New SIGN Programs Started

# 2

### SIGN Trauma Session Webinars

### Contact SIGN

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# Help Share the SIGN Story

Follow SIGN on the social media platforms you use to keep up to date and share how SIGN Surgeons are healing limbs and transforming lives around the world.

Search for "SIGN Fracture Care" on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

