



Healing and Hope in Philippines

Warren is an active 7-year-old who lives in the Philippines, and a broken leg has not stopped him from running, jumping, and playing.

Last year, Warren was playing and climbing when he fell and fractured his left femur. His family took him to a hospital right away, but it was locked down because of COVID. They were able to schedule a time to meet with a doctor two weeks later.

In the meantime, Warren's parents worried whether they could afford

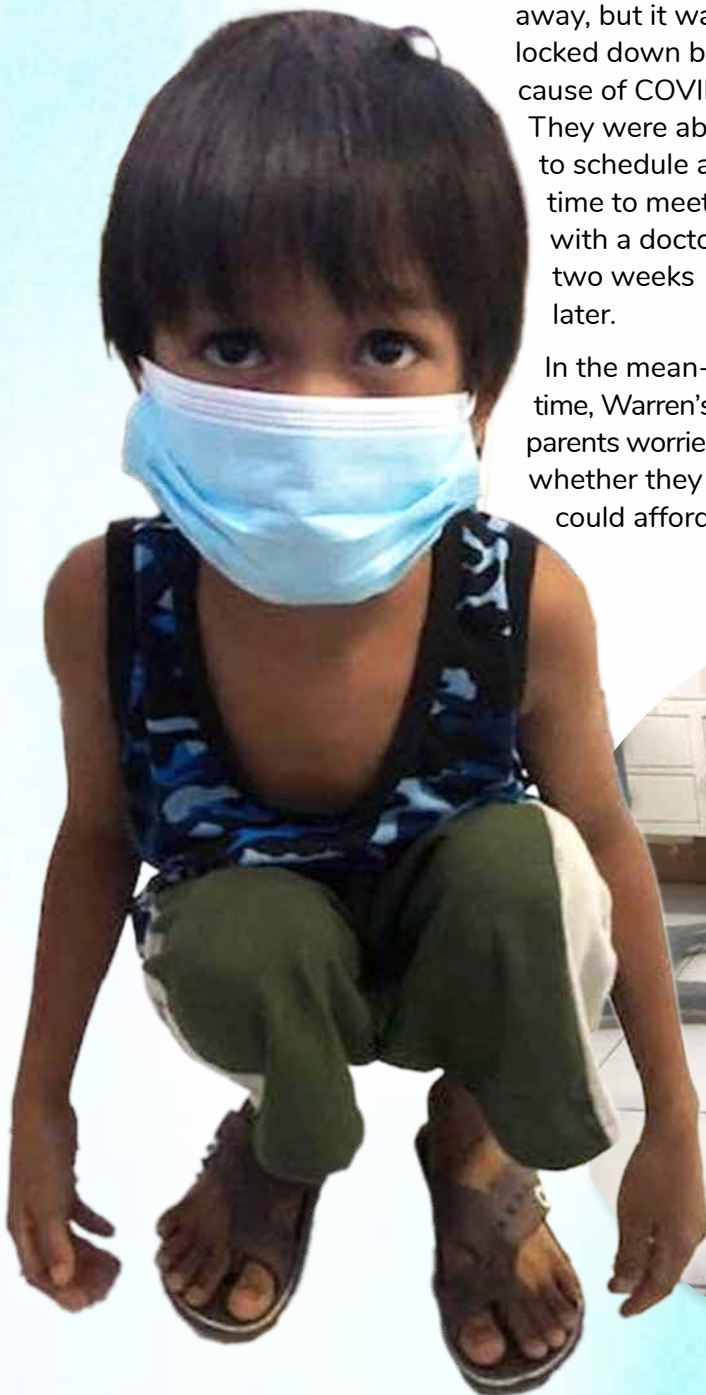
the care needed at the hospital. They live in poverty, and the fees for surgery, implants, and an extended recovery would be beyond their means.

When the family met with Dr. Jun Valera, they were relieved that he could stabilize the fractured bone. They were overjoyed to learn that the SIGN Implant Warren needed had been donated and would enable him to have a quick recovery; they could afford the care he needed!

Dr. Jun used a SIGN Pediatric Fin Nail to stabilize Warren's femur and allow it to grow while the fracture heals. Just one day after surgery, Warren was able to return home. He was hesitant to walk at first, but at the time of his six-week checkup, he had full motion and strength in his leg.

"Warren is doing great," Dr. Jun says. "He is able to run and play without pain. We are so happy for this young boy."

You can help someone like Warren with the gift of SIGN Surgery. Donate today using the enclosed form or go to signfracturecare.org/donate



Warren is able to squat and smile, which shows that he has regained strength and range of motion after SIGN Surgery.

SIGN Spine: An Ambitious New Project

By Dr. Mike Coscia

After three years in the making, SIGN Fracture Care is officially beginning SIGN Spine: a new program to address spine trauma cases in low- and middle-income countries. Due to the complexity of successful spinal surgery and patient care, as well as the lack of adequate preceding models to follow, a new project format has been initiated. This will encompass a three-year academic trial model to thoroughly evaluate and validate our concepts.

Although this model will be more complex than long bone fracture care, we are including the same principles of the SIGN Model. We will teach optimal surgical care, provide ongoing mentoring and support for surgeons, and supply the implants needed for surgery at no charge to the patient.

Partnership

Our first SIGN Spine Program location will be at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH), in Eldoret, Kenya. We could not establish this ambitious project

without support from many organizations and individuals including:

- Dr. L. K. Lelei is the SIGN Program Manager at MTRH and has helped guide the successful long bone fracture care program at the hospital for 18 years.
- AMPATH, a partnership between Moi University, Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, a consortium of universities around the world led by Indiana University, and the Kenyan Government, has established a longstanding and highly successful partnership, and they are providing support for this new endeavor.
- Medtronic, a global leader in healthcare technology, has provided a substantial two-year grant to help cover spinal implant and patient care costs.
- OrthoIndy and Indiana Orthopedic Hospital Foundation Fund, a fund of Central Indiana Community Foundation, have provided a three-year grant to assist in material acquisition and funding.

SIGN Spine Model

This project is operating on a three-year trial model, starting July



Dr. Geoffrey Ngetich

2022. In the first year, we have chosen one surgeon from MTRH to receive specialized spine

care training. Dr. Geoffrey Ngetich is participating in a one-year orthopaedic/neurosurgery spinal fellowship at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada.

Simultaneously, the facilities at MTRH will be optimized for spinal care and surgery. Dr. Wilson Aruasa, CEO of MTRH, has been extremely supportive and has given this project priority status. The hospital will be constructing a new spine-specific operating theatre.

Working together with spine surgeons from all over the globe, we are developing protocols and follow-up parameters for patients treated with SIGN Spine. Experts from Western University, AMPATH, and the World Health Organization are collaborating together to assess the impact.





Hospital staff supporting the SIGN Spine Program include (from left) Drs. E. Muteti, G. Ngetich, M. Coscia, W.K. Aruasa (CEO of MTRH), L.K. Lelei, J. Kisorio, G. Wasike, A. Gardner, and H. Odhiambo Oloo.

In the second year of the project, Dr. Ngetich will complete the fellowship program in Canada and return to Kenya to begin treating patients with spine injuries. Each patient's data will be entered into the SIGN Spine Surgical Database and the research database. Experts from the USA and Canada will work closely with on-site mentors, Drs. E. Muteti and J. Kisorio for orthopaedic surgery and Dr. G Wasike for neurosurgery, to optimize outcomes.

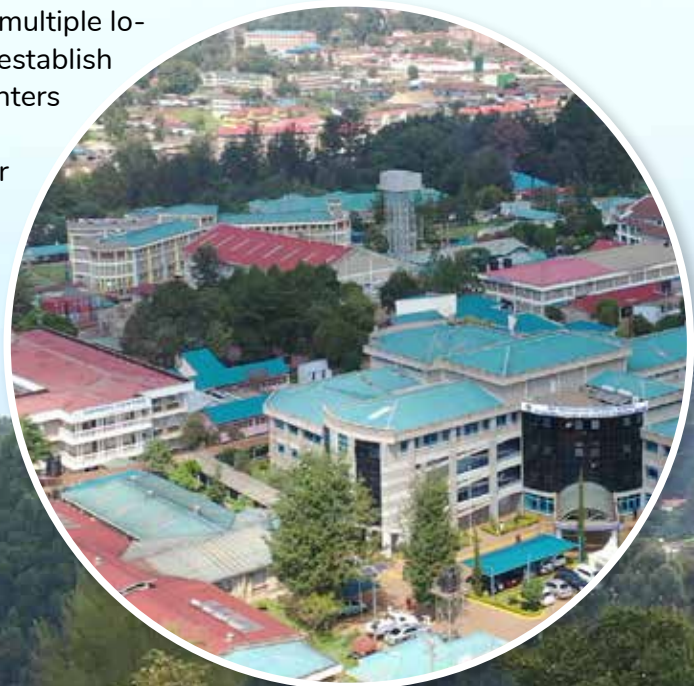
By the third year of the project in 2024, we will begin writing evaluations and instructional documentation. If all the project phases proceed optimally, an international SIGN Spine Fellowship will be

started at MTRH, modeled from Dr. Ngetich's experience at McMaster University and the Pelvic and Acetabular Fracture Fellowship at Black Lion Hospital in Ethiopia.

Expanding Care

Our goal is to use the knowledge and wisdom gained from this project to expand to multiple locations. We hope to establish 8-10 SIGN Spine Centers of Excellence, where surgeons can care for patients with spine injuries and train more surgeons to provide this critical care.

These undoubtedly are ambitious goals. Yet it has been our experience in the history and tradition of SIGN that the surgeons involved, both mentors and students, are outstanding in their dedication and ability. Therefore, we expect success and look forward to expansion in the future.



Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Kenya will be the first with a SIGN Spine Program.





NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MEDIAMAX

451 Hills Street, Suite B
Richland, WA 99354

How You've Helped This Year...

As of July 2022

16,751

Patients Healed

22 SIGN

Programs Started

232 Hospitals

received implants

52 Countries

have been sent shipments

7 SIGN Trauma

Session Webinars

Contact SIGN

P 509.371.1107

F 509.371.1316

info@signfracturecare.org

signfracturecare.org



SIGN
Meets all 20
BBB Charity
Standards

See SIGN's privacy policy and state disclosures at signfracturecare.org/privacy



August

National Make a Will Month

Creating a will and estate plan is an important step in protecting your loved ones. When you choose to remember SIGN Fracture Care in your will, you are providing a lasting impact to the SIGN Family of surgeons and patients. Please notify us at info@signfracturecare.org if you choose to include SIGN in your estate plan.