



CHILDREN'S SURGICAL CENTRE

Rehabilitation surgery for disabled Cambodians
National Rehabilitation Center, Kien Khleang.



2015 Annual Report

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Annual Report 2015

Children's Surgical Centre

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President's Report

Friends of CSC,

2015 marks eighteen years of free consultations and surgeries at CSC and eighteen years of obstacles and hurdles which Dr. Jim and his team have deftly managed to the benefit of the children they serve.

Despite an array of usual and new challenges this incredible team radically improved the lives of over four thousand children and their families in 2015 through free-surgeries. To say they did it alone, however, would be an injustice to the many people outside of Cambodia we consider part of the CSC family who support CSC directly and indirectly.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the children we serve, thank you to all those who have supported CSC in 2015, financially or otherwise.

To those of you who have yet to get involved I would invite you to contact one of us directly to discuss how you might help in your own way.

Warm regards,

Daniel G. Tagliere
Board President
Children's Surgical Centre

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Preamble

2015 has gone well for CSC, with adequate funding to maintain consultations and operations for the patients, and increasing training for the Khmer staff. There has however been a sea-change in the medical scene in Cambodia, and it has certainly affected our staff. The government has encouraged the big hospitals to “make their own money” and sustain themselves, so the hospitals in turn have taken on as many skilled staff as possible, and put them all to work in “private practice”. Our more senior staff are now constantly running off to “their government hospital” and we have lost both Drs Roo and Long, with little warning, and little planning for their replacements, and so are now left with junior eye doctors who are less well supervised. We are trying to get a more experienced eye surgeon to supervise the juniors, but this may have to be an expatriate and will be difficult to organize. As a direct consequence of this, although we have seen about 20,000 patients in consultation as in 2014, we have only done 4,200 operations this year, as opposed to 5,000 last year.

No major construction has taken place, but the ENT department has taken over most of the conference room as it has increased in patient numbers and has this year seen almost 4,000 patients in consultation, The eye outpatient department has been expanded by moving speech therapy into the eye inpatient ward giving eye consultations more room.

Thanks

The Board of Directors would like to thank all donors for all their assistance during the year. Some donors wish to remain anonymous, but others include:

Vanda Sports Group, Ian Mullane, and their boxers for continued fundraising efforts through the White Collar Boxing events.

Dave and Kerry Rickards, the DAK foundation, for their ongoing financial support.

CLSA in Hong Kong, for continuing support.

Kadoorie Charitable Foundation which has supported us for so many years both directly and indirectly.

Dr. Mark Moser & Mr Chuck Monat for their individual donations.

Smile Train for continued support of our Cleft Lip and Palate surgical program.

Watsi for its crowdfunding donations throughout the year.

Peter Bennett Foundation for continuation of support which will last for 3 years.

In addition, there have been **many other private donors** who have made financial contributions throughout the year, and who do not wish to have their names publicized, or whose names are too numerous to mention here, but we do hope they all received their recognition and thank you letters.

The Directors would also like to thank the local Khmer staff of Children’s Surgical Center, for all their hard work in providing such good service during the year to the patients we have treated.

Site and Facility Considerations

There has been no great change in the compound this year, although we have had a few unnecessary complaints from 1 or more of the other organizations about the parking arrangements. The rains were scanty, and there was no real problem with flooding in the rainy season, nor were there many electricity cuts in the dry season. We did however receive a donation of a 30 kva generator from the US Embassy, and now have that as a backup for the 100 kva generator, which has been very useful on a couple of occasions. We have installed more solar panels in the last 12 months, and plan on making all the fans and lights run on solar power.

Numbers of Operations and Consultations

Operations	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Rehabilitation	1,487	1,491	1,540	1,334	1,556	1,242
Eye	2,213	2,080	3,425	4,816	3,634	2,990
Total	3,700	3,567	4,965	6,150	5,190	4,232

Consultations	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Rehabilitation	2,631	2,429	1,960	5,809	7,121	8,070
Eye	9,873	9,411	8,108	11,638	13,268	12,582
Total	12,504	11,840	10,063	17,447	20,389	20,652

Scope of Services

As throughout 2014, we have had more turnover in the eye department, and are now facing 2016 without having a senior eye doctor regularly available. Dr Heidi, our visiting ophthalmology fellow spent a total of 9 months with us and was a great help, but we have not yet found anyone to replace her. Dr Roo has left after 14 yrs, and gone into private practice,

and Dr Long wants to only work part-time as of January 1st 2016, after working with us for 11 years. Of the more junior surgeons, Dr Dira is just finishing his first year of ophthalmic residency in Manila, and will not be back until January 2018.

Drs Sambo and Youey, have now worked for us for over a year, and are coming along well but are not yet very experienced. Dr Remy who has finished the 3 year ophthalmology training in Cambodia and who worked with us while in residency, has been offered a year of fellowship training in Thailand, so will leave in February 2016. Drs Theary and Dara, who married one another in December 2015, are of the same promotion as Dr Remy and are still with us, but also have not had a lot of experience and we expect them to stay only for the first half of 2016. However, Dr Chanta who has just graduated from medical school and wants to be an eye doctor will join us in January 2016, and Dr Leakana will be newly promoted from the Khmer training program and will join us in February 2016, after having worked with us as a volunteer for the last year.

The ophthalmic nurses are doing very well, and are steadily increasing in skills and responsibility. Ms Chanthy has returned from 6 months of training in orthoptics in India, and now runs the paediatric eye clinic. Ms Bee Sokngin is upgrading to an anaesthetic nurse, and we look forward to her being able to give general anaesthesia for paediatric patients. 2 of our eye nurses will go to Wat Raking again in 2016 for further training: Ms Channy whom we have now promoted to head of the eye operating room, and Mr. Ratha, but Ms Yanak, whom we sent to further training last year, has just told us she is leaving in January 2016 to pursue qualification as a certified ophthalmic nurse.

ENT surgery has continued to develop well. Dr Charlie left in March after 6 months, but he had taught Drs Davy and Sothea how to do tympanoplasties, and they have since done over 100 by themselves, with 85%+ success rates. Dr Vinay, from Manchester, will be our next ENT fellow for the month of January 2016, and Dr Mahmood Bhutto from London will follow him in February 2016, staying for 6 months. We expect them both to raise our skills in mastoidectomy and expect our ENT team will continue to flourish.

Because of the difficulty of finding anaesthesiologists, we started to train our nurses to be nurse anaesthetists this year, and that has been a very good move. The first 2, Mr Savoeun and Ms Peaktra had 6 months with us, and then went on a 6 month course in anaesthesia at the National Paediatric Hospital, allowing us to start 2 more nurses, Mr Kob and Ms Bee Sokngin who should also follow on the same paediatric course when it restarts in 2016. This has made a notable difference in the efficiency of the anaesthesia department, which should continue to improve throughout 2016, especially with Dr Sokalay coming back from his year of anaesthesia training in Thailand.

Cleft surgery has dropped again this year, to a total of 140 operations, which is not surprising as the "backlog" has dramatically diminished and there are now more teams competing for patients. Smile Train continues to support our cleft operations and this year sent 3 of our surgeons as well as our speech therapist, Mr Samnang, to a cleft conference in Thailand. With 3 dozen MEC surgeries this year, Phnom Penh Rotary Club has continued to support our MEC program, so we are very grateful to both them and Smile Train.

On the rehabilitation surgery side, the Brachial Plexus Injury project is going well with the Singaporean and UK hand surgeons, and now the Australian team plans on co-ordinating their visits to fit in with this program and to continue to develop hand surgery in CSC. The Asian spine surgeons have now found us, courtesy of Prof Ken Cheung, who has continued to visit from the University of Hong Kong, and since he introduced other these other spinal surgeons to us, we expect to develop spine skills further in 2016

Patient Referrals

Again this year, not too much has changed in regard to referrals: mostly it is by word of mouth, from relatives, friends and various officials, but there is a steady increase in referrals of difficult cases from other hospitals, and also of people from remote areas through the agency of some organization or other. We do still use radio advertising on occasion, but the results are not very specific.

Outreach Services

In 2014 we only made one significant attempt at outreach, when we surveyed school children for ear disease every Thursday afternoon. After examining about 2,000 children, we came to the conclusion that this was not a very productive use of our time, as the team detected very few new patients and thought their time and effort would be better spent in KienKhleang treating patients who were referred for services. This year, we did another outreach on the urging of our visiting French ENT surgeons, which was equally unrewarding, but we will do an eye outreach with a Seattle eye team in January 2016, and expect this to be as productive as when we did it 3 years ago.

Equipment Donated and Purchased

In 2015, we only had a couple of major purchases of equipment: a new sterilizer to supplement the one we already have (\$12,000); a new A-scan for the ophthalmology department (\$3,600), and a new Tuktuk (\$2,000). A few months after buying the Tuktuk, we got 3 new Tuktuks donated from Smiling Gecko, so we are now well equipped to run a Tuktuk service instead of using Landcruisers for shipping patients to various hospitals and facilities, including Chenda. Other donations this year included a used C-arm and a couple of Ultrasound machines from Australia, various monitors and electric pumps from Medecins du Monde (MdM), instruments and supplies from Dr Brian Moore, B-First, and MdM, and a new laryngoscope for the ENT surgeons from Storz company. A sizeable number of spectacles has been donated by various organisations, and Ms Karen Wong of Hong Kong, has managed to keep up her very significant donation of sunglasses for the use of eye patients after operations.

Most useful however, has been the opportunity for Jack and Thearun to complete the first year of their 3 year Biomedical Engineering course, increasing their skills in repairing and maintaining our equipment, and we certainly hope that World Engineering will continue to run the course through the next 2 years.

Visiting Consultants

In the early part of 2015, Drs Heidi (ophthalmology) and Charlie (ENT) finished their time with us, and we have not had another fellow in any department, as Dr Mood, Charlie's successor, will only arrive in January 2016. Dr Alasdair Bott will come as the orthopaedic fellow for 6 months in August 2016, and Dr Saqib wants to come back as our orthopaedic fellow again, but only when he has finished his training in mid-2017. The NHS system in the UK is creaking at the seams, and it seems unlikely that we will get many more fellows from the UK, so we have made a few contacts in the USA that hopefully will be productive soon.


The French ENT team, Entendre Le Monde, came to help teach ENT surgery again this year, and were very pleased at how much progress our surgeons had made under Charlie's tutelage. The Singapore hand team came twice and our hand surgery service improved, as did the Toulouse team working with our plastic surgeons, and Dr Kevin Winkle working with our paediatric ophthalmology team. Other visitors included Dr Ken Cheung from Hong Kong; Drs Bob Aptekar, Mark Vierra and Peter Salomon from California and Al Gross from Alaska; Dr Masa from Japan; Dr Al Muderis from Australia as well as the Aussie hand team; Dr Khan from Singapore, and Dr Ben Shalev from Israel.

Visiting Students

Of the 30 visiting medical students in 2015, one third were from WWAMI (Seattle), only 4 from Australia, 3 from Hong Kong and the rest were from the UK apart from 1 student from Holland and 1 from France. They all expressed their thanks for a great rotation and the chance to learn a lot, and our Khmer staff were happy to work with them and learn from them.

CSC Staff and Conferences

We have had 5 Khmer surgical residents working with us during the year, and all have had a great time and learned a lot. Other than them and the medical staff changes in the eye department, we have had little other change in the medical staffing throughout the year. The annual "Journées de Chirurgie" took place in Phnom Penh during November, and we presented another 4 papers on various topics. Drs Vanna, Ratha and Sokleng, along with Samnang our speech therapist went to a cleft conference in Khon Kaen, courtesy of Smile Train, and Dr Ratha had 6 weeks in the UK with the hand surgeons, as well as presenting a paper at the European Hand Surgery meeting in Milan. Again, a few papers have been written and submitted to various medical journals and all-in-all, this has been a very productive year.



Dr. Jim Gollogly
CEO