Thinking Globally, Acting Locally: The Orthopaedic Trauma Institute

“San Francisco General’s trauma team saved my life… After my surgery, I was given the option of moving to another facility. But I knew I couldn’t get better care anywhere else.”

If ever an organization exemplified global thinking and local action, San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center (The General) is it. One of the clearest examples is The General’s world-renowned Orthopaedic Trauma Institute (OTI). With an integrated, full-service approach, the OTI has emerged as a national and international leader in orthopaedic trauma clinical care, training, research and outreach.

“While there are many trauma centers throughout the country, none offers the breadth of resources or as comprehensive an approach to the field as the OTI,” says Theodore Miclau, MD, Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery at The General. “There’s a kind of symbiosis here. Our groundbreaking work is continually improving the way that people with musculoskeletal injuries are treated; that enables us to attract and retain the leaders in the field of orthopaedics who can provide the highest level of service.”

Miclau explains that people often don’t understand the magnitude of orthopaedic trauma, or bone and joint injuries that result from traumas such as motor vehicle accidents, falls and assaults.

“Trauma is the leading cause of death in this country for people under the age of 45,” he says. “Half the people who sustain orthopaedic injuries can’t return to their jobs within six months. These are often the people who can least afford to miss work.”

As the only Level One Trauma Center in San Francisco and northern San Mateo County, The General treats as many as 4,000 orthopaedic trauma patients a year. Their injuries range from simple ankle fractures to polytrauma involving the spine, pelvis and lower extremity long bones. About two-thirds of trauma patients brought to The General’s Emergency Department have musculoskeletal injuries. Add to that some 2,000 scheduled orthopaedic surgeries, 1,500 consultations and over 20,000 outpatient clinic visits, and it’s easy to see the need for a top-quality OTI in the Bay Area.

Furthermore, the potential for adverse outcomes resulting from traumatic injuries, many of which occur when the skeletal tissues absorb high impact, is significant. Arthritis, infection and bone malalignment are just a few of the most common life-changing complications that can arise.

“You want people who are highly trained and skilled in bone and joint injuries to treat you to minimize the chances of having a problem after an injury—not just now, but on down the road for conditions that can arise later as a result of an orthopaedic injury,” says Miclau.

To that end, OTI surgeons are specially trained in orthopaedic traumatology, and then further practiced in the care of complex traumatic musculoskeletal injuries. Home to the country’s top physicians, rehabilitation specialists, scientists, clinical researchers and support staff, the OTI is housed on two floors in a newly renovated building on the The General’s campus.

“This is the optimal environment for important discussions to take place among clinicians and researchers. Clinicians can stay on top of

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Orthopaedic Trauma Institute
(continued)

latest and greatest research, and researchers can see exactly how their findings translate into care. It’s been a model of how orthopaedic trauma work can and should be conducted,” says Miclau.

“Everyone receives the same level of care here. That’s one of the things I’m most proud of. Whether you’re the CEO of a corporation or you’re a homeless patient, you’ll receive the same high level of orthopaedic trauma care.”

Chara Schreyer is one example of the OTI in action. Five years ago, the Marin County resident was on the second floor of a friend’s construction project in San Francisco when she fell 14 feet onto the concrete below, breaking her hip and heel.

“San Francisco General’s trauma team saved my life,” says Schreyer. “In addition to treating my injuries, they detected and treated a blood clot that had developed in my leg. If it had gotten to my lungs, I might have died. After my surgery, I was given the option of moving to another facility. But I knew I couldn’t get better care anywhere else.”

Schreyer, a long-time Bay Area philanthropist, channeled her gratitude in the most meaningful way she knew of—by endowing a chair to the Department through the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation.

Of course, the OTI is far more than a treatment facility. Its reputation as a premier research facility is well-earned. Significant advances in the diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of traumatic musculoskeletal injuries get their start in the OTI’s research labs. New operative techniques, such as minimally invasive surgery, have significantly improved patient outcomes by improving healing time and minimizing surgical complications.

Just as important are the OTI’s training and educational facilities. The Surgical Training Facility is among a select few academic trauma centers in the United States where trauma specialists can practice and perform today’s newest and most advanced surgical procedures.

“Our reputation has grown tremendously over the past decade. We’ve sponsored events that are nationally and internationally recognized,” says Miclau.

One such sponsorship brings orthopaedic surgeons from lower- and middle-income countries to San Francisco to learn basic skills that they can take home and use immediately. In recent years, the number of motorized vehicles on the road in the developing world has skyrocketed—and so has the number of accidents.

“In most developing nations, the carnage that goes on in the streets and the roads is enormous,” explains Richard Coughlin, MD, Co-Director and Co-Founder of the Orthopaedic Department’s Institute for Global Orthopaedics and Traumatology. “A fracture of the lower leg bones can lead to problems such as non-healing crooked bones and chronic infections. By teaching surgeons how to treat these bones in an expeditious fashion, we can help prevent complications and return the patients back to provide for their families.”

Dr. Claire Lopez-Oliva can attest to that. A surgeon at Philippine General Hospital, Lopez-Olivia explains that, “Coming from our country, where there are a lot of motorcycle accidents, we see many patients with open thighs, open legs and open injuries. What we learn here in San Francisco isn’t technology driven. It’s something we can learn easily and bring back home.”

Since 2007, the OTI has trained more than 5,000 health care providers from around the world. It also has the distinction of being among the first recipients of a Hearts grant from the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation.

“We live in a resource-constrained environment that challenges us to be creative about how we accomplish our mission. We need to ensure that all our initiatives are sustainable. The (SFGH) Foundation has been a partner since our inception,” says Miclau, who is one of the members of the Foundation’s board of directors. “It has been part of developing services, not just at the OTI, and not just in San Francisco.

“We are making a global impact on health,” Miclau says. “By honing our expertise at San Francisco General, we’re helping to better the entire field of orthopaedic trauma worldwide.”
Congratulations to our 2012 Hearts Grants Recipients

Funds raised from the annual HEROES & HEARTS luncheon and HEARTS AFTER DARK evening event are used to support hospital programs and initiatives. Each year, San Francisco General Hospital Foundation conducts an internal grant making process. In six years, the Foundation, in coordination with the Hospital, has granted $6 million to 220 grantees.

The funded proposals include equipment purchases, renovation projects, and staff trainings to increase efficiency and capacity. For more information on any of the funded projects listed below, please contact Kelley Long at (415) 206-5803 or klong@sfggh.net.

1. 4B Progressive Care Certified Nurse Online Program
2. 6A Playroom Renovation Project – “The Park is Where the Heart Is – Bringing a Bit of Nature Indoors”
3. 7B Patient Health Improvement Project
4. 7C Patient Health Improvement Project
5. A Group Model Approach to Improving Mobility and Quality of Life for Patients at Risk for Lymphedema
6. Adding an E to Mail in Psychiatry
7. Advancing Quality of Care to Improve Quality of Life Project
8. Allergenic Mattress & Pillow Cover Reserve Supply Project
9. ALOKA Ultrasound Hearts Grant
10. Bay Area Perinatal AIDS Center
11. Building the 5M Disfrute la vida!/Enjoy Life! Diabetes Prevention Class
12. Cancer Awareness, Resources and Education
13. Cardiac Exercise to Improve Patient Outcomes on Inpatient Psych Units
14. Comprehensive Wound Education for Wound Clinic Nurses
15. Critical Care Portable Ultrasound Scanner
16. Critical Care Unit Difficult Airway Cart
17. Cultural and Linguistic Competence Care Project in 4A
18. Development of Clinician Guidance Regarding Cost and Radiation Exposure Transparency
19. Developmental Screening in the Medical Home
20. Drug Assistant Software and Peripherals for the MPAP Program
21. Early Mobility Exercise Equipment
22. EEG Systems for Neurology and Neonatology
23. Emergency Airway Cart for SFGH Operating Room
24. Ensuring a Safe and Effective Discharge for Diabetic Patients
25. Erasing Trauma: Tattoo Removal as a Healing Intervention
26. Expectant Parent’s Club
27. Financial Fitness Clinic
28. Fire Safety Program
29. Food for Health
30. Food Service and Baking Certificate Training Program
31. From Last Resort to First Choice: Transforming Women's Health Services
32. 7B Clinic: “Liking” Sex Ed: Using Social Media to Engage Youth in Reproductive Health Discussions
33. Living Healthy with Diabetes
34. McKesson Smart Steps
35. Orthopedic Cast Room Improvement
36. Partition Wall for Creation of Ophthalmic Diagnostic Suite
37. SFDPH Telemedicine Success
38. Survey of the Oncology and Hematology Outpatients about Their Experience/Perception of the Oral Anticancer Agents Program
39. Sweetened Beverages: A Nutrition Education Display for the Urgent Care Center
40. TCD for Comprehensive Stroke Center
41. The Development of a Cancer Risk Educational Tool Tailored for Chinese-Americans
42. Ultrasound Device Out-Patient Infusion Center
43. Ultrasound Machine for Intraoperative Access
44. Vscan – Miniature Echocardiography
45. Women’s Options Center
46. Working on Wellness – English as a Second Language

1. Maeve Reid and Madison Carbone (2012 Hearts Grant interns); 2. Mindy Oppenheim and the Vocational Rehabilitation Team serve homemade cupcakes at the awards ceremony; 3. Alissa Perrucci, PhD, MPH, Margaret Hutchinson, Monica McLemore, PhD, MPH, RN and Eleanor Drey, MD, MEd; 4. Adam Schickidanz, MD and Dr. Rhea Boyd with Dr. Laura Robertson, MD (Hearts Grant Chair); 5. David Sostarich and Elaine Martin.
THANK YOU

To all who supported the Foundation's annual Hearts fundraisers on Valentine's Day. You are truly our heroes!

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LEARN HOW YOUR SUPPORT HELPS MAKE THE GENERAL THE HEART OF OUR CITY.

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For 2014 sponsorship information, or to learn how you can purchase a Heart sculpture, please contact Katie Moe, (415) 206-5928 or kmoe@sfghf.net.
THANK YOU
To all who supported the Foundation’s annual Hearts fundraisers on Valentine’s Day. You are truly our heroes!

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For 2014 sponsorship information, or to learn how you can purchase a Heart sculpture, please contact Katie Moe, (415) 206-5928 or kmoe@sfghf.net.
Thank You
to the many generous City & County of San Francisco Employees who pledged their support during the 2011 Workplace Giving Campaign.

The 2011 Campaign was a record-setting year raising nearly $24,000! We sincerely regret we are not always able to include all donors who participated through the Campaign in the Foundation’s Annual Report. This is due to a conflict in timing between the release of the Annual Report and when the Foundation receives notification regarding Campaign pledges. We are grateful to all our donors and strive to accurately acknowledge all gifts to the best of our ability. To view the complete 2011 Annual Report online, please visit http://sfghf.net/publications.html.

Hearts Gifts Available in the Online Store
Limited edition hearts tote bags, iPhone cases and pillows are now available at http://sfghf.net/store/

Shop and Support Today!
In Loving Memory

As a member of the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation’s Board of Directors, Walter’s leadership and vision helped guide our mission. Walter touched our lives, and those around us, improving San Francisco through his altruistic work. He is deeply missed and will forever hold a place in our hearts.

Walter Simon Newman
October 1, 1921 - December 8, 2012

Global Breast Cancer Medical Advancement Champion

Judith A. Luce, MD, director of the Avon Comprehensive Breast Care Program at The General, received one of two 2012 Global Breast Cancer Medical Advancement Champion awards for her outstanding commitment to ensuring access to and delivery of quality breast health care for some of San Francisco’s vulnerable residents. The Avon Program offers a continuum of breast health care, from screening, diagnosis, and treatment, through end of life support. Under Dr. Luce’s leadership of the Avon Program and with more than $22 million in support from the Avon Foundation for Women, The General has quadrupled its mammography rate over the last decade.

We invite you to visit us to learn more about the life-saving care and innovative research taking place at The General.

Join us on a tour to see first-hand the many ways your support strengthens The Heart of Our City. To schedule a tour, please contact Leah Wagner-Edelstein at (415) 206-3132 or lwagner@sfghf.net.

Fern Orenstein, Judy Luce, MD, and Shermineh Jafarieh in front of the Mammography Van.
San Francisco General Hospital Foundation
2789 25th Street, Suite 2028
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Our mission is to promote excellence in research, education and care for all at San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center.

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