

# Los Angeles Pediatric Society E-Newsletter

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### MEMBERS GIVING BACK



#### Partners for Pediatric Progress

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*At the Eduardo Mondlane University School of Medicine in Maputo, Mozambique. Dr. Lee Miller with Dr. Gene Washington, former Dean of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.*

In addition to the joys of caring for children, my professional passions have been in medical education and global health. Over the years it's been an absolute privilege to be involved in the growth of countless medical students and residents. Farther from home, I've enjoyed opportunities to participate in medical education projects that have taken me to Egypt, Ethiopia, Zambia, South Africa, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, India, Peru, Brazil Thailand, China and Myanmar. About eight years ago I began exploring with friends and colleagues ways in which we could combine these passions, which led to the establishment of *Partners for Pediatric Progress*. Under the umbrella of the Center for World Health at the David Geffen School of Medicine, this non-profit project is committed to improving the health and care of children in some of the poorest regions of the world through a sustained commitment to their communities and caregivers.

Our first partnership was established in Mozambique, a country with over 10 million children and at the time only 10 Mozambican pediatricians. There were no pediatric surgeons, very few subspecialists, and only two pediatric ventilators in the country. The pediatric leadership at the main medical school and teaching hospital identified the greatest training needs in the areas of newborn medicine, critical care pediatrics and pediatric surgery. By supporting the training of local primary care physicians, surgeons and nurses, we're committed to building local capacity and making a sustainable



*Dr. Lee Miller with some children at a clinic in rural Mozambique*

impact. To this end, we send faculty from the Departments of Pediatrics and Surgery at UCLA to work with their counterparts at Central Hospital of Maputo, and support reciprocal focused training experiences for Mozambican health care providers with us here at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA.

Since its inception the scope of our training partnerships has grown dramatically. We



*Dr. Dan DeUgarte, Associate Professor of Pediatric Surgery, with local pediatric surgeon Dr. Vanda Amado*

improvement training and nursing education.

currently have a full-time U.S. trained pediatrician and UCLA faculty member, Dr. Chris Buck, based in Maputo to oversee the partnership. Over the years we have participated in and supported the training of hundreds of providers, and have completed over 60 training trips. As one very powerful example, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Dan DeUgarte, Associate Professor of Surgery at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, we have helped to train the only two pediatric surgeons in the country. We expanded our training activities to include infection control, pediatric critical care, neonatology, pediatric radiology, pediatric cardiology, and pediatric pulmonology, in addition to quality

Our other partner site is in the Amazon region of northern Peru, in the city of Iquitos. Pediatricians from UCLA have worked with the local physicians and nurses to improve care at the main teaching hospital and in the slum communities based along the Amazon. The public hospital in Iquitos serves the medical needs of 500,000 residents of the island city of Iquitos, surrounded by the Amazon waters and only accessible by boat or plane. In addition, over 500,000 residents in the Amazon jungle of Peru travel to seek medical attention in Iquitos, some of whom travel for over two weeks by boat from remote villages.



*Rising waters of the Amazon during the rainy season are navigated by a network of planks that connect buildings above the water level, with the Belen Clinic serving the healthcare needs of this community.*

*Partners for Pediatric Progress* also provides invaluable experiences for UCLA medical students and residents to train in these settings, allowing us to nurture the careers of the next generation of health care leaders in this country.

I'm grateful for the partnership and support of Dr. Tom Coates and Dr. Risa Hoffman, who have been so committed to the success of *Partners for Pediatric Progress*, and also of Dr. Sherin Devaskar, Mattel Executive Endowed Chair of the Department of Pediatrics and Physician-in-Chief, Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, for her great support of our programs. Finally, I'm also so appreciative of the tremendous efforts of the pediatricians, pediatric surgeons and nurses who have made absolutely incredible contributions over the years to our programs abroad!

*Partners for Pediatric Progress* is a program of the UCLA Center for World Health at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. If you would like to support our work through a tax-deductible donation to the University of California Foundation, directed to support the activities of *Partners for Pediatric Progress*, please refer to:

<http://p3project.org>

<https://giving.ucla.edu/Standard/NetDonate.aspx?SiteNum=405>



*Top Row Right: Child who survived a serious snakebite, with a UCLA beach ball  
Top Row Left: Children outside Muhalaze Clinic (Photo by Rob Stark)  
Bottom Row: Children outside Muhalaze Clinic (Photo by Rob Stark)*