

2021-2022

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL OUTREACH

# ANNUAL REPORT

ENHANCING GLOBAL ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE  
SERVICES AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



Atrium Health



HEINEMAN-  
ROBICSEK  
FOUNDATION



# DEAR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES,

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One of the great strengths of the International Medical Outreach program is its adaptability to the ever-changing needs of its constituents. This adaptability was a key to our success when the COVID-19 pandemic changed the world in 2020. And it enabled us to continue our work with minimal disruptions in 2021 and 2022. An obvious adaptation during 2021 was increasing our delivery of COVID-19 relief supplies such as masks, personal protective equipment and vaccine administration kits. We were limited by what we could plan in terms of in-person educational programs, clinician exchanges and boots on the ground. Nonetheless, we carried on with minimal disruptions and ended up with a remarkable string of accomplishments.

For example, we fully equipped three operating rooms in Guatemala; added another medical center to our Echo Network; furnished a maternity ward and rural clinics in Honduras; and provided additional computers to Guatemalan schools. We continued our efforts to improve cardiac care in Belize. We also continued our partnership with the Southern Command of the U. S. Department of Defense and collaborated with Chiquita Brands to facilitate deliveries throughout Central America. We even made timely deliveries of needed equipment in Cameroon and Ukraine.

These are just a few among the many achievements documented in the following pages. We owe a debt of gratitude to board chair Jim Hynes, who provided steady leadership throughout the year, before turning over the chair's position to Jim Olsen in 2022. And, as always, we are grateful to the donors, volunteers and board members who support the ongoing partnership between Atrium Health and the Heineman-Robicsek Foundation, Inc. Without that support, our mission would not be possible.



**Steven A. Robicsek, MD, PhD**  
President  
Heineman-Robicsek Foundation



**THERESA R. JOHNSON**  
Director  
International Medical Outreach



# Jim Olsen succeeds Jim Hynes as chair of Heineman-Robicsek Foundation



Prior to retiring from Atrium Health, Jim Olsen was in charge of supply chain management for the system. While many people remain unaware of the full scope of supply chain management,

most now recognize its importance as a result of pandemic-related disruptions.

Olsen remained active on the board of the Heineman-Robicsek Foundation (HRF) after retiring, and in April 2022 succeeded Jim Hynes as chair.

Olsen's involvement with International Medical Outreach (IMO) dates back to 2009. His knowledge of logistics, packing and shipping processes were invaluable to IMO, and he was impressed by the passion of all those working to improve healthcare delivery in developing countries.

One memory that still stands out is his very first field trip to Guatemala and Honduras in 2009. "I could see in an instant how much the Foundation's efforts were making a difference," he says. "The on-site clinicians were well trained, their equipment was well cared-for, and – perhaps most importantly – their activities were designed to be sustainable."

The value of this sustainability paid off, he says, when the Fuego volcano erupted in Guatemala in 2018. "The hospital we had upgraded in Escuintla

was only a short distance away," he says, "so the medical professionals in that facility were able to respond immediately when disaster struck."

Olsen's expertise in supply chain management is a continued blessing to HRF, given the vast amount of equipment and furnishings that IMO transfers to other countries. He's especially pleased that his successor at Atrium Health, Conrad Emmerich, has been so supportive of IMO since assuming systemwide responsibilities.

Olsen is also grateful to his predecessor, Jim Hynes, for working so conscientiously to advance IMO's mission. He notes that the intensive care units at the Escuintla regional hospital are named in honor of Jim's wife, Margaret.

Olsen is serving a three-year term as chair and doesn't anticipate any changes in direction. "We will continue upgrading facilities as needed," he says. "We'll expand to new communities as circumstances allow, and we'll keep sponsoring as many exchange programs as we can."

# Mission

The International Medical Outreach (IMO) program is a collaborative partnership between Heineman-Robicsek Foundation and Atrium Health. IMO provides medical and educational assistance globally to promote sustainable healthcare services and enhanced standards of living in underserved communities.

# Impact

The IMO program at Atrium Health has grown over the years and has touched the lives of patients and families in 45 countries. IMO's core services include the furnishing of new, used and refurbished medical equipment to hospitals and health clinics worldwide. IMO also provides technology equipment to primary and secondary schools, while offering free educational opportunities that enable international medical personnel to enhance their knowledge and skills. All of this work is made possible by the generous financial and logistical support of individuals, businesses, charitable institutions and other non-profit partners around the globe.

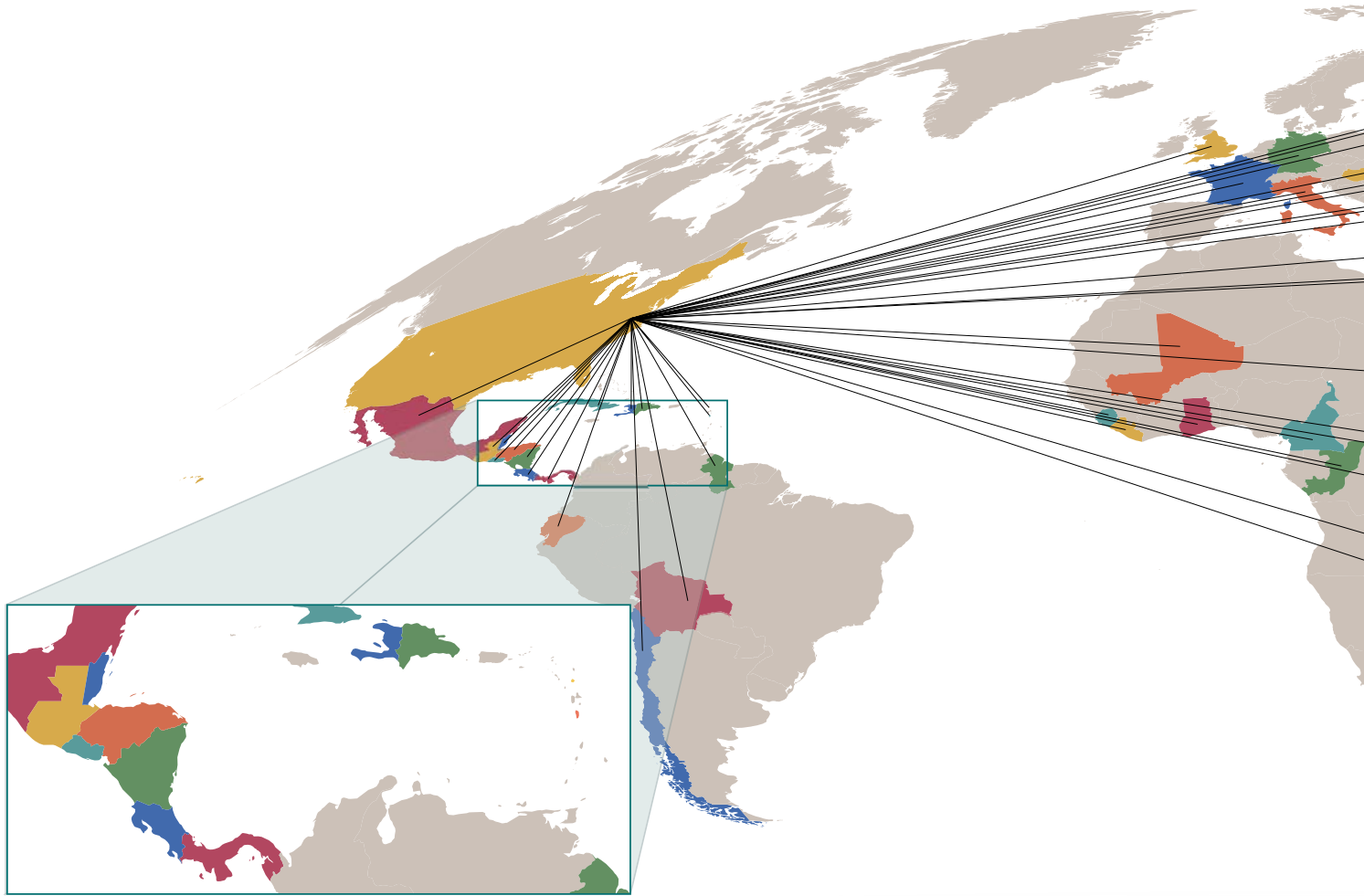
# Commitment

Unlike many charitable organizations, IMO spends 100 percent of its donated funds on designated projects. IMO does not use donor contributions for fundraising or administrative expenses.



# IMO AT A GLANCE

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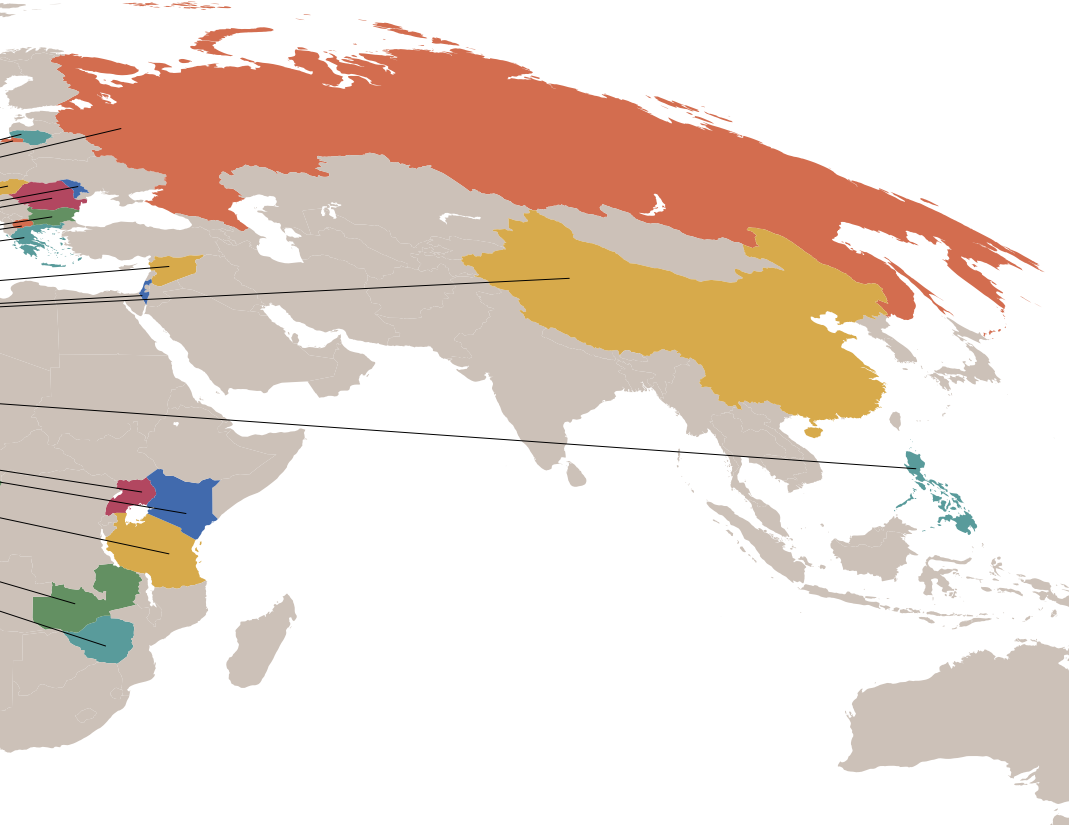


**11-Year Impact**

**>1.3 Million**

lives touched through  
combined programs

# OUR GLOBAL REACH



Antigua	Hungary
Belize	Israel
Bolivia	Italy
Bulgaria	Kenya
Cameroon	Liberia
Chile	Lithuania
China	Macedonia
Congo	Mali
Costa Rica	Mexico
Cuba	Moldova
Dominica	Nicaragua
Dominican Republic	Panama
Ecuador	Philippines
El Salvador	Romania
England	Russia
France	Sierra Leone
Germany	Syria
Ghana	Tanzania
Greece	Uganda
Guatemala	Ukraine
Guyana	United States
Haiti	Zambia
Honduras	Zimbabwe

**556,000 Pounds**

of medical and computer  
equipment recycled

**>\$42.3 Million**

of medical and electronic  
equipment donated

# OBRAS SOCIALES

## IMO Donations Allow Significant Expansion of Surgical Facilities in Antigua, Guatemala

IMO continued its work during 2021 to upgrade facilities at a Guatemalan social services and healthcare agency known as “Obras Sociales.” This work included expanding the number of available operating rooms from five to eight. The three new ORs were formally dedicated in March 2022.

The name “Obras Sociales” (translated literally as “social works” in English) is shorthand for “Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro” or OSSHP. OSSHP is a faith-based organization founded by members of the Franciscan order in 1979. In 1983, four years after OSSHP was started, the municipality of Antigua provided OSSHP with access to a crumbling, colonial-era building, refurbished initially to accommodate 12 beds for sick patients.

Steady growth over the next four decades has led to significant physical improvements, a huge increase in the number of services provided, and substantial growth in the number of constituents served. The charity now provides a permanent home to 400 individuals of all ages with disabilities. Even before IMO’s most recent expansion project, its medical clinic was hosting some 350,000 patient encounters each year, including 7,000 surgical procedures.

IMO has partnered with OSSHP for the past eight years. Donations have included commercial kitchen equipment for the resident home, medical equipment and office furniture for new

clinical spaces, some 150 hospital beds and tons of medical consumables.

IMO donated equipment for the three new ORs, which were fully furnished thanks to generous support from the Heineman Foundation of New York. The value of IMO’s total donation exceeded \$300,000, based on the cost of newly purchased items.

IMO’s partner, Chiquita Brands, provided free shipping for the furnishings and equipment from Charlotte to Guatemala.

The formal inauguration ceremony in March 2022 was attended by a number of IMO representatives, including Heineman-Robicsek Foundation President, Dr. Steven Robicsek. Dr. Robicsek recalled during his remarks that when his father, the late Francis Robicsek MD, PhD, first visited OSSHP in 2014 “the idea of new operating rooms was just a dream.” He went on to say, “Helping those who are deprived of surgical services is a miracle and a privilege. For us, it is an honor to be able to contribute to the well-being of Guatemalans.”

According to its website (<https://hermanopedrogt.org>) Obras Sociales is one of the largest surgery providers in Guatemala. Monseñor Gonzalo de Villa y Vásquez, archbishop for the territory where OSSHP is based, performed an official blessing at the dedication ceremony.

### **OSSHP main building has been in use since the 1600s.**

The colonial era building that was transferred to Obras Sociales in 1983 is believed to have been the third hospital built in the Americas. Today, it is the only one that has been in continuous service since the 1600s. Construction on the combination church and hospital, originally named San Pedro Apóstol, dates back to 1662. As a result of creative design work, many modern facilities have been incorporated within the original structure in recent years. In addition, OSSHP recently built a second center outside Antigua called Virgen de Socorro, which provides a home for 400 specialized need residents requiring round-the-clock care.







# GUATEMALA

## Nan Van Every Cardiology Diagnostic Network expands to include new diagnostic station in Sololá

The International Medical Outreach (IMO) program has been working to establish sustainable cardiac care in Guatemala since 1972, when Francis Robicsek was invited to establish a viable cardiology and cardiac surgery program in-country.

In the decades that followed, what is now known as the Guatemalan Heart Institute (abbreviated in Spanish as UNICAR), performs thousands of cardiac catheterization procedures and hundreds of heart operations annually ([unicargt.org](http://unicargt.org)).

UNICAR's steady expansion was obviously significant over time, but the concentration of service capabilities in Guatemala City did not address another key challenge: that of accessibility in remote areas.

IMO and UNICAR responded to this situation by setting up a network of rural facilities where echocardiograms could be performed locally.

The Nan Van Every Cardiology Diagnostic Network (Nan Van Every CDN) was founded in 2010 and has expanded, now encompassing 17 medical centers. All are supported by Atrium Health's Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute. Sonographers in the network performed 2,160 scans in 2021, and since its inception more than 40,000 patients have been served.

The newest station was opened during 2021 at the National Public Hospital in Sololá, a rural city located about 90 miles west of Guatemala City. The diagnostic station in Sololá was made possible through the support of Edwards Lifesciences Foundation, the Heineman Foundation of New York and Chiquita, all longtime IMO partners.

The station in Sololá operates similarly to its counterpart facilities in Guatemala. Patients are

evaluated on-site, and images are transmitted electronically to UNICAR for interpretation. UNICAR then relays diagnosis and treatment options to a primary care physician at the satellite location. If the recommended treatment cannot be performed on-site, the patient is referred directly to UNICAR for follow-up.

The cardiac sonographer currently assigned to Sololá is Lesly Elisama Cotiy Tzoc, who received her nursing degree in 2018. Although her training in sonography was interrupted by the pandemic, she finished in 2021 and was recognized for that achievement in early 2022, in Sololá.

Drs. Steven Robicsek and Walter Mazariegos, Director of UNICAR, presented Ms. Cotiy with her certificate of completion in cardiac sonography. This important event was also attended by Rodolfo Salazar (*Licenciado*), Governor of the Department of Sololá; Dr. Luis Giron, Director of the hospital; and the family of Ms. Cotiy.



Pictured, from left to right: Dr. Steven Robicsek, Lesly Elisama Cotiy Tzoc, and Dr. Walter Mazariegos

## Diagnostic cardiac sonographer in Sololá now serves in the same hospital where she was born

*Lesly Elisama Cotiy Tzoc was born in the hospital where she now serves as the echocardiography technologist. Following is Lesly's inspiring story, as told in her own words:*

"I was born at the Departmental Hospital of Sololá in November 1992. My mother tongue is K'iche and I am a resident of Nahualá in the province of Sololá. (NOTE: K'iche is a Mayan language spoken in the western highlands of Guatemala by nearly one million people.)

"I studied at the primary level in my municipality. Later I studied at the high school and university levels in Quetzaltenango, graduating with a degree in nursing in 2018. I've been working as a nurse for several years at the hospital in Sololá. More recently I began working as an echocardiography technologist, after having completed the requisite training at UNICAR.

"I strive to do my job well, in order to serve the people who come to the hospital where I work. And, day by day, I hope to keep growing as a professional, along with those in the multidisciplinary team that I work with."



1. UNICAR – Guatemala City
  2. Quetzaltenango, Guatemala
  3. Escuintla, Guatemala
  4. Cuilapa, Guatemala
  5. Totonicapán, Guatemala
  6. San Benito Petén, Guatemala
  7. Quiché, Guatemala
  8. Zacapa, Guatemala
  9. Cobán, Guatemala
  10. El Progreso, Guatemala
  11. Sololá, Guatemala
  12. Jalapa, Guatemala – in progress
  13. San Salvador, El Salvador
  14. Copán Ruinas, Honduras
  15. Belize City, Belize
  16. San Ignacio, Belize
  17. Antigua, West Indies
-  Atrium Health  
Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute



# GUATEMALA



Pictured, from left to right: Dr. Walter Mazariegos, Theresa Johnson, Dr. Francisco Coma, Ana Mariela Marroquín García, Oscar Flores Lopez, Dr. Steven Robicsek, Flor de Lourdes Orantes Franco



### Three echocardiography technologists honored for lengthy service to IMO's Cardiology Diagnostic Network

Pandemic conditions in 2021 made it difficult for IMO to maintain personal contact with key associates working abroad. That situation was rectified, however, when Dr. Steven Robicsek and IMO Director Theresa Johnson were able to schedule a visit to Guatemala City in March 2022.

Dr. Francisco Coma, Guatemala's Minister of Health, Dr. Walter Mazariegos, Director of UNICAR, Robicsek and Johnson all came together to recognize the contributions of three clinicians with extraordinary records of service to the Nan Van Every CDN.

Oscar Flores Lopez has worked at UNICAR in Guatemala City for 12 years. Also recognized were 10-year veterans Ana Mariela Marroquin Garcia of the National Hospital in Escuintla and Flor de Lourdes Orantes Franco of the National Hospital in Cuilapa.

Johnson noted that Oscar was the first trainee to visit the Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute in Charlotte. "This required a tremendous leap of faith on his part," she remarked, "and he had a lot on his shoulders to succeed." Oscar stayed at Heineman's boarding house near Carolinas Medical Center, walking to classes each day and spending evenings and weekends improving his language skills and meeting with fellow professionals.

Ana and Flor also spent three months each in Charlotte; however, both had an opportunity to enjoy a more personalized experience while living in Johnson's home. Johnson said the friendships they forged, living under the same roof, helped ease the burden of studying in a foreign country.

Johnson praised all three for their sacrifices, determination and courage. "Congratulations and thank you," she said, "for everything you do, every day, to improve the lives of those you serve in Guatemala."

IMO stepped up its activities during 2021 to provide direct COVID-19 support to healthcare centers throughout Guatemala.

During 2020, IMO had donated 250 field hospital beds to CONRED, the disaster relief agency that operates under the auspices of the Guatemalan Ministry of Health. The value of that donation was approximately \$500,000. During 2021, IMO once again teamed up with the Guatemalan Ministry of Health, Atrium Health and Chiquita Brands to furnish some 800,000 KN95 masks, some 80,000 units of PPE and more than 250 kits for vaccine administration. The value of the donations exceeded \$1.6 million.

"The timely delivery of medical supplies is what saves lives," said Fernando Paiz, Vice President of the Heineman-Robicsek Foundation. "As field hospitals were built to respond to the COVID crisis, the need for quality masks, PPE units and vaccine kits became critical for health providers. That is when Atrium Health and Chiquita stepped up and responded in the extraordinary manner they are known for."



Pictured, from left to right: Fernando Paiz, Dr. Francisco Coma, Steven Robicsek, MD, PhD

# HONDURAS

## IMO teams up with SOUTHCOM to outfit a new labor and delivery clinic in Honduras



In response to high infant mortality rates in Honduras, IMO teamed up with the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) to outfit a new birthing facility in Orocuina during 2021.

Orocuina, a remote village in the Department of Choluteca, is home to approximately 55,000 people, located 50 miles south of the nation's capital, Tegucigalpa. Construction of the clinic was completed in the fall of 2021. It is expected to significantly reduce both maternal and infant mortality rates in the region.

IMO provided the equipment for the clinic, thanks to support from the George W. and Ruth R. Baxter Foundation. SOUTHCOM helped to design and construct the new clinic, and Chiquita provided the shipping.

SOUTHCOM is a joint command comprised of more than 1,200 military and civilian personnel representing the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard and other federal agencies. It was formed as part of a government-wide effort to advance security, governance and economic opportunity in nations of particular interest to the United States. SOUTHCOM typically works with U.S. embassies, local ministries of health and other NGOs to provide humanitarian relief (<https://www.southcom.mil/About/>).

IMO has been benefitting from SOUTHCOM's airlift capabilities for the past two years. The new facility in Orocuina was named to honor the military unit from Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, whose supply missions enabled completion. It is called the "820th Red Horse Squadron Maternity Clinic New Horizons."

The donation value of IMO's equipment, if purchased new, would be \$300,000. An inauguration ceremony for the new maternity center is scheduled for mid-year 2022. The recently appointed U.S. ambassador to Honduras, the Honorable Laura Farnsworth Dogu, will participate. A plaque recognizing the contribution of George W. and Ruth R. Baxter Foundation and IMO will be hung at the entrance.

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### IMO works with coffee growers co-op to provide rural clinics with needed equipment

In addition to its work upgrading the labor and delivery clinic in Orocuina, IMO partnered with a Central American-based corporate foundation in 2021 to enhance patient care facilities at six other rural health clinics in Honduras.

Honduras is considered the second poorest country in Central America, behind Nicaragua. Its poverty rate in rural areas typically exceeds 60 percent. To address the shortage of adequate healthcare services in areas throughout the country, the Honduran government undertook an effort in 2016 to deploy healthcare teams to impoverished communities.

Lacking adequate funds to provide needed equipment, however, the government looks to organizations like IMO to fill the gap. Through the support of Heineman Foundation of New York, one of IMO's major initiatives in 2021 was working with the Fundación COHONDUCAFÉ to deliver donated equipment to clinics nationwide.

Fundación COHONDUCAFÉ is the philanthropic arm of the Compañía Hondureña de Café, which commercializes and exports coffee for a cooperative of Honduran coffee growers. COHONDUCAFÉ governs its activities with high moral and ethical values, to help develop sustainable communities and emphasize the protection, education and health of children (<https://www.honducafe.com/index.html>).

## Dental chair makes a world of difference

One particular donation request by Fundación COHONDUCAFÉ was for a standard dental chair by Dr. Wilson Aguilar, the assigned dentist for the clinic in the Honduran town of Masaguara. Having witnessed a compelling need for better dental care in his home community, Dr. Aguilar returned to Masaguara after completing dental school.

His clinic equipment was so sparse, however, that he was forced to stand while treating patients seated in flimsy plastic deck chairs. IMO's simple donation of a standard dental chair and exam stool has made things immeasurably more comfortable for him and his patients. "It's surprising how much little things can help," says Dr. Aguilar. "IMO's donation has made a big difference for everyone who receives services at our clinic."





# BELIZE

## Despite COVID disruptions, IMO continues longstanding support of Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital in Belize

IMO continued working with the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital (KHHM) in Belize City during 2021 to establish a top quality, self-sustaining cardiac program.

On-site rotations by volunteer cardiology and cardiac surgical teams from Atrium Health's Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute (SHVI) had to be curtailed in 2021 but have returned in 2022.

Doctors Eric Skipper and Glen Kowalchuk lead the development of cardiac programs at KHHM. They were pleased that KHHM was able to continue recruiting new talent during 2021, while also benefiting from online medical education programs. "KHHM is in the midst of an ambitious five-year business plan," Dr. Skipper said. "As a result, the hospital maintained a steady pace of growth and development despite COVID-19 disruptions."

One of the specialists who joined KHHM during 2021 was Chen Chih Lin, MD. Dr. Lin is a non-invasive cardiologist with strengths in echocardiography, transthoracic and transesophageal scans, and stress testing. Born in Taiwan, he moved to Belize at age seven and lived there until leaving for university at age 18.

He attended medical school in Guatemala, did an internal medicine specialization in Mexico and earned a master's in clinical echocardiography in Spain. Dr. Adrian Coye, cardiac surgeon and interim medical director at KHHM, said he was pleased that someone with such an exemplary background was now working on-site to serve KHHM patients.

For his part, Dr. Lin commented that it was a great honor to be in a position to improve healthcare delivery in the country where he grew up. "The incidence of cardiovascular disease in Belize is no different than in other nearby countries," he said. "Our nation is small, and healthcare resources



have traditionally been limited. That's forced a lot of our people to seek medical care in other countries.

"We're working hard at KHHM to change that mentality and develop a sustainable heart program that can match the results available elsewhere. Our dream is that no citizen from Belize should have to leave the country to gain access to high quality care."

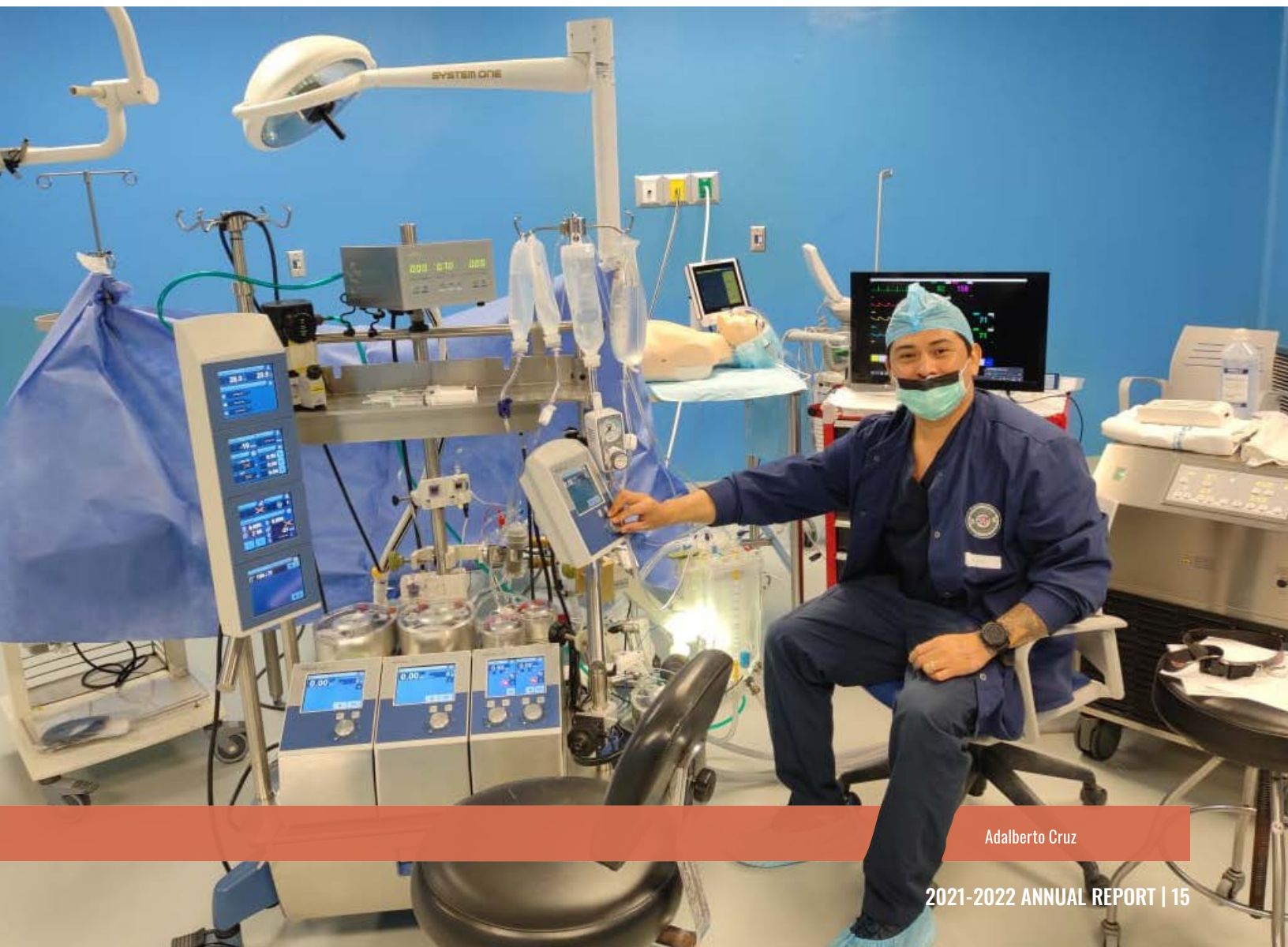
Other KHHM highlights in 2021 included nurse Adalberto Cruz entering a two-year training program to become a perfusionist. (NOTE: A cardiovascular perfusionist is the person responsible for operating the heart-lung machine during open heart surgery.) Cruz initially conducted his studies virtually but moved to the Dominican Republic in January 2022 to continue his education in-person. By May 2022, he had successfully operated the heart-lung machine during six open-heart surgeries.



Adalberto Cruz

Paul Jellum, a cardiovascular technologist and supervisor, and B. Hadley Wilson, MD, FACC, a cardiologist, both at Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute, provided virtual education and training sessions for KHMH personnel in 2021. The bi-weekly classes were composed of both review and continuing education classes.

As in past years, support for the continued development of cardiac programs in Belize was provided by the Edwards Lifesciences Foundation, the Tarr Family Foundation and the Heineman Foundation of New York.



Adalberto Cruz

# ATRIUM HEALTH DOCTORS CONDUCT VITAL RESEARCH

**BY JOHN M. FEDOR, MD**

**CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF MEDICAL AND TECHNICAL ADVISORS  
HEINEMAN-ROBICSEK FOUNDATION**



The Heineman-Robicsek Foundation has been a stalwart supporter of medical research since its earliest days. In recent years,

a new generation of Foundation-supported researchers has worked conscientiously to further advance the quality of care and efficacy of medical treatments. They have done this not only through their own original studies, but by drawing on the noteworthy discoveries of those who came before.

Some of our most important research projects include studies of new medicines and tools to fight cancer, heart disease and antimicrobial resistance. They also focus on such things as distanced learning for under-resourced hospitals. As in prior years, these advances are made possible through the generous support of The Heineman Foundation for Research, Educational, Charitable and Scientific Purposes, Inc.; the James H. Heineman Endowment; the Atrium Health Foundation; and the Tarr Family Foundation – in collaboration with the Wake Forest School of Medicine.

## Jai Patel, PharmD, BCOP, CPP



In his role as the head of pharmacogenomics at Levine Cancer Institute, Dr. Patel investigates genetic variables that can influence drug response. He and his team have developed tests to identify which cancer

patients might be prone to certain adverse events. For example, certain chemotherapy medications called “fluoropyrimidines” can cause serious side-effects in patients being treated for gastrointestinal, breast or head and neck cancers. Although these medications have been in use since the 1950s, a significant percentage of patients receiving them develop adverse reactions. Grant funding has enabled Dr. Patel’s team to identify those patients most likely to benefit from up-front dose reductions. The related tests have now been expanded to include 15 Levine Cancer Institute care locations and more than 200 patients.

## Giselle Saulnier-Sholler, MD



The goal of Dr. Saulnier-Sholler’s research is to evaluate the safety and appropriate dosing for children being treated with molecular targeted therapy, in combination with adoptive cellular therapy. Two studies

were started up during 2021, one involving newly diagnosed Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG)



tumors and one involving neuroblastoma. Both forms of cancer have notoriously low survival rates. Six patients were identified and enrolled during the year, including two DIPG patients and four neuroblastoma patients. Five of the six patients were treated with molecular guided therapy and three received their first dendritic cell vaccines. Researchers were able to establish cell lines on four of the six patients, a finding that will enhance the effectiveness of future research efforts.

## Jeko Madjarov, MD



Dr. Madjarov has a strong interest in both clinical and translational research, with a particular focus on complex cardiac and aortic surgeries. As a result of that specialization, he continues a

tradition started by the late Dr. Francis Robicsek. Dr. Madjarov studies new techniques for the management of aneurysms of the ascending aorta, utilizing external wall reinforcement or “wrapping.” Wrapping is typically used for high-risk adult patients or younger patients with a collagen deficiency. Some of the wrapping materials currently available (including Dacron and fluoropolymer fibers) are being used off label. As a result, they are used with varying degrees of success and remain controversial.

Dr. Madjarov has collaborative projects with Wake Forest School of Medicine, the Health Innovations Team and the Institute of Regenerative Medicine. Together, these researchers are designing and testing new, bioengineered wrapping materials, while working to perfect minimally invasive aortic interventions.

## Lee Morris, MD, MSPH, DTM&H



In recent years, physicians and researchers around the world have paid increased attention to the problem of “antimicrobial resistance” (AMR). In response, many more hospitals have instituted formal antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) programs to discourage the overuse of antibiotics. Dr. Morris has worked closely with one of IMO’s partner hospitals, the National Hospital in Escuintla, Guatemala, to institute an effective AMS program. In addition, a hospital-wide antimicrobial utilization study is planned for Escuintla in the fall of 2022. This will help guide future educational initiatives involving the hospital’s physicians, nurses and staff.

## Denise Fraga, MD, MPA



Dr. Fraga’s work during 2021 helped to demonstrate that a Pediatric Point-of-Care Ultrasound (PoCUS) curriculum is feasible in a group of pediatric providers with no prior ultrasound training. The study is important in determining the appropriate use of ultrasound technology in resource-limited settings. Dr. Fraga’s initial analysis of test scores demonstrated statistically significant improvement in those scores, immediately following the administration of PoCUS coursework and at fixed times following initial training.

Additional studies are continuing in 2022 to better understand long-term knowledge retention, as well as the impact of PoCUS on clinical decision-making and management. The research team is also developing a training-the-trainer course to ensure long-term sustainability. Finally, because the pandemic disrupted traditional ultrasound education in the United States and abroad, Dr. Fraga is studying the feasibility of using online resources to deliver related educational programs.

# CHIQUITA

## An industry leader when it comes to humanitarian impact

When it comes to bananas, Chiquita has been a household name for decades. Nonetheless, Chiquita has also made a name for itself by being much more than a produce company.

Chiquita has long been an industry leader in addressing issues of social equity and environmental sustainability. The company has been a positive influence on the communities it serves by working to improve health and safety, housing and education, and by aiding in disaster relief. Chiquita is also committed to being a good steward of the environment, working conscientiously to reduce its carbon footprint.

The ongoing partnership between IMO and Chiquita is yet another avenue by which Chiquita provides humanitarian support to underserved countries in Central America. For a number of years, Chiquita has transported IMO supplies in shipping containers that might otherwise be returned empty to Central America from the United States.

Chiquita ([chiquita.com](http://chiquita.com)) went out of its way to uphold this commitment to IMO, despite 2020 and 2021 being two of the most challenging years ever in terms of supply chain logistics. Their support during 2021 alone saved IMO approximately \$42,000. The company also helped support hurricane relief efforts in Honduras. They transported N-95 masks, shields and consumable supplies to Guatemala and Honduras, and shipped computer equipment for use in Guatemalan schools.



# FUNSEPA

## FUNSEPA provides teacher training, delivers school computers and distributes health supplies

Despite the disruptions caused by COVID-19, IMO was able to continue its delivery of computer equipment to schools, teachers and students in Guatemala during 2021. As in past years, donations were made in cooperation with FUNSEPA. FUNSEPA is an acronym for the Sergio Paiz Andrade Foundation, which has been installing computers in Guatemala's public schools since 2004. With support from Atrium Health, IMO also donated masks to assist with the "Safe Return to School During Covid-19" project (<https://www.funsepa.org/>).

The Guatemalan government had originally planned for a return to in-person learning in February 2021, but the country's health situation did not permit that. Accordingly, the Ministry of Health established a COVID-19 dashboard for use at the municipal level. The system allowed municipalities to regulate pandemic response locally, rather than operate based on a blanket nationwide policy.

The country's public schools adapted to these requirements and alternated between hybrid and virtual learning, as appropriate. FUNSEPA, in turn, enhanced its teacher training programs so that instructors would be as well prepared as possible, whether teaching in-person or online.

FUNSEPA also launched the new SOS Docente program, by which a WhatsApp bot allows teachers to chat with a virtual assistant that provides teaching resources. Nearly 2,300 teachers have used the SOS Docente program since its inception. That high degree of utilization continued as 2021 drew to a close, with more teachers joining every week.

### FUNSEPA update

Description	2021	All Time
Schools	70	1,732
Computers	1,426	28,422
Students	16,035	589,324
Teachers	918	92,089





# SATORI

## Marketing support from Satori agency gives IMO added visibility

IMO Executive Director Theresa Johnson says *pro bono* communications support from the Satori Marketing Agency (Satori) was especially important during 2021. The relationship stems back to a serendipitous conversation when biomedical engineer Roy Stuedemann was refurbishing medical equipment in IMO's Charlotte warehouse. Knowing of IMO's need for communications support, Stuedemann offered to make a connection with his friend and the owner of Satori, Ms. Marché Warfield.

Warfield traveled to Charlotte on her own initiative to offer help in person, because she believed so strongly in IMO's mission. Subsequently, she and her team created a fresh look for the Heineman-Robicsek Foundation (HRF) website. The team also created a presence on Facebook, brought HRF online with Instagram, and even created a video showcasing HRF's international impact. Satori's creative staff earned two prestigious communication awards during 2021 for their work with HRF: an Ava Digital Award for website redesign, and a Viddy Award for video excellence (<https://satori.agency/>).

"We are truly indebted to Marché for her commitment to IMO," says Johnson. "Because of Satori's efforts, our work has gained added visibility, and we've been able to focus all of our resources on providing direct support to people in need."



# CAMEROON AND UKRAINE

## IMO helps to equip new medical center in Cameroon, sends supplies to Ukraine

While many of IMO's initiatives are focused on Central America, the program supports healthcare initiatives in many other parts of the globe. (NOTE: The map on pages 4 and 5 shows the complete list of countries served by IMO.)

One noteworthy effort during 2021 involved donations of medical equipment to a health center in Cameroon, a country located just south of Nigeria on Africa's west coast.

IMO received a request to help outfit a medical center in the town of Bachou Akagbe. Four years of war had put an unusual strain on healthcare facilities in the area, and a new integrated health center was built in response. Most of the population in the immediate area consists of small farmers, most with little financial means.

A charitable organization known as the Sam and Alex Foundation, based in Waxhaw NC, reached out to IMO for assistance. In response, IMO donated hospital beds, birthing beds, regular stretchers, OB stretchers, exam tables, exam lights, autoclaves, stools, an aspirator, IV poles, linens and various other medical instruments. The donation value, if purchased new, was roughly \$100,000.

Also, following the breakout of war in Ukraine in early 2022, IMO received several requests to provide needed supplies. IMO partnered with an organization called "Nova Ukraine" and another called "Ukrainians in the Carolinas" to ship nine pallets of miscellaneous medical supplies to the cities of Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odesa and Mykolaiv, and to mobile medical teams stationed in front line areas.

Dr. Steven Robicsek said he was pleased that the Foundation was so well positioned to provide this type of assistance. "The scope of our mission truly is worldwide," he said. "Situations like these remind us we can and need to step up and make a difference for those in dire circumstances."



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