

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL OUTREACH ANNUAL REPORT

(2024)

Dear Friends & Colleagues

Looking back on the past year,

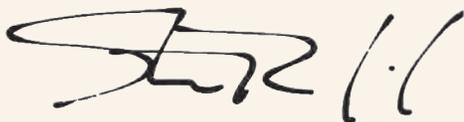
we're proud to highlight the 2024 accomplishments and progress of our International Medical Outreach (IMO) program. This year brought new partnerships, signaling continued growth and momentum for our mission. Despite a shifting global landscape, IMO stayed true to its purpose—delivering critical, lifesaving medical and educational support to underserved communities around the world.

Guided by adaptability and resilience, we embraced evolving practices and technologies that allowed us to meet emerging needs with agility. Through every challenge, our sense of purpose deepened, and our appreciation grew, fueling our commitment to improving lives across the globe.

Progress defined 2024, with a focus on furthering access to critical, quality healthcare throughout Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras. On the following pages, you will read of a groundbreaking Regional Anesthesia Initiative in Guatemala where local anesthesiologists are being equipped with the tools and knowledge to perform ultrasound-guided regional anesthesia techniques. You will also learn about continued achievements and breakthroughs in Belize with the country's first code STEMI protocol, off-pump open-heart surgery, and on-table extubation after open-heart surgery. And you will read of the development of an outpatient clinic and one-day surgery facility in Honduras, significantly improving access to high-quality care in the country.

We are deeply grateful to all who stand beside us with steadfast support. Your dedication has been vital to bringing our mission to life. As we look ahead, we're inspired to continue driving meaningful change and advancing healthcare through impactful initiatives in the year to come.

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



Theresa R. Johnson
Director
International Medical Outreach



Mission

The International Medical Outreach (IMO) program is a collaborative partnership between Heineman-Robicsek Foundation, Inc. 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 has grown over the years and has touched the lives of patients and families in 46 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 to primary and secondary schools and offers 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 95% of its donated funds on designated projects. Donor contributions are not used for fundraising.



14-YEAR IMPACT

- > 1.3 million lives touched through combined programs
- \$44.2 million of medical and electronic equipment donated
- 586,435 pounds of medical equipment and computer equipment recycled

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

OUR GLOBAL REACH





Guatemala

Regional Anesthesia Initiative for Sustainable Impact in Central America

In 2024, Heineman-Robicsek Foundation (HRF) launched a groundbreaking Regional Anesthesia Initiative in Guatemala. This forward-thinking program aims to enhance patient safety and surgical care in underserved communities by equipping local anesthesiologists with the knowledge and tools needed to perform ultrasound-guided regional anesthesia techniques, reducing reliance on general anesthesia and advancing long-term healthcare sustainability.



Guatemala



Addressing Anesthesiology Gaps

In January 2024, HRF board members Dr. Carlos Cruz, Dr. Steven Robicsek and Fernando Paiz, along with Dr. Federico Jiménez, Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology at the University of Florida - Gainesville, met with Dr. Sandra Flores Ramirez de Izquierdo, Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology at Universidad Rafael Landívar.

During the meeting, Dr. Flores shared critical challenges faced by public hospitals in Guatemala, including a shortage of anesthesiologists and limited infrastructure and equipment. These resource constraints often result in inadequate post-operative care due to insufficient space, staffing, and medications. As a result, anesthetic-related mortality remains disproportionately high in low-resource countries like Guatemala.

In response, the group collaboratively developed a strategic plan to address these disparities through the implementation of a regional anesthesia block program, with particular focus on training anesthesiologists and senior anesthesiology residents.

Expected benefits of the training included fewer perioperative airway and respiratory complications, reduced need for airway manipulation in obese and pregnant patients, minimized blood loss during orthopedic surgeries, lower risk of blood clots following lower limb procedures, and decreased reliance on opioids for pain management.



Collaborative Leadership and Shared Purpose

The initiative’s success is rooted in strong partnership and close collaboration with the University Rafael Landívar and University of Florida - Gainesville.

- University Rafael Landívar, Guatemala:
Led by Dr. Sandra Eunice Flores de Izquierdo, Chair of Anesthesiology and Director of the Master’s Degree Program and the Simulation Center.
- University of Florida - Gainesville team:
Led by Dr. Federico Jiménez, an Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology, the team—including Drs. Erika Taco Vasquez, Barys Ihnatsenka, and Juan Mora—contributed their expertise to deliver an immersive, skills-based training experience for local trainees.

“

Our experience in Guatemala was great,” noted Dr. Jiménez.

“We worked with highly motivated individuals practicing anesthesia in resource-limited settings. Their passion for learning and respect for the field and their patients was evident from the moment we arrived. Their preparation, dedication, and enthusiasm made teaching incredibly rewarding.”



Universidad
Rafael Landívar

Identidad Jesuita en Guatemala

UF | College of Medicine
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



Delivering Resources Where They're Needed Most

Three public hospitals, each located in some of Guatemala's most underserved communities, were selected as training hubs while faculty and students worked at a total of 5 additional hospitals:

- National Hospital Escuintla
- Hospital Regional de Huehuetenango
- Hospital Regional de Quiché

With support from The Heineman Foundation of New York (heinemanfoundation.org), each hospital received a portable ultrasound machine to ensure participants could immediately put their training into practice. These tools enabled real-time learning and directly improved patient care from the first day.

“The residents and faculty welcomed us with open arms—literally waiting in the hallway as we arrived with the ultrasound machine,” said Dr. Jiménez Ruiz. “We began scanning patients and performing nerve blocks within minutes. Their eagerness to learn and ability to apply concepts immediately was nothing short of inspiring.”





Anesthesiology resident performing a lower extremity ultrasound-guided nerve block for a patient undergoing ankle surgery, while fellow residents observe.



Blending Flexibility with Hands-On Precision

The 13-week program was built to provide both theoretical knowledge and practical application, using a combination of learning formats, including:



Online self-paced modules, which allowed participants to study foundational concepts at their own pace.



Weekly virtual interactive training sessions, which were case-based and hands-on. These sessions had 100% attendance and fostered a strong sense of community and collaboration.



In-person workshops held at each hospital site allowed immediate bedside learning and confidence-building under expert supervision.



Real Impact on Skills and Care Delivery

Anesthesia residents attending an ultrasound-guided peripheral vascular access workshop.



A total of 15 anesthesiologists and 15 senior anesthesiology residents completed the program, expanding capacity for safer anesthetic management.



Regional anesthesia is now being routinely implemented in each participating hospital, transforming care for patients undergoing selective surgeries.



492 ultrasound-guided nerve blocks were successfully performed during the training period and in the month following.

A New Generation of Regional Anesthesia Leaders

“This group of Guatemalan doctors has the drive and interest to become relevant leaders in regional anesthesia, both locally and regionally,” added Dr. Jiménez Ruiz. “We are honored to continue supporting their growth and look forward to future collaboration.”

The success of the 2024 program has set the stage for continued collaboration. A new group of senior anesthesiology residents from University Rafael Landívar will begin virtual training in January 2025. An additional in-person training week is scheduled for 2025 to reinforce skill development and mentorship.

The Regional Anesthesia Initiative in Guatemala exemplifies HRF’s approach to global health. Through generous support from the Heineman Foundation of New York, University of Florida, and others, this program is reshaping the future of anesthesia care in Guatemala—improving outcomes, enhancing autonomy, and creating lasting change where it matters most.



Dr. Taco Vasquez,
Dr. Mora, and
Dr. Ihnatsenka teaching
cardiac point-of-care
ultrasound to local
anesthesiology attendings.

FUNSEPA: Transforming Digital Literacy

FUNSEPA Update	2024	All-Time
Schools	214	2,194
Computers	3,648	36,662
Students	30,352	656,901
Teachers Educated	1,565	96,290

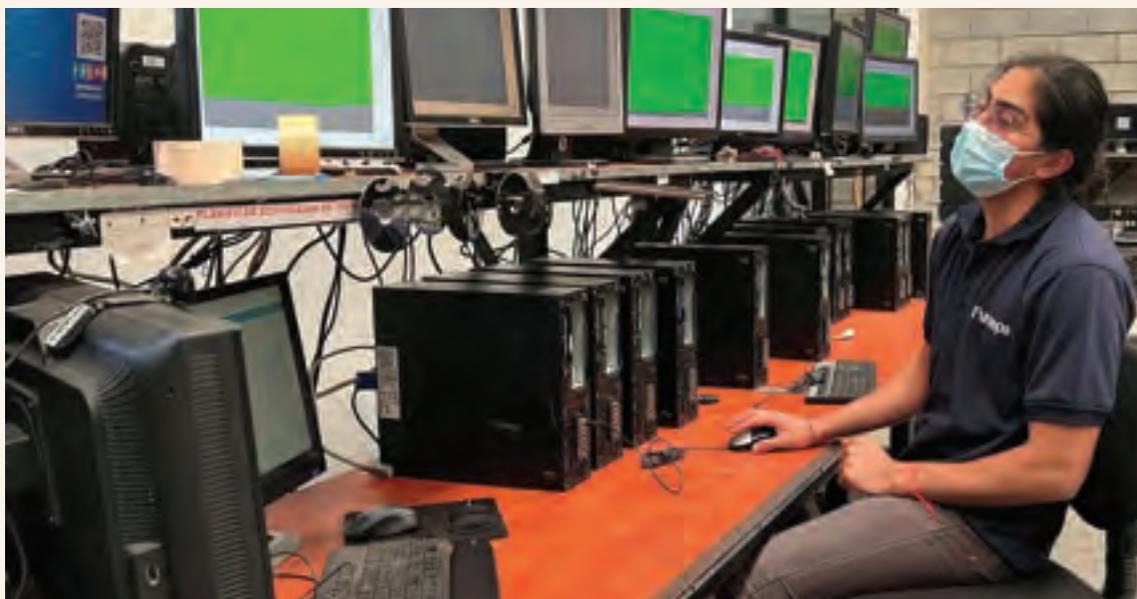
Since teaming up together more than a decade ago, the Sergio Paiz Andrade Foundation (FUNSEPA) and the International Medical Outreach (IMO) program have made strides toward improving the state of education and literacy in Guatemala. However, there is still significant work to be done—an effort the organizations realize through innovative approaches.

Statistics from a Human Capital Project report tell a stark story: Not only was the primary school completion rate 81% and the secondary school enrollment rate 50% in 2020, but in 2018, an estimated 65% of 10-year-olds were unable to comprehend simple texts following their primary school completion.

It's information like this that influenced FUNSEPA and IMO to begin contributing resources to Guatemalan communities. The mission began simply enough, with a straightforward donation of computers to public schools. With time, they realized these donations came with additional needs that weren't inherently given. Accommodations ranging from secure spaces to internet access and even reliable electrical power needed to be made to ensure the computers could be used effectively for digital literacy.

In addition, Guatemalan educators, many of whom hadn't been trained in modern education, needed proper teaching reform to be able to effectively help their students with 21st century digital skills. The "Technology to Educate" program helps to bridge this gap for educators, equipping them with the pedagogy needed for successful digital literacy instruction.

These realizations have influenced the expansion of the mission. A total of 14 Technological Community Centers have been equipped with internet access to support out-of-school populations. Entire municipalities have been upgraded. The educational index in Guatemala has seen inspiring progress, including four officially inaugurated "Digital Municipalities" that have satisfied a comprehensive checklist of digital access and education requirements. IMO continues to donate computer equipment that strengthens educational access, connecting classrooms and communities to a brighter future.



Faith in Practice: New Hope at Hilario Galindo Hospital

Located an hour southwest of Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, in the remote town of San Felipe, stands Hilario Galindo Hospital (HGH) (faithinpractice.org). Established in 2007, HGH underwent a complete renovation thanks to the support of Faith in Practice (FIP), a non-profit organization located in Texas. After renovation, the facility featured four operating rooms, pre- and post-surgical holding units, a patient guest house for recovery, a clinic area, and conference and break rooms.

In 2022, FIP reached out to Heineman-Robicsek Foundation (HRF) to request assistance acquiring hospital equipment. With help from International Medical Outreach (IMO), that request was fulfilled in 2024 with the delivery of 40 new hospital beds and 18 refurbished over-the-bed tables. This generous donation enabled the hospital to accommodate overnight stays and monitor patients after surgery.

HGH has since served 911 patients in the new convalescent wards. Patients now spend an average of 1.5 nights in recovery, totaling 1,366 overnight stays since the upgrades.



40
New Hospital Beds



911
Patients Served



1.5
Average Nights
in Recovery



Imaging Capabilities Bring Hope: New CT Scanners Arrive in Guatemala

In a significant stride toward enhancing healthcare infrastructure in Guatemala, the Heineman-Robicsek Foundation (HRF) committed to donate two state-of-the-art CT scanners to the National Hospital of Escuintla and Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro (OSSHP) in Antigua. Thanks to the guidance of HRF board member, Andy Wheeler, the scanners were carefully selected and procured. These installations aim to bolster diagnostic capabilities and improve patient outcomes in these regions.

The National Hospital of Escuintla, renowned for housing Central America's largest neonatal and pediatric intensive care unit previously donated and recently upgraded by HRF, will benefit from this advanced imaging technology, adding safety as well as enabling more accurate and timely diagnoses for its vulnerable patients.

OSSHP, a cornerstone of medical and social services in Antigua since 1981, serves thousands of Guatemalans through its comprehensive programs, including outpatient clinics, surgical centers, and residential care facilities. The addition of a CT scanner will significantly enhance its diagnostic services, allowing for more holistic care.

The installation of the equipment is expected to be completed in 2025.

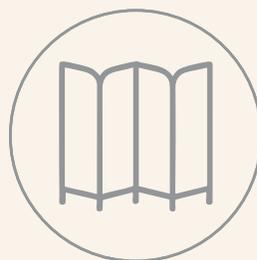
This initiative underscores the ongoing commitment to support sustainable healthcare solutions in underserved communities, building upon decades of partnership and service in the region.

Advancing Access to Community Services with Obras Sociales

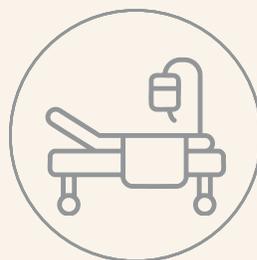
Over the last 10 years and counting, the community of Antigua, Guatemala, has seen improvements to its healthcare resources. A significant contributor to that change has been Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro (OSSHP), a faith-based social services and healthcare agency established in 1979 by the Franciscan order. OSSHP has dedicated itself to bettering the lives of underserved local families and individuals.

Perhaps no partnership has been greater than its continued collaboration with International Medical Outreach (IMO). Going beyond medical equipment, IMO has assisted in securing a wide range of essential needs for OSSHP. Commercial kitchen equipment, office furniture, dental equipment, and even medical consumables have allowed the organization to expand its offerings within the community.

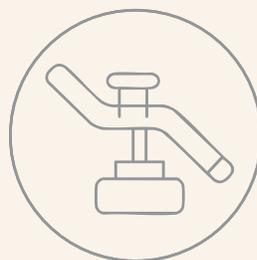
Recently, IMO obtained additional donations to further amplify OSSHP's mission. Seventeen hospital beds along with 105 hospital screens and partitions were contributed for expanded access to community care. Office furniture and medical consumables have allowed OSSHP the tools they need to provide more comprehensive services. Due in large part to the efforts of Heineman-Robicsek board member Dr. Carlos Cruz, OSSHP has benefitted from an impactful advancement in dental equipment.



105
New Hospital Screens
and Partitions



17
New Hospital
Beds



16
New Dental
Chairs



IMO generously provided 16 dental chairs, accompanied by instruments and supplies, to broaden the availability of dental services performed. In bolstering oral health for these vulnerable populations, IMO's support and advocacy will continue to bridge the healthcare gap in Guatemala, reducing the disparities within the communities.

Expanding Simulation-Based Training

Guatemala's public health system faces steep challenges, with limited funding and a lack of essential medical resources, such as ultrasound equipment, making it difficult for providers to diagnose and treat patients effectively. Amid these challenges, the Simulation Center at the University Rafael Landívar Medical School (University RLMS) in Guatemala City is emerging as a powerful tool for change.

Established in 2020 in partnership with the American Heart Association, the Simulation Center was created to provide hands-on medical training that improves clinical skills and saves lives. Located on the main campus of University RLMS, which now serves over 21,000 students across nine campuses, the center plays a vital role in preparing healthcare professionals for real-world emergencies.



An Investment in Lifesaving Technology

In 2024, the Simulation Center made major strides in its mission to enhance healthcare training. With generous support from the Heineman-Robicsek Foundation (HRF), the center received state-of-the-art simulation mannequins and resuscitation equipment. These critical donations enabled an expansion of the center's programs and reach.

Throughout the year, the Simulation Center facilitated:

- 13 hands-on CPR training sessions with 436 participants, including medical students
- Nine basic life support (BLS) courses, certifying 105 healthcare providers
- One pediatric advanced life support (PALS) course, certifying 12 providers

With a continued focus on hands-on training and strategic partnerships, the Simulation Center at University RLMS is building a stronger, more responsive healthcare system in Guatemala.

A Legacy of Collaboration:

Advancing Cardiac Care

International Medical Outreach (IMO) has remained steadfast in its mission to bring accessible, high-quality cardiac care to every corner of Central America—one heartbeat at a time.

Through collaboration and partnership with UNICAR and Nan Van Every Cardiology Diagnostic Network, IMO has made great strides in advancing care throughout Guatemala and Belize.





UNICAR Partnership: Guatemala

The partnership between International Medical Outreach (IMO) and Unidad de Cirugía Cardiovascular de Guatemala (UNICAR) dates back to the 1970s, marked by the establishment of Central America's first heart institute. Over the decades, this collaboration has led to the development of comprehensive cardiac services, including the creation of a network of echocardiography laboratories across rural Guatemala. These labs have provided thousands of patients with access to essential diagnostic services, exemplifying a model of sustainable healthcare development.

In 2024, IMO achieved significant advancements in healthcare at UNICAR, supplying essential cardiac equipment, including electrocardiogram (EKG) machines and defibrillators. These tools are vital for diagnosing and treating heart conditions, particularly in a country where access to advanced cardiac care remains limited.

The Heineman-Robicsek Foundation (HRF) has also contributed to healthcare advancements at UNICAR. Recognizing that poor oral health, particularly periodontal disease, may be related to heart disease, HRF facilitated the donation of modern dental equipment and supplies to UNICAR with the support of Dr. Carlos Cruz. This initiative aims to initiate dental services at the cardiac center, addressing a significant gap in oral healthcare and heart health in underserved communities.



Nan Van Every Partnership: Belize & Guatemala

Also in 2024, IMO continued its mission to combat cardiovascular disease in underserved communities across Central America through collaboration with the Nan Van Every Cardiology Diagnostic Network. Throughout the year, the program made significant strides in Belize and Guatemala, where access to early cardiac diagnosis can mean the difference between life and death.

Through its commitment to sustainable, community-based care, the program screened a total of **3,405 patients in 2024 alone**. Of those, **2,728 individuals** were referred for further care, a powerful testament to the ongoing need for specialized diagnostic services and follow-up in the region.

Since the program's inception in 2010, it has facilitated **48,327 patient encounters**, reflecting more than 10 years of dedication to early detection and intervention of heart disease. This enduring commitment has not only changed the trajectory of individual lives but has strengthened public healthcare across borders.

Looking ahead, the focus turns to technology renewal. Upgrading aging echocardiogram machines is a critical next step to ensure that the network remains effective and accessible. These new machines will equip local clinicians to continue identifying patients at risk and deliver timely, lifesaving care where it's needed most.

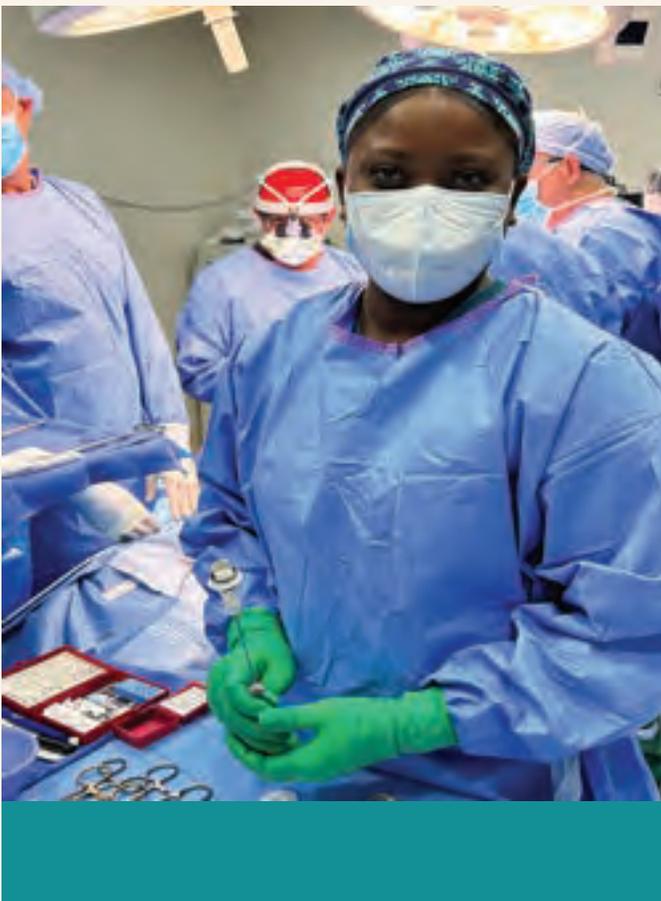
Thanks to this collaboration, IMO continues to make strides in addressing critical health needs in Central America. These efforts not only improve immediate patient outcomes but also lay the groundwork for enduring healthcare infrastructure and capacity building.



Belize

Transforming Cardiac Care: A Collaborative Milestone

Since 2011, International Medical Outreach (IMO), in partnership with the Heineman-Robicsek Foundation (HRF), Atrium Health, and Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital (KHHM) in Belize City, has made remarkable and lasting advancements in cardiac care throughout Belize. Under the leadership of Dr. Eric Skipper and Dr. Glen Kowalchuk, what began as a vision to bring essential medical expertise and resources to underserved communities has evolved into a groundbreaking initiative, redefining the cardiac care landscape of the country.



Belize

Groundbreaking Progress in 2024

In 2024, the Belize Cardiac Program reached new heights. Seven cardiology and six cardiac surgery team trips were made to Belize, led by experts from Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute (SHVI). These visits delivered hands-on training, lifesaving procedures, and deeper collaborations between U.S. and Belizean medical professionals. Throughout the year, the program celebrated three significant firsts for the country:

- The first Code STEMI procedures in the country—three in total—successfully treating heart attack patients with stents
- The first off-pump coronary artery bypass surgery, reducing risk for patients not suited for traditional procedures
- The first on-table extubation after open-heart surgery, signaling advances in patient recovery protocols

These milestones reflect not just clinical excellence but KHMH's growing capacity to deliver advanced care independently.





Training and Knowledge Exchange

Training remained a key focus in 2024, spanning clinical, surgical, and technical disciplines:

- Dr. Jeff Lin, KHMH cardiologist, is being considered for further interventional cardiology training..
- Two national cardiac catheterization lectures were delivered virtually to Belizean radiologists, broadening awareness and opening recruitment pathways for additional personnel.
- In partnership with the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN), three KHMH critical care nurses began the Essentials of Critical Care Orientation program in February 2024, guided by Atrium Health nurse educator Brittany Johnson.
- Advanced lectures delivered by U.S. providers enhanced skills in cardiac critical care during rotation periods.

Virtual Heart Team meetings also became a cornerstone of surgical planning, allowing physicians and specialists from Atrium Health and KHMH to review cases and surgical plans together. This virtual collaboration significantly improved preparedness and outcomes, with participation steadily increasing.



Strengthening Anesthesia and Infrastructure

Anesthesia support was strengthened through expanded collaboration with the Wake Forest Anesthesiology Global Health Group, chaired by Dr. Bryan Marchant. Ongoing partnerships with Dr. Choy Lewis (Northwestern), Lundy Campbell (UCSF), and Dr. Darian Rice (VA Hospital, Virginia), are further bolstering future missions.

Heartfelt Contributions

Thanks to donations and in-kind support:

- Edwards Lifesciences Foundation donated computers to aid cardiac data collection.
- Refurbished dual incubator/infant warmers and a defibrillator were contributed from HRF's surplus.
- An estimated **\$145,000** in product donations and in-kind support came from industry leaders including BD, Boston Scientific, Integra LifeSciences, Medtronic, Merit Medical, Stryker, Teleflex, Terumo, MAP International, and Project C.U.R.E.



Sharing Knowledge and Building Awareness

Melinda Couper, Chief Perfusionist at Atrium Health, presented the Belize Cardiac Program at the Palmetto State Perfusion Symposium in July 2024, further spreading awareness and encouraging global collaboration.

A Mission-Validating Visit

In a highlight of the year, Stefaan Poortman, Senior Director of Global Corporate Giving Strategy and Programs at Edwards Lifesciences Foundation, visited KHHM during a surgical rotation. He met with hospital leadership, observed two open-heart surgeries, and conducted a full review of the IMO program with Dr. Eric Skipper and Theresa Johnson.

“HRF and KHHM are doing such impactful work that is changing healthcare for a country in need. We are honored and proud to support your efforts,” Poortman said.

With continued commitment from our partners, the Belize Cardiac Program is poised for even greater impact in 2025. From groundbreaking surgeries to critical care education, this partnership is transforming what’s possible for patients and providers alike.



A Life Saved in Belize

Floyd Moro, a 35-year-old farmer, athlete, husband, and father of two in San Ignacio, Belize, had just wrapped up a normal day tending to his land when he began to feel chest tightness. At first, he attributed the discomfort to a long day of physical labor, but by the early hours of the morning, the pain became unbearable. He made his way alone to the local hospital, where doctors quickly realized he was experiencing a serious cardiac event.

In Belize, access to emergency intervention for heart attacks was extremely limited. As Moro's condition worsened, he was transferred from San Ignacio to Western Regional Hospital in Belmopan, and eventually to Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital (KHHM) in Belize City—the nation's only tertiary care center.





The Right Team at the Right Time

By a literally lifesaving coincidence, a volunteer cardiology team from Atrium Health Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute was at KHHM that very week as part of a mission through International Medical Outreach (IMO). Dr. Jonathan Schwartz and his team were conducting interventional procedures and training local providers when they received the emergency call.

Working quickly alongside Belizean cardiologist Dr. Jeff Lin, the team prepared the catheterization lab for Moro's arrival. Within minutes of being wheeled in, Moro was on the table, and an angiogram confirmed a total blockage in his left anterior descending artery, often called the "widow-maker."



Critical Care at a Critical Moment

Thanks to the immediate availability of specialized care, Moro underwent a successful procedure to open the artery and restore blood flow. His chest pain vanished, and his prognosis dramatically improved.

"Without a visiting team on-site, patients like Floyd are often treated only with medication, if at all," said Dr. Schwartz. "This outcome could have been very different."

Moro credits the team with saving his life: "I give thanks to Dr. Lin, Dr. Schwartz, and everyone from Atrium Health Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute. They were there when I needed them most."

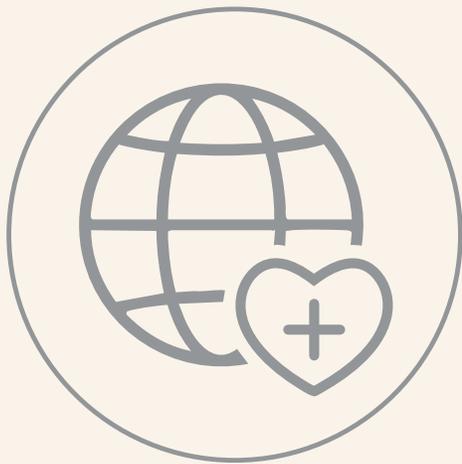


Building a Lifesaving Legacy

Since 2011, the IMO program has sent monthly teams from Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute to Belize, bringing not only advanced cardiac care but also training and equipment to help local providers strengthen their own capabilities. The long-term goal is to establish a permanent, self-sustaining cardiovascular program in the country.

"Every trip is about more than just saving lives—it's about building something lasting," said Dr. Schwartz. "We want to leave behind the tools and knowledge to create better outcomes long after we've gone home."

Placencia Polyclinic Revolutionizes Healthcare Access in Southern Belize



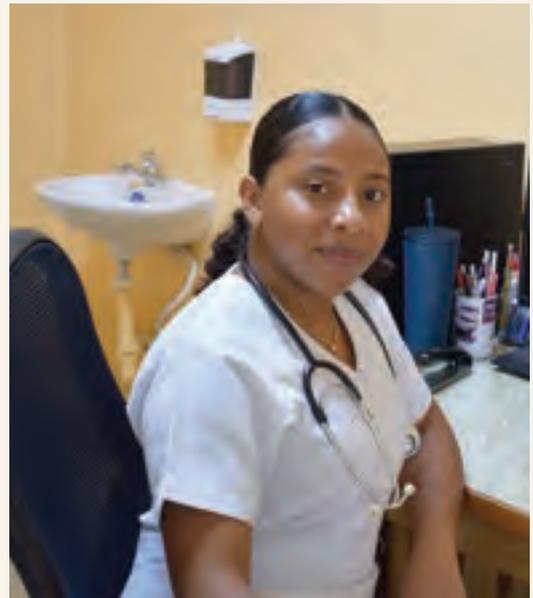
82,500
Patients Served

In May 2024, the remote coastal village of Placencia in Belize’s Stann Creek District celebrated a milestone with the opening of the Placencia Polyclinic, an essential step toward improving access to quality healthcare for underserved communities in both the Stann Creek and Toledo Districts. The Stann Creek District, despite its rich natural beauty and cultural diversity, faces significant socio-economic challenges, including Belize’s second highest poverty rate at 47.2%. Many residents previously had to travel over 90 minutes to reach the nearest medical facility in Dangriga.

The public clinic now serves approximately 82,500 people, offering preventative and emergency care through a full suite of medical facilities including exam rooms, triage rooms, an emergency room, a minor procedure room, laboratory, pharmacy, asthma bay, reception area, and waiting rooms.

This critical expansion is the result of a multi-organizational effort. The Belize Tourism Board (BTB) provided the clinic’s infrastructure, while the Belize Ministry of Health played a key role in its development. The Heineman-Robicsek Foundation (HRF), in collaboration with the International Medical Outreach (IMO) program and support from the George W. and Ruth R. Baxter Foundation, donated two 40-foot containers of medical equipment, enough to furnish 90% of the clinic. Additionally, an ambulance was donated and upfitted with support from the Heineman Foundation of New York, ensuring more timely emergency response capabilities.

Although the project broke ground in 2022, construction faced delays due to supply chain issues and necessary revisions to architectural plans. Nonetheless, the completion and inauguration of the Placencia Polyclinic mark the beginning of a new chapter in southern Belize—one in which quality healthcare is no longer out of reach for thousands of residents.





Honduras

Clínica Luz y Vida Expands Access to Care in Honduras

In 2024, the International Medical Outreach (IMO) program, in collaboration with Evangelistic Faith Missions (EFM), made significant strides in enhancing healthcare services in Honduras. A cornerstone of this effort is the development of Clínica Luz y Vida, an outpatient facility serving the communities of San Luís and Santa Bárbara.

Under the leadership of Daniel Melton, a seasoned missionary with EFM since 2003, Clínica Luz y Vida has been providing essential medical services and spiritual care to underserved populations. The clinic's mission is to create a sustainable healthcare model for the local community, while fostering job creation and promoting self-sufficiency for the people of San Luís.

In 2024, construction commenced on a new clinic and one-day surgery facility. This expansion aims to broaden the clinic's capabilities, enabling it to offer more comprehensive medical services to the local population.

IMO has committed to furnishing the majority of the new facility, ensuring the facility is equipped with essential medical equipment and resources to provide high-quality care.

This project has also garnered support from James J. and Nicole Bissell, who have generously contributed to the clinic's development. Their support underscores the collaborative effort to improve healthcare access in Honduras.

With the completion of the facility in 2025, we remain committed to our mission of promoting sustainable healthcare and enhancing lives in underserved communities.



Honduras

Fundación Ruth Paz: Transforming Healthcare in Honduras

For more than 30 years, Ruth Paz personally accompanied children on trips to the U.S. for lifesaving surgeries that weren't possible in Honduras due to limited resources and expertise.

After her passing, Ruth's daughter Mary Ann Paz Kafati continued this mission, leading to the establishment of Ruth Paz Hospital in 2011. The hospital dramatically enhanced access to care for vulnerable patients and soon broadened its capabilities to include general surgeries for both children and adults, along with more specialized procedures. On average, the hospital encounters over 500,000 patients each year, treating them through surgery, general medicine, diagnostic services, and much more.

At the 2023 board meeting, Mary Ann presented an update on the hospital's ongoing needs, specifically requesting much-needed equipment to refresh the four operating rooms originally donated by Heineman-Robicsek Foundation (HRF) in 2011. That same year, International Medical Outreach (IMO), in partnership with the George W. and Ruth R. Baxter Foundation, helped renovate two of the operating rooms, along with upgrades to the post-op area and general ward.

The renewal project continued in 2024, when IMO completed the upfitting of the remaining two operating rooms. In addition to these critical upgrades, a C-arm machine was donated to support orthopedic surgeries, further boosting the hospital's ability to deliver specialized surgical care and save lives.

The estimated value of the donations for 2024 is over

\$1 million

HRF and IMO are honored to help sustain Ruth's enduring legacy through continued donations to Ruth Paz Hospital.

Uraas



Funding the Future of Medicine: Vital Research Studies

Medical research has been a guiding focus of the Heineman-Robicsek Foundation (HRF) since its establishment in the early 1940s. Efforts to support scientific discovery, treatments, and innovative procedures have paved the way for significant advancements and breakthroughs in healthcare. The goal is to help medical researchers transform how healthcare professionals deliver care and empower the public with the knowledge to manage their health.

Every year, the HRF Committee of Medical and Technical Advisors receives numerous grants for review. Current studies focus on potential advancements in breast cancer and cardiovascular disease. Ongoing studies include research into regional anesthesia and point of care ultrasound, antimicrobial stewardship, and pediatric oncology.

Funding for grants is made possible through the Heineman Foundation for Research, Educational, Charitable and Scientific Purposes, Inc., and the James H. Heineman Endowment.





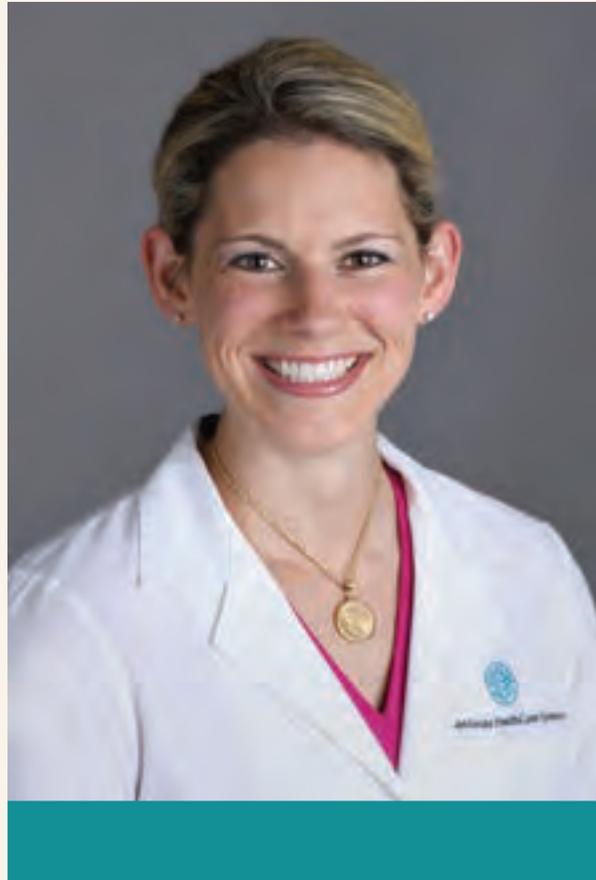
**Arielle L.
Heeke,
MD**

Assistant Professor,
Breast Medical Oncologist
Atrium Levine Cancer
Institute, Charlotte, NC

Can a simple blood test reliably predict disease progression in patients with metastatic breast cancer? That's the question a study by Arielle Heeke, MD, and sub-investigators is aiming to answer. The test looks for circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA)—genetic material shed by cancer cells—using a cost-effective method called low-pass whole genome sequencing (LP-WGS).

By tracking changes in ctDNA levels of 20 patients with aggressive breast cancer subtypes over time, researchers hope to identify early signs of cancer progression before they appear on traditional scans.

The goal is to determine if ctDNA changes can predict disease progression and treatment response, potentially reducing the need for frequent, expensive imaging. If successful, this approach could provide a less invasive, more accessible way to monitor metastatic breast cancer—and eventually other cancers as well.





Bartolomiej Imielski, MD

Assistant Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery Wake Forest School of Medicine
Co-Pi of the Cardiothoracic Research Lab, Winston-Salem, NC

Vasoplegia, a serious complication affecting about 5% of heart surgery patients, causes dangerously low blood pressure due to the vascular system's failure to constrict. Dr. Imielski and his team are investigating the role of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system (RAAS) in this condition, aiming to predict and prevent it through blood analysis.

Preliminary findings support their hypothesis: patients with vasoplegia show a blunted renin response and lower angiotensin II levels after surgery. Despite a small sample size, the team observed significant differences between patients, suggesting a strong link. These promising results pave the way for larger studies and future trials using exogenous angiotensin II to treat at-risk patients more effectively.



Ongoing Research

Barys Ihnatsenka, MD

Department of Anesthesiology
University of Florida Medical Center
Research: Regional Anesthesia and Point of Care Ultrasound

Denise N. Fraga, MD

Department of Emergency Medicine,
Atrium Health
Research: Point of Care Ultrasound

Lee Morris, MD MSPH, DTMGH

Department of Pediatric Infectious Disease
Atrium Health
Research: Antimicrobial Stewardship

Cody C. McHale, PhD, and Dhananjaya Pal, PhD

Levine Cancer Institute, Atrium Health
Department of Translational Research
Wake Forest Baptist Cancer Center
Research: ATRA/CDK4/6 Inhibitor Combination Synergistically Reprograms Glycolytic Metabolism and Chromatin Remodeling in MYCN-Amplified Neuroblastoma

Kaitlyn H. Smith, PhD

Research Scientist
Levine Cancer Pediatric Oncology Translational Research Laboratory Atrium Health
Research: Mass Cytometry Analysis of Ewing Sarcoma Tumor Cell Subpopulations Treated with Targeted Agents in Addition to Standard of Care Chemotherapy

Elinor Wahl DeHoog: Leaving a Legacy of Benevolence

Elinor Wahl DeHoog has been a cherished friend and supporter of the Heineman-Robicsek Foundation (HRF) since the 1980s. Her enduring connection to the foundation began through a personal introduction to its mission and people that would shape her legacy in meaningful ways.

Elinor was born in Berlin, Germany, in May of 1924. In 1939, her family fled the country when the Nazis seized both their home and family business. According to family lore, Elinor and her mother escaped to London with only some jewelry hidden in the linings of their coats. Elinor remained in London throughout the Blitz and until the end of World War II. She vividly remembers spending time in underground air raid shelters and the constant feeling of being wet and cold.

Elinor's father and brother also managed to escape, but the family was not together, as her parents were in the midst of a divorce when the war began. After the war, Elinor and her mother immigrated to New York City, where her mother later remarried. Elinor went on to attend school in Pennsylvania. As a young woman, she lived in New York City before marrying Stephen Wahl, a surgeon who was also an artist and a collector of European Impressionist art. They had one son. Dr. Wahl passed away in the 1960s, when their son was around seven years old.

Elinor established a successful psychotherapy practice, focusing on young adults and the challenges of living and working in New York. In the 1980s, she met James (Jimmy) Heineman, who introduced her to the cardiovascular work of HRF in North Carolina, Guatemala, and Honduras. Through Jimmy, she met Lilly and Dr. Francis Robicsek, with whom she quickly became close friends.

Elinor grew increasingly interested in the foundation's mission and was eventually invited to join the HRF board.

Her deep understanding of the foundation's impact, combined with her admiration for the Robicseks, led her to leave a significant gift to HRF: the Stephen Wahl and Elinor Wahl de Hoog Endowment.

In 2024, the award was presented to former HRF board member Dr. Jeko Madjarov and his foundation, the Dr. Robicsek Center for Excellence in Chest Wall Reconstruction. Dr. Madjarov's project, Future Directions for Dr. Robicsek's Legacy, honors the work and vision of his longtime mentor.

Impact Powered by In-Kind Partnerships

Chiquita Brands Drives Progress

From moving medical equipment across borders to sharing stories that inspire action, the mission of Heineman-Robicsek Foundation (HRF) continues to be strengthened by partners who lead with purpose. In 2024, we're especially grateful for the unwavering support of Chiquita Brands and Satori Marketing, whose contributions are helping to deliver health, hope, and healing throughout Central America.

Chiquita Brands once again stepped up in a major way, donating ground transportation to ship 10 containers filled with critical medical and educational supplies valued at \$80,000 to Guatemala and Honduras. By repurposing empty shipping containers, Chiquita not only delivers lifesaving medical equipment and supplies, as well as computers for education, but also furthers its commitment to reducing carbon emissions and giving back to communities in need.

Over the years, Chiquita has helped facilitate the delivery of tens of thousands of pounds of essential items, supporting both healthcare systems and educational institutions in regions where they are most needed.



Satori's Storytelling Touches and Changes Lives

Behind every lifesaving effort is a story that needs to be shared—and that's where Satori Marketing comes in. Led by founder and CEO Marché Warfield, Satori continues to offer pro bono strategic support for HRF's website, social media, and the production of this very annual report.

“The mission of HRF is deeply personal to me,” said Warfield. “My team and I are proud to use our creative talents to make sure HRF's incredible work reaches—and moves to action—people around the world.”

Satori's powerful storytelling has helped bring our initiatives to life through award-winning visuals and content that not only inform but inspire.



Both Chiquita and Satori are purpose-driven organizations that consistently champion causes far beyond their core business. From addressing food insecurity and environmental sustainability to helping change lives for foster children and raise awareness of animal welfare, they are true advocates for change. And we consider their in-kind partnerships with HRF to be invaluable.

HRF is honored to work alongside such generous, mission-aligned partners. Their contributions—whether logistical, creative, or both—are central to advancing our vision of equitable access to healthcare and education in communities that need it most.



In Memoriam

James E.S. Hynes

July 22, 1940 – October 28, 2024



The International Medical Outreach (IMO) Program mourns the passing of James Edgar Suffern Hynes, a longtime friend, generous supporter, and steadfast champion of global health. Born in Mecklenburg County, Jim graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and went on to attend

Naval Officer Candidate School, an early reflection of the discipline and leadership he would carry throughout his life. A man of broad horizons, Jim was an avid traveler who explored more than 80 countries, and a voracious reader who sought understanding and connection wherever he went.

His curiosity was matched only by his deep generosity. For over three decades, Jim served on the HRF board, providing strategic guidance and tireless support from 1989 until his passing in 2024. His contributions were instrumental in shaping many of HRF's international efforts. Together with his beloved wife Peggy, Jim played a vital role in supporting HRF's work in Central America, particularly the development and expansion of the Neonatal and Pediatric Intensive Care Units at the National Hospital of Escuintla in Guatemala. His vision and dedication helped bring critical care to some of the region's most vulnerable patients, leaving a legacy of healing and hope. Jim's generous spirit, thoughtful leadership, and unwavering belief in the power of medical outreach will continue to inspire all of us at IMO. We are profoundly grateful for the years he gave to this mission and will honor his memory by continuing the work he held so dear.

R. Stuart Dickson

August 18, 1929 – May 11, 2024



The Heineman-Robicsek Foundation (HRF) fondly remembers Rush Stuart Dickson, a longtime Atrium Health advocate and leader who generously supported HRF's medical research and outreach efforts for nearly 50 years. Stuart's unwavering dedication included serving

on the Foundation's board since 1977. Born in Charlotte, North Carolina, Stuart attended local public schools and Charlotte Country Day School before graduating from Culver Military Academy in 1947, where he earned a JROTC commission in the United States Army. An influential member of the Charlotte community, Stuart played a pivotal role in transforming the city's economy during his leadership at Harris Teeter Super Markets. An avid outdoorsman with a keen sense of adventure, Stuart was known for living life to the fullest. A man of deep and quiet faith, he was equally recognized for his generosity and steadfast support of the healthcare community. Among his many accomplishments, Stuart considered his most rewarding achievement to be his 40 years of service as Commissioner of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Hospital Authority (now Atrium Health), including 25 years as Chairman.

According to Gene Woods, CEO of Advocate Health, parent company of Atrium Health, Stuart's visionary leadership is woven into the very fabric of Atrium's success. In honor of his life and legacy, Stuart's longtime friends Howard C. "Smoky" Bissell and the late James E.S. "Jim" Hynes made a \$5 million gift to Atrium Health. The funds are supporting the construction of a state-of-the-art advanced care facility at Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center, designed to meet the expanding healthcare needs of Charlotte's rapidly growing community. The facility's two-level skybridge, connecting the existing Rush S. Dickson Tower to the new advanced care building, will be named in Stuart's honor — a meaningful tribute to his lifelong commitment to connecting people and ideas in pursuit of better healthcare.

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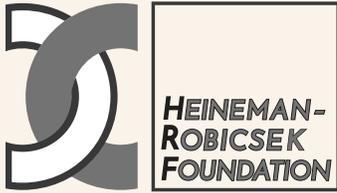
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Heineman-Robicsek Foundation, Inc. (HRF) has been supporting research and humanitarian projects since 1940. HRF was best known for its national and international achievements in research, as well as medical achievements in the metropolitan Charlotte area. HRF later added medical and educational assistance programs to its portfolio, to promote sustainable healthcare services and enhance living standards globally. In addition, HRF addresses the global disparity gap in healthcare by donating and shipping medical supplies and equipment to countries in need. HRF's educational programs bring together clinicians from the U.S. and other countries to share best practices, sponsor health screenings, promote public awareness of pressing healthcare concerns and support modernization of healthcare facilities. HRF maintains close working relations with Atrium Health, Atrium Health Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute and, more recently, the University of Florida - Gainesville, whose clinical personnel volunteer to perform or support the delivery of complex medical procedures, education and training in partner facilities abroad. Finally, HRF collects and delivers computers for public schools in Guatemala. Heineman-Robicsek Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are tax deductible.

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Atrium Health

Atrium Health is a nationally recognized leader in shaping health outcomes through innovative research, education and compassionate patient care. Based in Charlotte, North Carolina, Atrium Health is part of Advocate Health, the third-largest non-profit health system in the United States, which was created from the combination with Advocate Aurora Health. A recognized leader in experiential medical education and groundbreaking research, Wake Forest University School of Medicine is its academic core. Atrium Health is renowned for its top-ranked pediatric, cancer and heart care, as well as organ transplants, burn treatments and specialized musculoskeletal programs. Atrium Health is also a leading-edge innovator in virtual care and mobile medicine, providing care close to home and in the home. Ranked nationally among U.S. News & World Report's Best Hospitals in 10 pediatric specialties, including a tie for first in the Southeast for Best Children's Hospital.

Advocate Health is the third-largest nonprofit integrated health system in the United States – created from the combination of Advocate Aurora Health and Atrium Health. Providing care under the names Advocate Health Care in Illinois, Atrium Health in the Carolinas, Georgia and Alabama, and Aurora Health Care in Wisconsin, Advocate Health is a national leader in clinical innovation, health outcomes, consumer experience and value-based care, with Wake Forest University School of Medicine serving as the academic core of the enterprise. Headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina, Advocate Health serves nearly 6 million patients and is engaged in hundreds of clinical trials and research studies. It is nationally recognized for its expertise in cardiology, neurosciences, oncology, pediatrics and rehabilitation, as well as organ transplants, burn treatments and specialized musculoskeletal programs. Advocate Health employs nearly 162,000 team members across 68 hospitals and over 1,000 care locations and offers one of the nation's largest graduate medical education programs with over 2,000 residents and fellows across more than 200 programs. Committed to equitable care for all, Advocate Health provides more than \$6 billion in annual community benefits.

advocatehealth.org



