

# HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

## REI-Cuba—

### A Humanitarian Effort

In September 2000 the AAO-HNS participated in a joint humanitarian exchange in Havana, Cuba, with REI (Resource Exchange International) of Colorado Springs, CO. This was the first official medical exchange between the two countries in more than 40 years, and begins an educational exchange that will cover otology, endoscopic sinus surgery, and head and neck surgery.

The exchange is under the direction of **Byron Bailey, MD** and **Lou Shomette, JD** of REI; Academy members **Norman Friedman, MD (CO)**, **Gus Gill, MD (CA)**, **Jim Brown, MD (CA)**, **Larry De Santo, MD (AZ)**, **Ray Jorgensen, MD (AZ)**, **Marvin Culbertson, MD (TX)**, and **Richard Wagner, MD (NV)** lectured and performed surgeries with our colleagues in Havana. Time was also spent defining the terms, goals, and realistic expectations of the otolaryngology service in Cuba.

The exchange program took place at the Callixeo Garcia Hospital in Havana, the oldest and most renowned hospital in Havana. The facility includes a full hospital, as well as schools in medicine, nursing, and pharmacy. The Otolaryngology Department is housed in its own building and consists of three operating rooms, an outpatient clinic with eight exam rooms, lecture room, and a patient hospital with beds for 25 patients.

With an average daily census of 150 patients, the full-time faculty along with the residents, including ones from Honduras, Chile, and Bolivia, perform all aspects of otolaryngologic surgery including, most recently, cochlear implants.

Future plans for the program include biannual trips to Cuba where instruction in endoscopic sinus surgery, pediatric otolaryngology, and head and neck surgery will be addressed. It is also anticipated that in the near future a fellowship training program will open up between the two countries.

Any Academy member interested in making donations of equipment or supplies should contact the Academy website at [www.entnet.org](http://www.entnet.org) and list their information under REI-CUBA, or call REI-CUBA at 877-734-8438. All donations are tax deductible.

*The REI Group*

### Volunteers Needed in Brazil

Clinical volunteers are needed in the State of Ceara, Brazil. Service for one week, up to one month, is needed. For further information, visit our website [www.entnet.org](http://www.entnet.org) and click on Humanitarian.



The REI group obviously enjoyed their stay with their Cuban colleagues and captured the moment to take with them.



Adrian Cairns, MD (Covington, LA) examined an outpatient in Vietnam.



Ron Deski, MD (Houston, TX) taught an endoscopic procedure in Vietnam.