

House
Ear Team
Makes A
House Call
...in
Africa



MISSION:

To provide ear surgeries for
needy patients in Ethiopia

AS part of the “House” mission to educate ear, nose and throat (ENT) doctors around the world, a House Clinic otology fellow and a House Ear Institute CARE Center audiologist went on a 3-week medical mission trip to Ethiopia in June 2006. House Clinic otology fellow Joni K. Doherty, M.D., Ph.D., and HEI CARE Center audiologist Danielle Dzubak, Au.D., joined Global ENT Outreach founder Richard Wagner, M.D., to provide ear surgeries to patients at two hospitals in Addis Ababa, reaching people who would otherwise have no access to surgical treatment for their hearing loss. Drs. Doherty and Wagner also provided specialized surgical training to Ethiopian ENT physicians who observed or assisted the surgeries. An additional benefit of the mission was the portable audiometer audiologist Dzubak took with her

to Ethiopia, which not only helped them provide hearing tests to patients but allowed the team to compare their hearing test results with the results provided by equipment at local hospitals. Because they found hospital equipment to be faulty or inconsistent, they identified an audiologist with good equipment at a local Deaf school, to which the local physicians can refer their hospital patients for future testing – a crucial aspect of rehabilitation and post-op care. Overall, the House team felt it was an amazing experience all around.

“Hearing loss is only now being acknowledged by the World Health Organization as a major disability, and I was thrilled to be a delegate on this mission to serve hearing loss patients in Ethiopia,” said Dr. Doherty, House Clinic. “We didn’t understand the scope of the problem until we got there. Ten percent of the

About the House Clinic

The House Clinic is a private medical practice specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of ear diseases, hearing loss and related disorders that involve the facial nerve, acoustic tumors, skull base, otologic allergy and the balance system. The trademark of the House Clinic is demonstrated success, superior outcomes and compassionate patient care, using cutting-edge diagnostic and treatment capabilities. As an affiliate of the House Ear Institute, a non-profit research organization, physicians of the Clinic volunteer their time teaching specialty courses in otology and otolaryngology through the Institute’s Education Program. To date, nearly 25,000 doctors worldwide have received training at the House Ear Institute and House Clinic facilities. For information on House Clinic and the scope of its practice, please call (213) 483-9930 or visit www.houseearclinic.com



Drs. Doherty and Wagner (center) and colleagues in Ethiopia

Danielle Dzubak, Au.D., screens a patient



ear problems and there is a significant shortage of ear surgeons. Our team performed 60 surgeries on this trip and all the people we served were wonderfully gracious and genuinely appreciative, which made the experience even more rewarding for us.”

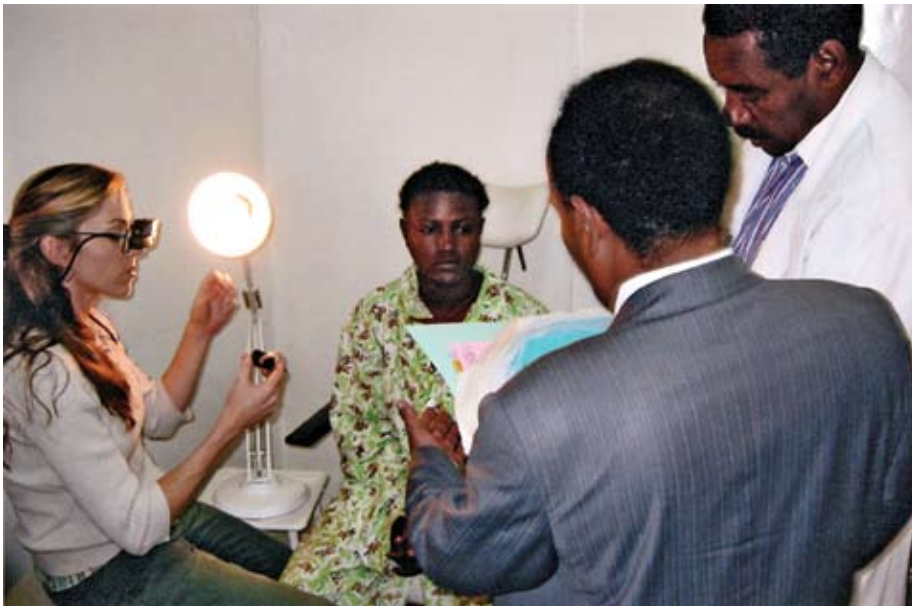
The otology team joined other delegates who provided various medical services to Ethiopian citizens through the support of the government’s Ministry of Infrastructure, the Ethiopian North American Professional Association, and Ethiopian businessman Mohamed Al-Amoudi. The trip was so successful, House may send another

“ear team” to Ethiopia next year.

“I applaud House for allowing their clinical fellow and audiologist to travel beyond borders and provide expert medical service to help address worldwide hearing health problems,” says Dr. Wagner, Global ENT Outreach. “It is unusual to see this type of joint effort between a fellowship program in otology and a non-government organization, and I hope this successful trip sets a precedent for future medical missions with House Clinic fellows to help those with hearing loss in underserved countries.” ❖

About Global ENT Outreach

The core goal of Global ENT Outreach (GEO) is to support efforts that will reduce the burden of ear diseases in developing and low-income countries. GEO places a priority on three strategic areas: surgical training of physicians worldwide, so they can become self-sustaining and help meet their countries’ needs; provide international service opportunities to medical students, ENT residents and fellows, interested ENT physicians; and provide surgical services to the underserved who suffer from hearing loss, allowing them improved access to education, work and the tools needed to fulfill their human potential. For more information about GEO, please visit www.geoutreach.org.



Dr. Doherty and local colleagues with a patient

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