

How the GPC Positively Influenced the Creation of GASHU to Support Urology in Haiti

The Global Philanthropic Committee (GPC) has positively influenced urology world-wide through various philanthropic and educational endeavors. The positive effect that the GPC has had on Urology in Haiti is yet another success story of the GPC. Because of the dedication and diligence of numerous leaders of the GPC, the mission and vision of a group of Urologists dedicated to helping Haiti are being fulfilled step by step, while the welcoming and cooperative Haitian Urologists and residents are feeling encouraged by the efforts.

The creation of the **Global Association for the support of Haitian Urology (GASHU)** has been influenced by the collaborative efforts of the GPC, generous donors like Karz-Storz -Endoscope and many other organizations and partners.

On August 26, 2016, **the Societe Haitienne D'Urologie (SHU) and GASHU recently signed the official signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the SHU and the University Hospital St. Francois de Sales** in Port-au-Prince , Haiti on the premises of the newly built hospital. This MOU holds promise to allow more frequent and efficient surgical workshops to take place in Port-au-Prince (Capital of Haiti) while allowing maximum resident participation and better comfort and travel arrangements for international volunteers.

About Haiti:

Haiti, officially the Republic of Haiti, is a sovereign state in the Western Hemisphere. The country is located on the island of Hispaniola, in the Greater Antilles archipelago of the Caribbean. It occupies the western three-eighths of the island which it shares with the Dominican Republic. Haiti is 27,750 square kilometres (10,714 sq miles) in size and has an estimated 10.6 million people, making it the most populous country in the Caribbean Community and the second-most populous country in the Caribbean as a whole. The country gained its independence on Jan 01, 1804 . The current GDP is \$8.88 billion USD (2015). It is well recognized that Haiti has one on the most under-developed healthcare systems in the Americas.

Background Information:

For more than 20 years, foreign urologists have independently provided direct patient care in Haiti or conducted educational seminars to share their expertise with fellow Haitian colleagues. In general, these activities have operated independently without cross-coordination and thus have failed to achieve their full potential.

Creation of Global Association for the Support of Haitian Urology (GASHU)

To overcome these shortcomings, several Haitian, American, and International Urologists have dedicated great efforts and resources for the past 5 years towards numerous seminars, workshops, AUA supported Ultrasound Workshops and two-day conferences in Port-au-Prince (2013, 2014). This has helped the organization overall to evolve into a better organized and coordinated Urology Association. The newly named Global Association for the Support of Haitian Urology (GASHU) will be able to streamline these efforts in order to maximize the positive impact to urology training, practice and patient care in Haiti. GASHU has recently identified the newly built Hospital St Francois de Sales (Port-au-Prince, Haiti) as one of the premiere hospitals in Haiti which offers great potential for the training of Residents and the development of surgical workshops. The geographic location and infrastructure of Hospital St Francois de Sales (SFDS) are superb. The capacity of this newly built 22.5 million dollars University Hospital includes: 190 beds, 5 large operating rooms, one ICU, 6,000 outpatient consultations per month, 2,000 surgeries a year and 3,500 hospitalizations. The new structure has forty single rooms with single beds and twenty rooms shared between 2 and 8 beds.

The current staff consists of 25 medical doctors, 70 nurses, 90 assistants, 18 laboratory technicians 4 laboratory technicians and one chaplain. This number will increase to 291 at the end of 2015 to reach 372 employees during the second year of operation.

The Haitian Clergy and Leadership at SFDS are very welcoming and eager to help the Haitian Community at large.

Of interest, Urology was not included in the initial strategic plan until the hospital was approached by the Societe Haitienne D'Urologie (SHU) and the

Global Association for the Support of Haitian Urology (GASHU) - leading to the signature of the memorandum of Understanding and the GPC initiated by Karl –Storz endoscopic instrument's donations on August, 26, 2016,

This significant collaborative effort between University Hospital SFDS ,SHU and GASHU holds great promise to change the landscape of urologic care in Haiti. It is supported by several influential global Urology organizations and international leaders in the field of Urology.

The members of these efforts include the American Urologic Association (AUA) the Global Philanthropic Committee (GPC) , Societe Internationale D'Urologie - SIU, International Volunteers in Urology (current named IVU-Med) Association des Medecins Haitiens a l'Etranger (AMHE) , Societe Haitienne D'Urologie (SHU) , Genito-Urinary Reconstructive Surgeons- GURS, Project Haiti, Notre Dame Filariasis Project, and Konbit Sante to name a few.

A Clear Mission:

The Mission of the Organization is to improve academic urologic training in Haiti by working with the residents and to better coordinate the efforts of non-Haitian urologists contributing to urologic care in Haiti. This will also improve access and quality of urological care in Haiti. Another focus point of our mission is to increase educational awareness towards the Haitian public on the importance of urologic disorders. This mission will be completed through various media outlets and activities.

Accomplishments

By working with our partners through the GPC and major donors like Karl Storz and others we have secured the following equipment:

1- Endoscopic instruments worth more than \$350,000.00 donated by Karl Storz through the GPC. These instruments were divided and delivered to St Francois de Sales, Catholic Charity Hospital (Port-au-Prince) on August 26, 2016, to Les Cayes (State Hospital) July 12, 2016, and State Hospital Justinien (Cap Haitian), on August 22, 2016. These instruments will allow for adult and pediatric endoscopic treatment of prostate and bladder diseases.

2- Three ultrasound and endoscopic units donated to the HUEH (Hospital de L'Universite D'Haiti) by Drs. Henri Lanctin (Project Haiti) , Angelo Gousse (AUA liaison to Haiti) , Catherine DeVries and Gopal Badlani (former Secretary of the AUA) . The ultrasound equipment will allow for prostate

examination and biopsy, as well as imaging of the upper (kidneys) and lower (bladder) urinary tract. Prostate cancer is very prevalent in Haiti and these technologically-advanced units will significantly help with earlier detection of prostate disease.

3- A dedicated GPC-sponsored Urology Nurse who will oversee the care of the instruments and help with medical staff training and coordination of the Workshops.

4- Numerous previous Workshops, Training of Haitian Urology residents in the United States at Fundamentals of Urology (AUA) Didactics Course , Fellowship Training of Young Haitian Urologists (SIU –GPC) , and AUA sponsored Hands-On Ultrasound Course in Haiti

Future Equipment to Arrive:

1- Holmium Laser Technology

2- Extracorporeal Shock Wave Lithotripsy

These machines are state of the art for the management of kidney, ureteral, and bladder stones.

Future Academic Activities:

Future GASHU Conference at Karibe Hotel (October 29-30, 2016) where many International and Haitian Urologists and residents will be presenting their clinical and academic experience in Urology during the two day conference.

Future Workshops for the year

1- Vesico-Vaginal Fistula

2- Endoscopic Stone Surgery

3- Laser management of urologic disorders

The SHU and GASHU thank the GPC and Karl-Storz for their unwavering support of their mission and educational vision for Urology in Haiti.