

# 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY **CCPF**

CHILDREN OF CHINA PEDIATRICS FOUNDATION  
*Transforming Lives through Medical Missions*

Fall 2023 –  
Winter 2024

**I.M.P.A.C.T.**  
**Newsletter**

The past year has been filled with exploration and optimism. In January 2023, we organized two exploratory mission trips to expand our reach and offer crucial care to African and Indian children. The Tanzania team, led by CCPF Board members Dr. Heakyung Kim (Director of Rehabilitation Medicine) and Dr. Eda Chao (Pediatrician), along with CCPF volunteer Pediatric General Surgeon Dr. Suzanne Yoder, traveled to Mwanza for a deep dive look into a collaboration with Bugando Medical Center. Simultaneously, CCPF Co-Medical Director and Board member Dr. Connor (Pediatric Urologist) and CCPF volunteer Dr. Parul Bahl (Pediatrician) went to Bhubaneswar, India to assess several institutions.

Meanwhile, despite U.S.-China political challenges, our long-time collaborators at Jiangsu Provincial People's Hospital in Nanjing (JSPH) contacted us in June. The pandemic left many children neglected and in need of CCPF's expertise. The hospital wants to prepare a mission trip as soon as possible. This invitation underscores the need for CCPF's proven, multi-disciplinary approach to disability care that is uncommon in China, and around the world. JSPH emphasized that our international collaboration sets the standard in China for true charity work. It also underscores the quality of our long-term care, mutual educational exchange, and the strength of our relationship-building, which are all cornerstones of our work.

CCPF China Medical Director and Board member, Dr. David Roye, works at several hospitals including



*Dr. Roye and his eleven year-old patient before surgery.*

Shenzhen Children's Hospital where we have held missions and he has trained Chinese Fellows. Dr. Roye works there twice a month and witnesses first-hand CCPF's continued impact. Namely, treatment for disabled orphans and children from indigent families, which continues to flourish at this hospital. This allows Dr. Roye to guide treatment on past patients and conduct long-term follow-up studies, as well as treat new cases.

However, he says many severely disabled children are told there is nothing that can be done to help them, thereby denying them care. He endeavors to change that mindset, not only by teaching cutting-edge technique but by instilling CCPF's philosophy that ALL children are deserving of the best medical care and need to be valued, regardless of their disabilities. These are the principles he operates on and are CCPF's philosophical underpinnings he teaches in China.

# China

One such case Dr. Roye handled recently was an eleven year-old girl with SED disease, which is a form of dwarfism. Her legs and spine were so badly deformed she was losing the ability to walk and experiencing significant pain.

Remarkably, she was not abandoned at birth and her parents, who are financially disadvantaged, have cared for her as best they can. Dr. Roye and his Chinese colleagues took on her case by doing a reconstruction of her limbs. Then she was placed in halo traction so he could operate on her spine. She was in the hospital for 8 weeks but is now at home, walking without pain and with a more normal stance and gait. Dr. Roye will be following her progress for years to come. Other families and orphanages with children suffering from the same disease heard about the success of this treatment. Dr. Roye and his Chinese colleagues are now starting to treat a second similar case.



*In head traction before spinal surgery.*

It is no surprise that Dr. Roye was the recipient of the 1st Guangdong Friendship Award, which he says is rooted in his CCPF work treating children with cerebral palsy and other disabilities. He said that he wouldn't be in China today if he had not been invited to join a CCPF mission in 1999 and subsequently joined our Board. His approach to complex cases has exponential impact. It advances technique that can benefit many children while demonstrating that what may



*Post-surgery X-Ray with spinal implants.*



*Pre-op team led by Dr. Roye preparing for the complicated surgery.*

appear to be hopeless cases are, in fact, filled with possibility.

Building on CCPF's accomplishments over the past 25 years in China providing crucial care for disabled children, we devoted the past year to researching and identifying remote locations where we hope to expand our impact.



*Post-surgery check-up.*

Argentina, The Philippines, India, Ghana and Tanzania were explored. Mwanza in Tanzania and Bhubaneshwar in India were selected based on the potential impact that CCPF's model can offer, with a team of multi-disciplinary pediatric specialties, educational exchange and relationship-building. Both places present unique opportunities and challenges but share in common the need to grow pediatric surgery and rehabilitation.



*Dr. Roye receives the 1st Guangdong Friendship Award on March 13, 2023.*

# Tanzania

Bugando Medical Center (BMC), in the city of Mwanza, is a referral, consultant and university teaching hospital for the Lake and Western zones of Tanzania. It serves a population of 18M, accounting for roughly a third of the country's inhabitants. Dr. Eda Chao summarized the exploratory trip by saying that many children have unusual and complex issues who could benefit from CCPF's multi-disciplinary, sub-specialty expertise. Although the hospital has dedicated pediatric intensive care units and operating rooms, pediatric surgery is incorporated within each adult sub-specialty department. Dedicated pediatric surgical expertise needs to be developed. Furthermore, Bugando's pediatric out-patient department can only treat one specialty per day. Our team met with the head of the hospital and chiefs in all surgical



*Dr. Heakyung Kim, CCPF Director of Rehabilitation Medicine at Bugando Medical Center, Mwanza, Tanzania.*



*Bugando Medical Center prosthesis lab.*

departments, and they are eager for a collaboration to help treat a high percentage of children that do not have health

insurance. Dr. Heakyung Kim has worked at BMC in the past and could contribute immensely to their rehab and orthotics departments, namely physical, occupational and speech therapy, as well as prosthesis.



*CCPF and Bugando team. Front row right Dr. Chao, Dr. Kim, Dr. Wajanga (BMC Director of Medical Services), Dr. Yoder, Liz Vinton CCPF Co-Executive Director. Back row BMC physicians and administrators.*

# India

The city of Bhubaneshwar, with a population of close to 1M, has only one children's hospital with 2 operating rooms. Although the city has several other hospitals, their pediatric surgery and rehab are covered by adult sub-specialists. At best, one pediatric surgeon is on staff part-time. Dr. Connor

led the exploratory trip to Bhubaneshwar that met with the leadership at 5 hospitals and 2 foundations for disabled children. The meetings were set-up by a colleague who supports local charities, along with the founder of CureBay, which is an online clinic that reaches millions in remote areas, provides initial

diagnosis and connects patients with hospitals that can treat them. Many of the patients are children with complex medical issues.

Through these contacts, CCPF connected with other non-profit organizations that treat disabled children and met with Dr. Sruti Mohapatra, founder of the Swabhiman State Disability Information and Resource Centre. Without a doubt, the need for pediatric surgeons and rehabilita-

tion therapists is crucial. Dr. Connor noted that CCPF could contribute significantly to developing greater pediatric care in Bhubaneswar.



*Dr. Sruti Mohapatra is India's leading disabilities activist.*

## Your contribution has direct **I.M.P.A.C.T.** on the health of the children

- \$5,000** allows 5 children to receive rehabilitation therapy
- \$3,500** covers costs for medical instrumentation for implants
- \$2,500** contributes to medical team travel expenses
- \$1,000** enables 2 virtual rehab training sessions that will help many children
- \$500** enables a patient and caregiver to travel to the hospital
- \$250** covers medical supplies
- \$100** updates medical charts
- \$50** covers the cost for X-rays

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