



The Foundation for International Education in Neurological Surgery



FIENS has a mission. YOU can help.



- People suffering traumatic brain injuries and neurological diseases in underdeveloped countries have far less access to treatment than those who live in the developed world.

To meet this need, we **DEPEND** on volunteer support, membership, and **YOUR** donations.



Who we ARE is what we DO.



Answering a critical need. — In some parts of the world access to neurosurgical care is almost non-existent. In these countries, traumatic injuries of the brain and spinal cord are common and rare congenital disorders and infections of the nervous system are more prevalent. Where care does exist, neurosurgeons can find themselves in poor conditions with outdated equipment, inadequate medical supplies, and little or no training in newer neurosurgical techniques.

Sharing the gifts of modern technology. — In the 1960s, a group of dedicated neurosurgeons banded together to do something for the state of neurosurgery in developing countries. Their organization, founded in 1969 as the Foundation for International Education in Neurological Surgery (FIENS), sends volunteer neurosurgeons to these regions to teach neurosurgical techniques and procedures, to help establish neurosurgery residency programs, and to improve patient care.

Education is job one. — Because many developing nations have difficulty training their own neurosurgeons, they rely on organizations like FIENS for help with clinical support and education. During visits, FIENS volunteers are often called upon to assist local neurosurgeons, operate on patients, and take on the most difficult cases. Volunteers with sub-specialty experience are often the first to introduce new procedures to a country or region. Providing this form of support empowers and enables neurosurgeons in developing countries to build up their own neurosurgical education programs and to provide quality care for their patients.



Center: Dr. Nakaji supervises surgery at Hospital Escuela Antonio Lenin Fonseca in Nicaragua.



Our volunteers are a special breed. — Each week, FIENS receives inquiries from neurosurgeons who wish to volunteer for service. Volunteers range in age and experience and hail from nearly every continent. Volunteering includes individually arranged travel to a neurosurgical training site or travel through a FIENS supported residency partnership between hospitals in the developed and developing world.

Volunteers work in difficult and sometimes extreme conditions. They generally spend a month or more abroad, teaching and working with the materials they have available to them. FIENS provides travel expenses and, occasionally, equipment and supplies. The host country sometimes provides accommodations.

Our work speaks for itself. — In the past year FIENS has been actively working at 14 of our sites. Our work has supplied equipments, training, surgical instruments and a wide variety of volunteers. The sites have increased the ability to care for their neurosurgical patients, in addition resident training of the next generation of Neurosurgeons is now active in three continents of greatest need. The work allows our colleagues to build their nation's own medical system with FIENS assistance.

Countries like these face some of the biggest challenges in providing neurosurgical care, but many more need our help. And we need yours. Our mission statement is: To sustainably improve neurosurgical education and patient care in the developing world. The number of countries we can visit and how much help we can provide is limited only by funding.

Top: Dr. Sandberg and the surgical team in Haiti evaluate a child with hydrocephalus prior to surgery.

Center: Haiti landscape.

Bottom: Patient in Africa prepares for a visit with a FIENS volunteer.



Make a Donation

Your tax-deductible* contribution is critical to the success of FIENS. Become a FIENS General Member with a donation of \$100 or more.

Donation Levels:

\$0 - \$99 Friend \$500 - \$999 Benefactor
\$100 - \$499 Patron \$1000+ Humanitarian

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

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**Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

ONE VOLUNTEER'S EXPERIENCE

Mbarra Hospital, Uganda, by Patricia Montagner, MD

While working at the Mbarra Hospital in January of 2014, I took part in the daily schedule of Dr. Kitya, and I came away with a great deal of respect.

The Neurosurgical Program consists of basically him, two nurses and one rotating general surgery resident. So, most of the times, I performed the rounds and took care of the outpatient clinic and the surgeries while Dr. Kitya was teaching at the University or in meetings with the Hospital administrators, trying to strengthen and consolidate the Neurosurgical service.

The hospital didn't have a laundry service, an appropriate kitchen or an oxygen plan. The power problems were frequent and the facilities of the wards were precarious. The team only had two operating room days each

week and often anesthesia teams did not allow a second surgery or emergency cases. It was a challenging environment, but with patience, flexibility and creativity we were able to overcome the difficulties and do our best to help manage the patients.

I found the whole volunteer experience deeply rewarding and was surprised by the great welcome I received. I consider Ugandan people some of the most friendly I have ever met.

* FIENS is a 501(c)(3) organization.

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Payment Options

Please make your **check payable to FIENS** and send it, and this card, to FIENS at the address provided.

Note that we have not included postage in order to save money for our organization.

For your convenience, donations can also be made online at our website:

www.fiens.org.

For questions, please call Frank Culicchia, MD at (504) 349-6985.



The Foundation for
International Education
in Neurological Surgery

The MISSION is critical.

Since 1969, FIENS has participated in the training of neurosurgeons and the development of residency programs on three continents. Our volunteers have visited 27 countries around the world and have helped to treat thousands. Volunteers perform surgeries, teach residents in neurosurgical training programs and train nurses who care for neurosurgical patients.

**FIENS volunteers
have visited the
following locations:**

Africa

Ethiopia
Ghana
Kenya
Nigeria
Rwanda
Tanzania
Uganda
Zimbabwe

Asia

Cambodia
India
Indonesia
Korea (DPRK)
Mongolia
Myanmar
Nepal
Philippines
Thailand
Vietnam

Americas

Belize
Bolivia
Ecuador
El Salvador
Guatemala
Haiti
Honduras
Nicaragua
Peru



Your HELP is imperative.

■ You can help with financial assistance.

In order to continue in our mission, we need financial support so that we can send volunteers abroad. Please visit www.fiens.org (MAKE A DONATION tab), or send your tax-deductible* contribution to FIENS, c/o Frank Culicchia, MD, Attn.: Administrator, 1111 Medical Center Blvd., Suite S-750, Marrero, LA 70072; Phone: 504-349-6985; email: culicchia@aol.com.

■ You can help as a volunteer.

FIENS volunteers are some of the best neurosurgeons in the world. They have to be. They work in extreme conditions, teach with whatever materials they have at their disposal, and improvise on the spot. All are generous and compassionate individuals who bring hope to those who need it most. There are more people in need than

neurosurgeons available. If you are a neurosurgeon who has the unique qualities to join us, consider volunteering.

For more information, contact Ravneet Kaur at info@fiens.org, or visit our website at www.fiens.org.



*Far Top Left: Dr. Haglund
teaches in Uganda.*