The goal of World Clubfoot Day is to raise awareness about clubfoot disability and its prevention using the Ponseti Method. Ponseti International Association (PIA) has designated June 3rd as World Clubfoot Day. The date was chosen to commemorate the birthdate of Dr. Ignacio Ponseti, (1914 -2009) the developer of the Ponseti Method to treat clubfoot.

This year was the first annual World Clubfoot Day, and the global response was outstanding.

**Nigeria**

In conjunction with a 2-day workshop, World Clubfoot Day was celebrated in Abuja, Nigeria. The event was jointly sponsored by PIA and USAID. There were many local and national dignitaries present, including the Honorable Minister of Health, President of the Women’s Foundation of Nigeria, and the Chairman of Military Medical Corps.

The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Olayinka Adegbehingbe, representing Ponseti International as Nigeria’s champion. He lamented the inadequate number of orthopaedic surgeons in the country and called for more health professionals to be trained in the Ponseti method. Dr. Sarah Jibril, Special Adviser to the President on Ethics and Value, gave a speech with a promise to ensure clubfoot clinics in all 774 local government areas of the country.

**Bangladesh**

Zero Clubfoot, the Sustainable Clubfoot Project of Chittagong Division, successfully organized a rally to raise awareness about clubfoot deformity. The participants were the youth forces from Leo Club of Chittagong, honorable members of Lion Mukhlesur Rahman Foundation (LMRF), and clubfoot born babies and their parents. Media personnel from local and national radio and TV channels were present to cover the event.

**South Africa**

In South Africa, STEPS Charity sent out a press release to various newspapers, blogs and radio stations. Founder, Karen Moss, was interviewed by a community radio station on a program called Building the Nation, which focuses of health. The Star, which is a huge community newspaper in Gauteng, also featured an article on World Clubfoot Day.

**Pakistan**

An awareness program to celebrate World Clubfoot Day was held in Karachi, Pakistan. The event was organized by the Ponseti International Pakistan, Jinnah Post Graduate Medical Centre, Pakistan Orthopaedic Association and the Indus Hospital. It was attended by over 250 audience members. Dr. Bhatti of JPMC Jinnah Hospital gave a wonderful presentation. Chief Justice Rana Bhagwandas was the chief guest and CPLC Chief Ahmed Chinoy was the guest of honor.

**India**

CURE International India led nationwide events for World Clubfoot Day on the 3rd June 2013. Reports of various activities, events and press releases were received from over 16 states. The objective of this national celebration was to bring about the message of the prevalence of clubfoot in India and the availability of free treatment with Ponseti method of clubfoot management in Government Medical Colleges and public hospitals.
A Ponseti Method Workshop was conducted in Toulouse, France this past February 1-2, 2013. The event was held at the Consultations Orthopédie, Salle Philippe Noiret- Hôpital des Enfants and was led by PIA Chief Medical Director Jose Morcuende and Medical Advisory Board Members Anne Ey and Christof Radler. Over 15 trainees from 9 different hospitals received hands on training. In addition, breakout sessions were held covering complex clubfoot, relapses, management of older children and other pathologies, and parent’s educational needs.

Thirty one participants from Portugal, Spain, and Brazil attended the 3rd International Ponseti Course held in Portugal. The atmosphere was great and all participants were very committed to learning the Ponseti Method. The Faculty for the 3rd International Ponseti Course and 2nd European Advanced Meeting for Ponseti Practitioners was Drs. Anna Ey, Christof Radler, Mónica Nogueira and Stephanie Boehm. As local hosts and experienced in Ponseti Method, Cristina Alves, Inês Balacó, Nuno Alegrete and Manuel Cassiano Neves also assisted with both lectures and a hands-on session. The Guest of Honor was Dr. Mesquita Montes, a founder of the European Pediatric Orthopaedics Society and one of the pioneers of Pediatric Orthopaedics in Portugal. We were also privileged to have Dr. Jorge Coutinho (President of SEOI, the Portuguese Society of Pediatric Orthopaedics) and Dr. Manuel Cassiano Neves, the current President of EFORT (European Federation of National Associations of Orthopaedics and Traumatology).

The 2nd European Advanced Meeting for Ponseti Practitioners had 55 Participants, coming from Angola, Austria, Brazil, Egypt, Germany, Portugal, Sweden, Romania, Switzerland, Spain, United Kingdom, Uruguay.

Sixty four doctors and nurses were trained at the Ponseti Method training workshop held in Shanghai, China between June 7-9, 2013. These healthcare providers came from over 15 institutions across the Sichuan Province, as well as the Shanghai jiao Tong University School of Medicine. The workshop was led by Dr. Monica Nogueria of Brazil and Dr. Li Zhao of China. The group of trainees is pictured on the right.
Ronald McDonald House Grant Helps Train the Trainers

Ponseti International received a grant from Ronald McDonald House Charities to train 20 international physicians over two years (2012-2013) at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. The grant sponsors healthcare providers to travel to Iowa for three weeks to learn the Ponseti Method first hand in the clubfoot clinic. In addition, the funds help support a PIA representative to conduct a follow-up visit in the trainee's home country for quality assurance measures. This program helps identify and train champions who can engage local stakeholders and healthcare providers in order to achieve the goal that each country can develop their own national clubfoot program.

In 2012, the grant made it possible for PIA to sponsor 8 providers from Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia, Armenia, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, and Brazil. In 2013, there will be 13 different healthcare providers coming from Somalia, Trinidad, Liberia, Iran, Indonesia, Argentina, Tanzania. This year we have already trained providers from Zanzibar, Indonesia, Georgia, and Drs. Edwin Valencia and Geovanny Oleas of Ecuador (pictures).

In addition to the RMHC grant, On His Path will be sponsoring two doctors from Guatemala to train this year. An additional doctor from Indonesia will be able to train here by way of a generous donation from Dr. William Jackson.

If you are interested in sponsoring a Ponseti Fellow, please contact Cathy Grothe at cathy-grothe@uiowa.edu.

Upcoming International Trainings

- **El Salvador** July 20-21, 2013
- **Ecuador** August 22-23, 2013
- **Thailand** August 12, 2013
- **Russia** September 6-7, 2013
- **Croatia, Hungary, Bosnia, Montenegro, Kosovo** September 9-10, 2013
- **Kazakhstan** October 19-20, 2013

Several Ponseti Faculty Trainers Featured in Orthopedics Today Europe

Several PIA designated Faculty Trainers were featured in the cover story of the May issue of Orthopedics Today Europe. The article discusses the paradigm shift to the Ponseti method, relapses and compliance, and current genetic research on clubfoot. Drs. Jose Morcuende, Christof Radler, Wallace Lehman, Joshua Hyman, and Monica Nogueira were quoted in the article.

“The truth is that treatment of clubfoot is changing, and over the last 10 years, the Ponseti method is becoming the standard of care.”-Dr. Jose Morcuende
The Ponseti International Association is collaborating with partner organization Management Sciences for Health (MSH) on a two-year, nearly $2 million project to increase access to treatment of clubfoot deformity for thousands of children in Peru, Pakistan, and Nigeria. The grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development, provided through MSH’s Leadership, Management, and Governance Project, will broaden the use and understanding of the Ponseti Method in these countries. In the early stages of this project, the focus has been on establishing active champions in each country, engaging local stakeholders, and developing a country-wide plan of activities and objectives. PIA staff has also been providing training in the use of the web-conferencing system and the International Clubfoot Registry. Pakistan has been enthusiastic about using the International Clubfoot Registry to track their patient’s progress over time.

The project staff will be making regular visits to Nigeria, Pakistan, and Peru to assist and evaluate the efforts of in-country champions to promote the identification, referral, and treatment of the thousands of children born in those countries with the deformity. Ponseti International staff traveled to Nigeria in June as part of the USAID-funded project. To begin the trip, Edith Parker (Evaluator), Tomeka Petersen (Project Manager), Olayinka Adegbahingbe (Nigerian Champion) and Tom Cook (Chief of Operations PIA) participated in the Nigerian stakeholders meeting in Lagos. Besides Olayinka, there were seven orthopods and the new Field Representative that is coordinating the USAID project. The stakeholders are a very dedicated group and most of them participated in the 2009 training workshop at Ile-Ife. During the meeting, the team formulated a workable strategic plan for eventually covering the entire country (180 million population). The plan includes holding five regional workshops targeted at specific areas for adopting the Ponseti Method and setting up dedicated clinics. We believe that Nigeria is well on its way to developing a model program for sub-Saharan Africa!

On June 25th, the team visited the Federal Medical Center in Obeokuta, Nigeria. The Medical Center serves a population of 15 million in southwestern Nigeria. The picture above (left) includes Dr. Olayinka Abegbehingbe (next to Dr. Cook and Dr. Parker) and two of the attending physicians at the Medical Center. The children in the photo are undergoing Ponseti treatment for clubfoot.

PIA staff is preparing to visit Pakistan July 14-19th and Peru August 17-24th to meet with champions and stakeholders to strategize how to ‘roll out’ a national clubfoot program. In addition, Ponseti International Pakistan (PIP) has formed through the collaboration of Dr. Mansoor Khan, our champion and orthopedic surgeon at Indus Hospital, and orthopedic surgeons, Drs. Bhatti, Pirwani, and Iqbal, who hold key positions within the national Pakistan Orthopedic Association (POA). Pictured above (right), together they formed Ponseti International Pakistan to work with PIA staff towards eradicating clubfoot in Pakistan by the year 2020.
SAVE THE DATE: 3rd International Clubfoot Symposium

Join us as we celebrate Dr. Ignacio Ponseti’s 100th Birthday on June 3, 2014 in Barcelona, Spain at the 3rd International Clubfoot Symposium. In 2012, we celebrated the incredible strides made worldwide in clubfoot treatment and renewed the Promise Made that together we can eradicate untreated clubfoot. Our mission continues in 2014 in the birth country of Dr. Ponseti. More details about the venue and hotels will be released soon.

When: June 2-4, 2014
Where: Barcelona, Spain

How YOU can get involved with Ponseti International

1. Become a Member of Ponseti International

We invite you all to become official members of PIA! Go to www.ponseti.info and click on “Become a Member” in the upper right hand corner of the website. Then choose which member type you are: Advocate Membership is open to any individual (parent, friend, researcher, public official, etc.) who supports the stated vision, mission, and activities of Ponseti International, but is not active in the diagnosis and treatment of individuals with clubfoot. Healthcare Professional Membership is open to any person who is active in the diagnosis and treatment of individuals with clubfoot using the Ponseti method and who meets the criteria listed on the website.

2. Follow Us on Social Media

Ponseti International is growing rapidly on Facebook and Twitter. Follow us on Twitter and “Like” us on Facebook today!

3. Create a Personal Fundraising Page

You can support our mission and activities by creating your own personal fundraising page! Click on this link to walk you through setting up your page, then share with your friends and family.