3rd International Clubfoot Symposium Will Honor Dr. Ponseti

Commemorating his 100th Birthday in Barcelona, Spain

On June 2-4th, 2014 the clubfoot community will gather once again for the 3rd International Clubfoot Symposium to be held in the beautiful city of Barcelona, Spain. The theme of the upcoming International Clubfoot Symposium is Celebrate the Past, Create a Pathway for the Future. In celebration of what would have been Dr. Ignacio Ponseti’s 100th Birthday, everyone will gather at the Fira Palace Hotel to remember his life and great work. Please join us for this very special event!

International Clubfoot Symposium:

Celebrate the Past
Create a Pathway for the Future

Look for a Special Newsletter with more information about the International Clubfoot Symposium COMING SOON!

◊ Registration Information
◊ Hotel Information
◊ Tentative Program
◊ Call for Abstracts and Posters
◊ Celebration for Dr. Ponseti’s 100th Birthday

June 2-4, 2014 Barcelona, Spain
FIRA PALACE HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER
Avinguda Rius i Taulet, 1-3, 08004 Barcelona

Want to help? A generous donation of $1,000 will provide funding for one Ponseti doctor to attend the Symposium. However, any donation is appreciated!

CLICK HERE TO DONATE
The 3rd Advanced Nordic Ponseti Clubfoot Course was held on June 13th-14th in Odense, a region of southern Denmark. The course was hosted by the Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology at Odense University Hospital. There were 70 participants (doctors, nurses and physiotherapists) representing 10 different countries.

The Thai Ponseti Clubfoot Group held the first ever Ponseti clubfoot workshop on August 12th, 2013. The training was held at Siriraj Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand and had 32 participants from several different country hospitals. PIA Chief Medical Director, Jose Morcuende, was able to Skype in during the morning sessions to give several lectures and discuss case studies.

A workshop was held at the Hospital Pediátrico in Quito, Ecuador this August. PIA-Ecuador Chapter is part of the PIA Latin America Chapter. The original members who created the PIA-Ecuador Chapter are Dra. Patricia Díaz, Dr. Luis Rojas, Dr. William Pilco, Dr. Paul Zambrano, Dr. Jhonny Melgar, Dr. Mario Murgueitio, Dr. César Quiróga, Dr. Bozidar Vodopivek, Dr. Edwin Valencia, Dr. Pablo Sánchez and Dr. Geovanny Oleas (left). PIA-Ecuador Chapter has the endorsement of the Ecuadorian Society of Orthopaedics and Traumatology (SEOT) and its Pediatric Committee.

On September 6-7th, 2013 there was a training held in St. Petersburg, Russia. There were hands-on sessions with both infant patients and older children. The training was hosted by The Turner Scientific and Research Institute for Children's Orthopedics.
Spotlight Interview: The Footnote Film Project

We caught up with the producers of the Footnote Film Project, a documentary being filmed by two young people with a dream to capture the experience of clubfoot in the developing world. Zach Gorelick and Hannah Silverstein will leave their home in North Carolina this September on a cinematic journey across the United States and to New Zealand, Vietnam, and Ghana.

Q: What are your backgrounds and how did you become connected to clubfoot?
Zach: I was born with bilateral clubfoot and had surgery at four months old. In 2013, I graduated with a degree in Journalism from the George Washington University. Despite having a high standard of living, I still deal with a large amount of daily pain in my feet. Still, I am aware of just how lucky I am to have been treated in an area of the world with the resources to care for my clubfoot.

Hannah: I received a degree in International Health from Georgetown University in 2013. In 2012, I designed and conducted qualitative research project in Ghana which evaluated a program targeting mothers and children to improve health and economic empowerment. I spent almost 4 months in Ghana and saw several cases of untreated clubfoot. Before my time in Ghana, all I knew of clubfoot was through Zach. Once I saw these individuals, I understood how fortunate Zach was to receive treatment, and realized how limiting clubfoot is if left untreated.

Q: Why you decided to start the documentary project?
A: We decided to do the project to raise clubfoot awareness in the developed world. Here in the U.S., clubfoot treatment is the norm. Even though this is wonderful - that children born with clubfoot can receive treatment - the actual issue of the burden of clubfoot in poorer countries remains a 'sight unseen.' While in the developed world, where we actually have the resources to make a difference, there is a lack of awareness among the general public. This results in less charitable action, positive foreign policy, and aid activity being devoted towards the effort to treat clubfoot worldwide. In short, every positive course of action on clubfoot begins with awareness. This film aims to accomplish that.

Q: What are your plans? Where will you be traveling and who will you be talking to?
A: This is a HUGE, but exciting undertaking. We plan on documenting global clubfoot treatment efforts in the U.S., New Zealand, Vietnam, and Ghana. We are visiting Ponseti International Association and the Ponseti clinic in Iowa, traveling across the country (and a little bit of Canada) to interview parents, patients and doctors, and all of this before we go abroad. In New Zealand, we'll be in Auckland, talking to high-level physicians, in Vietnam and Ghana we'll be touring clinics and hospitals associated with both their respective National Clubfoot Programs. We have been in correspondence with many international clubfoot organizations. Our trip to Iowa will include an interview with Dr. Jose Morcuende.

Q: What are you most looking forward to?
A: We are looking forward to documenting the successes of international efforts to address clubfoot. It is our hope that the documentary will raise awareness to the point that resources will become available to expand access of treatment to more and more children who need it. While we'll likely see things that will break our hearts, we're looking forward to the inspiring stories of overcoming adversity that we know exist around the world.

Q: What aspects of clubfoot treatment around the world do you hope to capture through film?
A: We hope to capture the successes. We want to portray that the life of an individual born with clubfoot is one of hope and productivity. This condition does not have to mean a lifelong struggle with disability if adequate treatment is available. We also want to emphasize the importance of the Ponseti Method in treating clubfoot globally.

Q: What avenues will you use to promote your documentary once it is finished? Will it be available for everyone to see?
A: We're not quite sure how we'll be releasing this film - but our goal is to get as many eyes on the screen as possible. We want people to see this. It won't be private, it won't be hard to find. We are seeking the highest level of mass distribution that we can find.

To learn more about The Footnote Film Project, check out their website at http://www.footnotefilm.com/. Ponseti International Association is happy to collaborate on this project and we wish them the best of luck in their endeavors. We can’t wait to see the final product!
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.

**Pakistan**

The Ponseti International staff traveled to Pakistan on July 12-19th as part of the USAID-funded project to promote the Ponseti Method for treating clubfoot. This is the first official trip to Pakistan to focus on the grant. Various stakeholders’ were able to come together to discuss future grant activities, which will build the capacity of health care providers, local health institutes and the country’s health care system to treat all children born with clubfoot.

A few highlights of the trip include meetings with USAID representatives and two Ministries of Health (Sindh & Punjab province) to discuss program objectives facilitating stakeholders’ meetings in Karachi and Islamabad with over 14 doctors, and 3 completed clinic visits and meeting with a Rotary Club of Lahore that expressed interest in developing a partnership to assist children (and their families) that are receiving treatment. The trip concluded with a dinner with members of the Pakistan Orthopedic Association. Overall, it was a very successful trip and a lot was accomplished in these early stages of the grant. A future workshop is planned in November just prior to the national Orthopedic Conference being held in Islamabad. For a more detailed outline of what was completed during the trip, visit our website.

**Peru**

Dr. Morcuende and Tomeka Petersen traveled to Lima, Peru in August 2013 to meet with project champions, Dr. Hersey Barriga and Liliana Mayo, PhD. and stakeholders’ to learn more about the current status of clubfoot treatment in Peru and to strategize how to roll-out a national clubfoot treatment program. Dr. Gilberto Rios of Shriner’s Hospital, Mexico City also traveled to Lima to assist with the Ponseti method training that occurred August 18 – 23 at Hospital del Nino, Peru’s national children’s hospital.

During the week, two orthopedic surgeons from Cuzco, Dr. Darwin Garcia and Dr. Carlos Caparo and one orthopedic surgeon from Arequipa, Dr. Hector Velarde joined the Hospital del Nino clubfoot clinic staff to receive Ponseti method training, International Clubfoot Registry and web conferencing training. Dr. Edgar Ramirez of USAID Peru was able to meet with Dr. Morcuende and Tomeka to discuss the project and how best to proceed. He was able spend several hours at Hospital del Nino on Tuesday, August 20th for meetings with champions and Ministry of Health official. Following the MoH visit, he returned to Hospital del Nino to visit the new clubfoot treatment rooms at Hospital del Nino.

On August 20th, Dr. Ramirez, Dr. Morcuende and Tomeka joined Dr. Barriga, Dr. Thomas, Dr. Caparo and Liliana Mayo during a meeting with Ministry of Health official, Dr. Cecelia Lengua, General Director of Health of the People to provide an overview of the project goals and objectives, project activities planned through September 30, 2014 and the importance of establishing national guidelines stating Ponseti method as the treatment of clubfoot. Dr. Barriga shared with Dr. Lengua that he has written guidelines that have been implemented at Hospital del Nino. Dr. Barriga will provide those guidelines to Dr. Lengua for her review and consideration.
Collaboration with AAOS International Scholars Program

Ponseti International Association is collaborating with the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) to establish an AAOS-Ponseti International Association (PIA) Scholarship, which will be awarded to one recipient per year in the years 2014 and 2015. The $5,000 scholarship award will fund the recipient’s visit to the University of Iowa to train for two weeks under the direction of Dr. Jose Morucende and his colleagues. The AAOS-PIA scholarship recipients will be selected by PIA based on selection procedures and candidate qualification criteria to be determined by PIA in the next few months. Together, AAOS and PIA will review and select the best candidate. The selected scholarship recipient will be announced in the last quarter of the preceding year or in the first quarter of the scholarship year. To ensure each international scholar is performing the Ponseti method for the treatment of clubfoot to highest standards, there will be a six month post-program evaluation of the recipients in-country progress. We are very excited about this opportunity to co-sponsor this scholarship with AAOS and to train two promising orthopaedic surgeons from around the globe!

Ponseti Indonesia Foundation (PIF)

The newly developed Ponseti Indonesia Foundation (PIF) has started to hold meetings and has already recruited ten doctors who wish you be active with the cause! PIF will be in charge for sustaining medical service for clubfoot patients by coordinating resources from governmental institution as well as from public resources. They also hope to increase the social awareness and responsibility for early detection and management of clubfoot using Ponseti method by running national campaign for Clubfoot Indonesia and hosting a World Clubfoot Day event. PIF has also discussed ways to enhance compliance for patients—possibly through providing a homestay near the clinic or finding ways to reimburse transportation cost. The PIF program would also like to establish a national call center for any clubfoot patients who need assistance find the right doctor to deliver the Ponseti method properly. We look forward to watching this PIA chapter grow!

Training Doctors, Isidor Ngayomela (Tanzania) and Miguel Paz (Argentina) spending quality time in the clinic and at the Ronald McDonald House.

Dras. Julia Nino and Lourdes Berrios from Guatemala sponsored by On His Path.

World Clubfoot Day

It’s never too early to start planning for next year’s World Clubfoot Day! We have put together a WCD Toolkit with everything you need to help plan your next clubfoot event.