

## MOST Mission Statement

Mercy Outreach Surgical Team is a volunteer group dedicated to providing medical and surgical care to needy children and adults of other nations. Our mission is threefold:

- To bring hope, comfort and the opportunity for a better life to children and adults through corrective surgery;
- To share medical knowledge and expertise with colleagues in a host country;
- To provide an opportunity for team volunteers to experience the spiritual rewards of service.

In addition to caring for those in need of surgery, MOST shares valuable knowledge and medical techniques with local physicians and nursing staff in Mexico.



To avoid confusion, the children are photographed on clinic day and assigned a number, which is pinned to their gowns as soon as they are dressed for surgery. Then they wait in the pre-op holding area and play with toys to pass the time. This toy is a favorite, since its characters speak Spanish.

Each year, MOST provides care during field programs, when surgical teams with needed supplies and equipment travel to Mexico to set up surgical programs in local communities.

San Diego Rotary Club members and representatives from cities in Mexico coordinate these efforts and contribute to the logistics and support of the programs. Volunteers donate time and contribute to the expenses for the field programs. Most of the equipment and supplies are also donated.

MOST is supported by donations of personal skills, money, supplies and equipment. Tax-deductible donations may be made to:

**Mercy Hospital Foundation (MOST)**  
4077 Fifth Avenue, MER 99  
San Diego, CA 92103-2105  
(619) 260-7350



As soon as it is safe, patients are reunited with their parents. They may still be sleepy, as these two are, but soon they will be ready to go home, wearing new clothes provided by MOST volunteers and donors.

## Board of Directors

### Executive Board

George Ochoa, *President*  
Salvador Hernandez, *Vice President*  
Kim McEvoy-Dodson, R.N.,  
*Secretary*  
William Ward, *Finances*  
Douglas Arbon, M.D., *Medical Director*

### Board Members

Robert Cairncross  
Samuel Carpenter  
Kent Diveley, M.D.  
Ricardo Escandon  
Beth Ilko  
Larry McCarthy, M.D.  
Harry O'Halloran, M.D.  
Patricia Robinson, R.N.  
Molly Schmeltzer, R.N.  
Stacey Schultz, R.N.  
Thomas Vecchione, M.D.  
Jordan Waldman, M.D.

### Ex-officio

Thomas Gammieri  
Karen Stone  
Sister JoCeal Young

### Advisory Board

Thomas Sullivan, M.D., *Chair*  
William Davidson, M.D.  
Robert Jacobs, M.D.  
William McDade, M.D.  
Eugene Rumsey, M.D.  
Michael Sise, M.D.

### Lead Volunteer

Patricia Robinson, R.N.



The easiest way to weigh a little one: Have them sit down! Taking weight and height measurements is one of the jobs done by non-medical MOST volunteers.

## Mercy Day – Tijuana

Many friends of Mercy Outreach Surgical Team (MOST) have expressed regret that Scripps Mercy Hospital no longer hosts Mercy Day. Unfortunately, as concerns over border security have increased, the bureaucratic barriers to bringing hundreds of needy children to Mercy have become more difficult to overcome. The answer: hold Mercy Day in Tijuana.

In September 2004, MOST physicians, nurses and other staff visited the Hospital Inglés in Tijuana to conduct 75 surgeries to correct strabismus (crossed eyes). The clinic treated children from Tecate, Rosarito and Tijuana.

MOST wishes to thank both the Hospital Inglés and the Centro Social Israelita for all their help with Mercy Day. In 2005, MOST plans three Mercy Days in Tijuana.

# Mercy Outreach Surgical Team

Spring 2005



## Mission to Tula

In early November, Mercy Outreach Surgical Team (MOST) visited Tula de Allende, Hidalgo, near Mexico City, and performed more than 300 reconstructive surgeries and other procedures for 215 patients.

Using three operating rooms and six tables, the team of more than 40 physicians, nurses, translators and volunteers performed a range of procedures, from simple cleft lip repairs to more complex procedures for burn scars.

One of the burn victims was Mariana Tepetilla Loma, age three. When she was six months old, a candle fell into her bed. Her burn scars twisted her foot, making it impossible for her to walk. MOST surgeons were able to release

the burn scars to help Mariana walk and give her a brighter future.

Twice a year, MOST volunteers fly to Mexico to operate on children with congenital defects, burn scars and other conditions. Often, these children have deformities, such as cleft lips and palates, which isolate them from their community. The medical procedures performed by MOST correct the patients' physical conditions and help them integrate into their communities and pursue normal lives.

"One of the greatest rewards of the program is that these procedures provide immediate results to patients and their families," says Thomas Vecchione, M.D., a plastic

surgeon at Scripps Mercy Hospital and MOST board member.

MOST has a unique partnership with San Diego Rotary Club 33, which partners with Rotary Clubs in Mexico to support this massive undertaking. Rotary volunteers scout appropriate locations, recruit local support and provide financial assistance. In addition, the program recruits local physicians and providers to help develop and sustain medical programs in the community.



## Mercy Outreach Surgical Team

Mercy Hospital Foundation  
4077 Fifth Avenue, MER 99  
San Diego, CA 92103-2105



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**P A I D**  
San Diego, CA  
Permit No. 1





*This little charmer, shown with her grandmother, had a severe burn scar and contraction on her ankle released.*



*This mother soothes her daughter with music from a child's toy brought by the MOST volunteers. This girl had the first of many surgeries to correct a severe cleft lip and palate.*



*One of only two patients to stay in the hospital overnight, Victor proudly showed off his drawing of MOST volunteers.*

*Photography: Linda Canada*

## How to Contact MOST

**George Ochoa, Board President**  
(619) 260-7350  
ochoa.george@scrippshealth.org

**Mercy Outreach Surgical Team**  
Scripps Mercy Hospital, MER 99  
4077 Fifth Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92103

## To Volunteer For MOST

Here is some important information for those wishing to volunteer for a week-long surgical mission to Mexico:

- You must be 18 or older.
- You must be willing to participate in the entire week-long program.
- Volunteers are chosen based upon their skills and the needs of the team.
- In order to streamline the mission, a limited number of staff participate.
- Team credentials must be sent to Mexico six months prior to the mission.
- The majority of procedures are plastic and eye surgeries.
- Our most pressing needs are operating room nurses and techs as well as recovery and discharge nurses.
- Interested physicians and nurses must send a copy of their license and curriculum vitae to the MOST office with a letter describing their skills and interest in the program.

The same guidelines apply to those interested in volunteering for a program in Tijuana.

## Local Students Receive Ear Tubes

In October, Dr. Ronald Benz placed ear tubes in nine San Diego students at Scripps Mercy Hospital. The students had been selected for the procedures due to recurrent ear infections and poor access to medical care. Ear tubes reduce the rate of ear infections, improving students' hearing, attendance and academic achievement.

## So Little to Change a Life

Because Mercy Outreach Surgical Team relies on volunteer physicians, nurses and other staff, the average cost of a surgery is only \$250. Your support helps MOST bring the benefits of corrective surgery to hundreds of children each year. We thank you for your generosity.



*On clinic day, patients' diagnoses are confirmed and surgeons see them for the first time. This young girl would soon have surgery to correct her strabismus (crossed eyes). The marks on her forehead were made by eye surgeon Dr. Amir Pirouzian to show how the correction should be done.*

*We are grateful to the following people and organizations who contributed to MOST between April 1, 2004 and December 31, 2004.*

Mr. and Mrs. Walter P. Acosta  
Mr. and Mrs. Gerard A. Antekier  
Dr. and Mrs. Douglas H. Arbon  
Ms. Helen Bartolotta  
Benson Family Foundation  
Ms. Benigna P. Bergado  
Ms. Betty A. Binggeli  
Mr. Don E. Boucher  
Mr. Carl V. Cargill, Jr.  
Mr. Samuel Carpenter  
Ms. Ellen M. Casey

The Century Club of San Diego  
Ms. Barbara K. Cook  
Mr. Robin Dauphinais  
Ms. Grace De Ocampo

Dr. and Mrs. Joseph B. Devin  
Ms. Anne Donahue  
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Anthony Flynn  
Mr. Eugene M. Foster  
Ms. Judy S. Friedland  
Estate of Pearl Friedland

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Fritzenkotter  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard R. Garcia  
Mr. and Mrs. Luis A. Guevara  
Dr. and Mrs. Paul A. Guiles

Ms. Sheilagh Hall  
Mrs. Lucille D. Happ  
Mr. George M. Hecht  
Dr. John W. Holl  
Mr. James M. Hughes  
Mrs. Doris P. James  
Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur E. Johnson

Mr. Michael &  
Dr. Nancy Olmsted Kaehr  
Dr. Robert S. Kahn  
Mr. James J. Kane  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. King  
Mr. William Hart Knight  
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Langley  
Mr. and Mrs. Jaime Liwerant

Ms. Mary Jill Magri  
Dr. Lawrence J. McCarthy  
Dr. and Mrs. William C. McDade  
Mrs. Gretchen Morgan  
Ms. Donna M. Nagel  
Ms. Mariann Nagel  
Mr. Paul S. Nau  
Mr. William C. Nikovits  
Mrs. Rosalie O'Brien  
Dr. Harry O'Halloran  
Mrs. Maryann Ostermeyer

Mr. and Mrs. Donald C. Phillipotts  
Rotary Club of La Jolla Golden Triangle  
Rotary Club of San Diego  
Dr. William M. Sage

The San Diego Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Sardina  
Ms. Mary Rowan Schmeltzer  
Ms. Charlotte I. Schriefer  
Ms. Stacey Schultz  
SD Medical Federal Credit Union  
Ms. Beatrice E. Searfoss  
Mrs. F. La June Singer  
Ms. Barbara C. Smith

St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing  
Lt. Colonel John E. Stevens  
Mrs. Gladys Tully  
Ms. Luth Velasco  
Dr. and Mrs. Jordan Waldman  
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Walsh  
Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln R. Ward  
Mr. Maurice T. Watson  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul B. Wells  
Sister JoCeal Young  
Ms. Margaret Zale  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard F. Zamora  
Dr. Bradley A. Zlotnick

*If errors or omissions exist, please accept our apologies and call (619) 278-3388.*



*San Diego Rotary Club #33 and three local Rotary Clubs were instrumental in arranging our surgical mission to Tula, Mexico.*

MOST works with Rotary to smooth out the logistical problems of transporting a surgical team, with all its equipment, into another county and making sure that the myriad details are coordinated with the local hospital. The club members also coordinate meals, meeting locations, clinics and equipment checks.

The spirit and the energy is infectious, as the Rotarians willingly pitch in to ensure the success of each mission. MOST would not be as effective without the help of the Rotary, their families and friends.

Thomas Vecchione, M.D.  
Plastic Surgeon

*Would you like to help, too?*

If you wish to be part of the valuable work of Mercy Outreach Surgical Team, please complete this form:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

- Enclosed is my check made payable to: Mercy Hospital Foundation – MOST
- Please send me volunteer information.
- I would like to invite a speaker from Mercy Outreach Surgical Team to make a presentation to my organization/group/school.

Please clip and send this form to: **Mercy Outreach Surgical Team**  
Scripps Mercy Hospital, MER 99  
4077 Fifth Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92103