



SANTE TOTAL

Healthcare for Haiti's Poor

Fall 2017

An OB/GYN In Jacsonville

CPT(P) Heather Irobunda, MD

Setting off on my journey to Jacsonville, I was unsure of what to expect. I had always been told, as long as there are women, I would always be needed. That proved right in Jacsonville. Most of my time in clinic was spent teaching women about their bodies and its normal functions and teaching lessons in hygiene and sexual health. There were few exceptions to this – one of which is most memorable to me. One evening, after our last patient in clinic was evaluated and we were all winding down for the evening, I was summoned to the clinical area, as there was a patient who appeared to be in labor. She was pregnant with her fourth child and from what I could gather; she was not due for about another 6 weeks. She was very uncomfortable and so the whole team sprang into action. Given the time of night, we made a make shift delivery room, just in case her situation progressed rapidly and she would not be able to make it to the hospital in Pignon. After digging through all of our medical supplies, we



May trip members waiting in line for dinner

came up with some instruments and supplies that would assist in a delivery and resuscitation of a neonate. This would be the first time that I had to attempt to create a delivery room from scrap and with the assistance of our dedicated team, we were able to complete the task. Fortunately for us, it was a false alarm for the patient and after watching her overnight in the clinic, she was able to return home. Through my experiences in Jacsonville, from the more mundane health education, to the more exciting near birth experience, I learned that there is a huge need for women's health education. The women that I met and had the privilege of taking care of overwhelmingly were not well informed about normal and abnormal functions of their bodies. Some women were very concerned with very normal occurrences, while others were not alarmed by signs and symptoms that were concerning for troubling diagnoses like endocrinopathies or malignancy. In addition, I also realized that the clinic could probably use an emergency birthing kit, just in case a similar situation (which may not be a false alarm next time) happens again. Overall, it was a very enriching experience and has shown me that there is definitely a need for OB/GYN support for further trips.

First Trip To Jacsonville Haiti But, Definitely Not My Last

By Nicole DeValle, MD, MSPH

From the title of this article it's pretty easy to infer that I enjoyed every moment of my time in Jacsonville, Haiti. With a desire to work in global medicine, I wanted to head off on one more international medical trip before starting intern year where I would, most likely, not be able to travel abroad for some time. However, I did not realize when I signed up for this trip that it would be an organization I hope to volunteer with for many years to come.

It was the week before my graduation from medical school and a group of Tulane University medical students (including myself) met up with the rest of the volunteer group - made up of four attendings, numerous residents, a nurse, an ethics professor & lawyer, and a pre-medical student - in Miami, Florida for our flight to Port-Au-Price, Haiti. There was a great mix of "first-timers", as well as, "seasoned veterans." Something I noticed immediately, as a first-timer, was the excitement of those who had been many times before to get back to Jacsonville; even with a 4-6 hour bus ride through rural Haiti ahead. This, to me, is always a good sign for what's to come.



Group picture of May trip participants

After my week working in the clinic, there are so many components of Sante Total that make it special. This is not a program where foreign medical volunteers drop in, care for local people on a short-term basis, and then leave. True long-term relationships are built. Sante Total makes a point of providing continuity of care in a number of ways. From volunteer groups coming every four months, to the medical record system recently set up, to Gaby being present year-round to follow-up with patients after the week is through; there is a focus on providing quality medical care both while we are there and when we are gone.



Carl and Sarah helping the Jacsonville children gather mangoes in the mango grove after an evening walk around the village

In terms of sustainability, this is a clinic not only supported and run by Sante Total but also by the local community; with many of the local young adults working as clinic staff and interpreters. During my time at the clinic, I had the opportunity to become close with many of the interpreters. I discussed many topics with them, one conversation with Jose (Haitian medical student and clinic staff) in particular stood out. We discussed one of the most important components of why Sante Total is so

successful. The clinic is completely supported by the community because it works without negatively impacting the local medical system. Jose and I discussed how when there is free medical care provided by global medical groups this can negatively impact the local Haitian medical professionals who require a fee for their services. Instead of going to a local doctor, many Haitian people will wait for the free medical care and, thus, some local medical professionals cannot survive. Sante Total requires those who come to the clinic to pay a small, reasonable fee to be seen which helps support the clinic & staff and prevents negative ripple effect on other Haitian medical services in the area. Something that I now realize is extremely important when thinking about global health but often overlooked.

It has been four months since my first trip to Jacsonville, Haiti and I am counting the months until I am able to go again. Thank you to Sante Total, Gaby and his wife, and the entire Sante Total family for such a wonderful opportunity to be a part of your community.



Dr. Gabriel Prager attending to one of his young patients



Third year medical student Geoffrey Guenther getting to know a couple of the children

A Surprise Visitor to the Clinic (August Trip)

MarkAlain Dery, DO MPH FACOI

In 2014, I attended the clinic at Sante Totale as a Tulane faculty member in internal medicine; my specialty, however, is infectious diseases. So, it wasn't a surprise when I was asked to see a 5-year-old boy with purulence emanating from the inferior aspect of his right eye. Upon initial evaluation, I struck with the level of right ocular proptosis and the purulence draining from below his eye. A brief history obtained from his mother revealed an abnormal growth from behind the right eye that began after birth and over time led to the level of proptosis visible in the picture

attached. The boy was now febrile and lethargic, the purulence was foul smelling. His vision was chronically limited in the right eye and now, getting worse. My diagnosis was a slow growing mass in his right orbit (or maxilla) that was also newly infected.

This was not something that was going to be treated with antibiotics alone, let alone the types that we keep at the clinic (i.e., orals). Alison and I got a car and placed the patient and his mom into it and we started looking for hospitals that would accept him- essentially, he needed to have the mass removed, the infection washed out and intravenous antibiotics to be administered.

As we were driving toward Port Au Prince, we were stopping at large hospitals along the way, imploring the physicians to accept the patient for treatment. The fourth hospital, just outside of Port Au Prince agreed to treat the patient.

I have done enough relief work over the past 20 years to know, and be comfortable with treating patients and never knowing what the end result is; however, as a physician who provides primary care for people living with HIV or works in the hospitals, I am quite accustomed to following up with patients to know whether my interventions in their care were beneficial (or not). I had resigned myself for the past several years wondering what became of this little boy.

Then, at my last trip to Jacsonville, who should saunter in looking grown and healthy? Yup, that same little boy. He has no vision in his right eye, and there is a scar on his upper cheek where the mass was removed and infection irrigated, but he is alive and well.

His grandmother quickly hugged me and said 'messi', and the boy 'fist bumped' me which is captured in the below photo.

Before:



After:



Small Successes
Barbara Weis, MD MPH

Every time I go to Haiti, I am angered and saddened by so many of the things I see and encouraged by the small successes along the way. My heart was touched on my fifteenth trip in May by one of those rare moments of success. Two trips in a row, two young men who are hearing impaired showed up and asked for hearing aids. In May, I finally found some rechargeable, all-purpose basic hearing aids and brought them on the trip. When they showed up, I gave them each one. They turned them on, put them in their ears, snapped their fingers next to their ears and then flashed ear-splitting smiles of joy. I was moved to tears by the moment, and had to turn and collect myself, thinking that these moments are what draw me back over and over to Jacsonville. We managed to have a conversation without the benefit of the sign interpreter, and then they showed me a picture of the school they attend where there are 30 more kids who need hearing aids, so stay tuned.....



Dr. Barbara Weis with the successful hearing aid patients

Children's Concert

The May trip was surprised with a concert held by the Children's Choir in Jacksonville. We were happy to hear from soloists as well as young and very talented dancers. We thank them for the wonderful concert, and hope we will have the pleasure of hearing them again at a future visit!



FUTURE MEDICAL TEAM DATES

Jan. 13-20, 2018

May 7-14, 2018

If you are interested in signing up please contact us at santetotal.healthcare@gmail.com in regards to the trips; more information will be available as dates come closer.

Fundraiser

Hosted by: Knights of Columbus



The annual Beers and Brats fundraiser will be on November 2, 2017. The Knights of Columbus, an organization dedicated to charitable acts throughout the community, will host this annual event; each year it brings together many community members both from the church and the surrounding New Orleans community. If you are in the New Orleans area, we hope you can stop by this event and meet donors as well as trip participants! To learn more about how Alison Smith MD, PhD and Ed Ready JD became involved in Sante Total and Knights of Columbus, read the article below:

<http://clarionherald.info/clarion/index.php/news/archdiocesan-general-news/6120-coupleinitiates-mater-dolorosa-kc-haiti-partnership>

Funds needed for Sante Total

Please consider donating to Sante Total. We are running very low on funds which will make it difficult for us to continue to support our projects in Jacksonville.

We are making progress, but please remember we still need ongoing financial support to continue projects throughout the year! Our cupboards are looking quite barren! Even \$20 can go a long way in Haiti. **Please designate: "Sante Total" for your contributions.** There are two ways to give a tax-deductible donation:

1. **Visit our website** at www.santetotal.org and make a donation via Paypal.
2. **Write a check** payable to: "Sante Total" and mail it to: Sante Total c/o E. Alton Sartor 1511 Dufossat St. New Orleans, LA 70115

Sante Total Wishlist

Purchase important medical supplies to support Haitian clinic!

Our wish list can be found here:

<https://www.amazon.com/registry/giftlist/LMFZE20HRC2L>

If you want to avoid making personal contributions, we started to use Amazon Smile, which allows you to donate money to Sante Total while you shop for multiple purchases on Amazon! The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. You can do this in 3 easy steps:

1. Search for: <http://smile.amazon.com>
2. Look up Sante Total under 'organizations'
3. Shop and earn money for Sante Total!

Need gift ideas? Shop online for Sante Total shirts, mugs, baby clothes, etc. They make the perfect holiday/birthday gifts!

Link to merchandise:

http://www.cafepress.com/santetotal?awc=4102_1449203914_18e89914d5d5cd3877110659e0b65ba7&utm_medium=affiliate&utm_source=aw&utm_term=85386&utm_content=0



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March 15, 2017 – August 1, 2017

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