

THE SIR JAMES CARRERAS AWARD WINNER - DR. JOHN L. MYERS

Dr. John L. Myers, Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics at Penn State Hershey Medical Center, was born in Wabash, Indiana, on July 19, 1952. He received his undergraduate degree at Wabash College and graduate degree at the Indiana University School of Medicine. Dr. Myers fulfilled his post-graduate residencies and fellowship at The Milton S. Hershey Medical Center at Pennsylvania State University, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and The Harley Street Clinic Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street in London, UK.

The Academic Appointments and Positions credited to Dr. Myers are extraordinary, as are his accomplishments and contributions to the professional and scientific organizations to which he belongs. Dr. Myers' listing of publications and presentations is remarkable and notable.

Dr. Myers has been involved with Variety Children's Lifeline since the mid 80's when he was a visiting surgeon to The Regional Hospital in Colombia, South America. He continued to go to Colombia and became



Dr. John Myers - 2003 Sir James Carreras Award Winner

a Lifeline Medical Advisor in 1992. In 1998, Dr. Myers initiated the mission program in its current form to provide medical and pediatric surgical cardiac care for the underserved children of Guayaquil, Ecuador. What initially began with two physicians from Penn State working in huts with little equipment, has now grown into a partnership with the newly constructed Hospital de Niños in Ecuador. The Lifeline mission team of 20, including surgeons, pediatric cardiologists, anesthesiologists, nurses and

support staff now travel twice a year to perform surgeries.

Dr. John Myers is unpretentious and humble as he goes about saving the lives of children by surgical interventions. Dr. Myers life's work and practice exemplifies his commitment, dedication and generosity to both the Ecuadorian children and those treated at Penn State Hershey Medical Center.

Variety Children's Lifeline is very grateful to have participated with Dr. John Myers in his perseverance and allegiance to provide education, expertise, life and hope to the children and families of Ecuador.

It is our privilege to present Mr. John Myers as the recipient of the prestigious Sir James Carreras Award at the Variety International Convention in Chicago on April 11, 2003 during the Variety Children's Lifeline Dinner. ✨

Lifeline thanks Aaron and Maureen-Arthur Ruben for their generosity in sponsoring this award.

PENN STATE SCORES AGAIN IN ECUADOR

November 17-26, 2002 - Penn State Children's Hospital, led by Dr. John Myers, 2003 Sir James Carreras Award recipient, returned to Guayaquil, Ecuador in November. This was the fourth pediatric cardiac mission trip from Penn State to provide cardiac evaluations and surgery for the children of Ecuador.

There were approximately 100 children examined, 15 heart operations completed.

Included were 3 closed heart cases and 12 open-heart cases. The youngest child was 9 days old and the oldest was 14 years old, all patients were recovering well after surgery.

Lifeline is honored to be associated with Dr. Myers as a Mission Team Leader and we congratulate and thank him as the deserving recipient of this year's esteemed award. ✨



Yepez Mevizalde, recovering in Ecuador



Editorial from the Chairman
SALAH M. HASSANEIN

To my Fellow Lifeliners, and Fellow Variety Members,
 Our semi-annual Newsletter takes on more meaning with each issue as Lifeline grows around the world, recognized and respected.

It has grown by leaps and bounds mainly because of the support of its constituents, its leading doctors, their support teams, American Airlines and all the other donors.

As I read the articles in this letter, I realized how far flung we have become and how unlimited is our future. As we appraise the situation, it bodes well. We could without much effort increase the number of children we cater to from an average of 400 a year to 1000. We have the infrastructure and the human resources but we do not have the funds. We spend every penny we receive, certainly not on overhead, which remains at 7% of our budget.

I also realized how significant the voluntary contribution by certain tents has been to our program. Each of the following tents is now associated with Lifeline:

Tent 23 – New England - Co-Sponsors the Children’s Feeding Clinic at the University of Massachusetts.

Tent 1- Pittsburgh - Participated in conjunction with the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh and Lifeline in our new “Missions to Tibet and Beijing.”

Tent 15- Iowa - Supports the activities of the Mercy Hospital in Des Moines and indirectly makes possible our Missions to the Yucatan, Mexico.

Tent 25 – Southern California - Contributes annually one Lifeline enrollment to benefit and support Lifeline children within the Tent’s umbrella.

Tent 51- Israel - Together with Lifeline and Save a Child’s Heart has initiated a new combined effort in the Middle East.

Australasian Region III Tents - Support the efforts of Lifeline in Fiji, South Pacific, Papua, New Guinea, East Timor and Solomon Islands.

These are only 6 Tents. Maybe some other Tents would like to join our dedicated group and help us enlarge our scope and enlist the efforts of one of their local medical teaching universities.

If you are so inclined, call me and maybe we could give birth to your own Tent/Lifeline project. Speak to the Chief Barkers of the Tents I have cited and find out the gratification, gratitude and significance of this international collaboration with Lifeline.

In conclusion without mentioning names, because there are so many, let me thank all of those who have helped Lifeline throughout this year for their indispensable contribution.

Yours respectfully,
 Salah M. Hassanein.

LIFELINE HELPS OPEN ICU UNIT AT ROBERTO DEL RIO HOSPITAL

Critical Intensive Care Unit Dedication

Santiago, Chile. **The Plaque** at the ICU reads: “*Stuart and Sheri Jamieson with the assistance of Children’s Variety Lifeline have dedicated this ICU to the children of Chile and our colleagues at Roberto Del Rio Hospital. Across the many miles You are always in our hearts.*”



Sheri Jamieson, pictured here with husband and lead UCSD surgeon, Dr. Stuart Jamieson, and Chilean medical team members, Dr. Guillermo Palominos (right) and Dr. Piwonka (left)

As a direct result of Sheri Jamieson’s significant contribution, this ICU was constructed in the fall of 2002 at the Public Children’s Hospital resulting in a substantial expansion to the capacity of post-operative care. Sheri Jamieson created a legacy through this contribution of \$150,000. She will never meet all of the children whose lives have been saved by this priceless gift.

March 1-10th, 2003 the University of California San Diego cardiac mission team led by Professor and Head of Cardiovascular Surgery, Stuart Jamieson, returned to Santiago, Chile to Hospital Roberto Del Rio resulting in successful pediatric cardiac surgery for eleven children. The cardiologists performed eight successful procedures as well.

On behalf of Lifeline and the Mission to Chile, Dr. Abe Rothman, UCSD interventional cardiologist, successfully facilitated a generous donation of medical devices, valued at \$40,000 from the AGA Medical Corporation. Dr. Rothman was able to utilize these for the eight procedures performed.

Lifeline appreciates the commitment of the UCSD team and their dedication to their correspondent Hospital and medical team in Chile. Lifeline supported the return of Dr. Dan Aguirre to UCSD for additional specialized training to independently perform more complex interventions in Chile. ♥



PORTLAND - PANAMA MISSION

An Overwhelming Success!

The successful composition of this Lifeline pediatric cardiac team has created a meaningful and lasting benefit for the children of Panama. Under the leadership of Dr. Ross Ungerleider and his key insight to the dynamics of true team building, there is now created a solid foundation for the future. October 5th to 12th, 2002, the Portland, Oregon, Doernbecher Children's Hospital traveled to the Hospital del Niño in Panama City to meet their other team members. Together they worked as an integrated, high quality and functional cardiac team, performing surgeries, constructing a skill and relational infrastructure, while dismantling cultural barriers. The future goal is for Lifeline to continue support through medical resource, education and long-term commitment and relationship to the Panamanian team. This team will care for hundreds of children each year independently. A Lifeline mission team would never be able to help that many children in one or two mission trips a year. Thus, the current investment aims ultimately to build capacity and self-sufficiency for Panama's medical team.

Eight children underwent surgery. Their names: Eileen, age 5; Amalia, 19 mos; Yaneth, 3 mos; Jeffrey, 9 mos; Diego, 7 mos; Ismael, 9 yrs; Patricia, 5 mos; and Yeneda, 6 yrs.



Lifeline volunteer and NBC producer Lauren Ina captured this mission on video, which will be presented at the Lifeline Dinner at the Variety International Convention in Chicago. Lauren also captured, in her opinion, significant quotes from the mission's American/Panamanian doctor conferences.



Dr. Dickey, Dr. Ungerleider, Tom Ford, and volunteers Annie Mendenhall and Lauren Ina

The following quotes depict the depth and caliber of this mission:

Tom Ford, Rotarian, Hospital de Nino Board Member—*"I love this hospital and I love this country. But this is a political country. And I think that this is the first time a group came to the hospital and actually made an effort to talk about why they were here, as opposed to just operating and leaving. Tuesday a child died. But at the same time, we know this is a fact of life, no matter how hard we try to save him. We have those children to carry as a memory into our future. We learned that there is a God who at times, touches us on the shoulder and says, 'this child is Mine.'"*

Dr. Sosa, cardiac surgeon
"The week was very, very helpful for us. I think we can make it. The goal should not always be to do 100 cases, but to be able to learn how to give better care after the team leaves."

Dr. Ross Ungerleider, cardiac surgeon
"You can take care of people and they can take care of each other, but you have to provide the context by which they can get things done. Hopefully in the future, we will continue to provide an environment where everyone can get better at not just doing their job, but contributing to a well-functioning team." ✨

LIFELINE HAITI UPDATE

American Haitian Doctors Help Their Native Land

Dr. Patrick Leblanc of The Brooklyn Hospital Center led the neo-natal mission team to Haiti in November 2002. Joining Dr. Leblanc were his colleagues, Dr. Myriam Germain and Dr. Louisdion Pierre. The unique composition of this team is that each doctor is native Haitian with a desire to go back to their volatile homeland and provide neonatal and pediatric education, medications, respiratory supplies and direct patient care. This from their written report:

"We will not be able to find the words to express our gratitude. Kindness toward the poor of this world is a natural inner quality of our soul: reward or word has no meaning. You were not there to see it, but we saw the

effects of kindness in the eyes of the infants, children and their parents, that we had the privilege to serve during our short stay in Haiti. We wish were able to convey this feeling to you: not one day passed without one of us having tears in our eyes from the thanks of a parent, a resident or even an attending pediatrician."

Needs identified: used equipment, warmers, incubators, intra-osseous needles, and pediatric books for their library. In closing the report, the team writes:

"We are hoping, dreaming and constantly planning to do more than we have ever done. But we would not be dreaming planning and hoping if it wasn't for the support of



Hospitalized Haitian child

Variety Lifeline, its members, Salah, Rebecca and the department of Pediatrics at The Brooklyn Hospital Center. In our last day we had a small ceremony where the pediatric residents expressed their feeling of gratitude and that time we all had tears in your eyes. Although we wanted to take credit for this mission, we acknowledge that it will not be possible without Variety. Supplies, medications go hand in hand with time spent, education and love of our brothers and sisters. For ever indebted." ✨

A LENDING HAND - TO MEXICO



David - Another Lifeline Success Story

Meet David, a 13 year old boy from Mexico needing a cardiac catheterization. In June 2002, a San Diego hospital agreed to reduce its usual fee of \$65,000 by 50% to perform this necessary procedure. The family, having lost one child to the same heart disorder, was desperate and prepared to try to get a loan for over \$30,000 with the repayment interest rate in Mexico of 30%. David could not walk very far without support, and a parent had to accompany him to school. A caseworker from the hospital learned of Lifeline and called to request consideration to fund this intervention.

Lifeline then gathered the necessary medical records to approach our "Core" Hospitals to ascertain if David would be an acceptable candidate for catheterization.

Sister Dorothy Ammon, Director of the Heart to Heart program at Schneider Children's Hospital in Manhasset, New York presented David's information to the surgical medical team for consideration. Following requests for updated information, David was accepted.

In October 2002, David, leaning on his mother for physical support to walk, left San Diego to fly to New York, met by Sister D. whose caring and commitment was about to change another child's life. David's surgery went beautifully and a bond of friendship was formed with the medical staff and Sister D. (who tried to "convert" him to a Yankee fan, though David is an avid San Diego Padres fan!) When arriving home, David walked with ease and pride when greeted by his family and Lifeline friends.

David's story is just one more example of the value and significance of Lifeline and its network of reliable medical partners.

The longstanding relationship between Lifeline and North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System continues to annually treat 50 children with cardiac needs from Mexico, Colombia, the Caribbean Islands and as far away as China. Thanks to the Lifeliners who continue to support this enormous effort. This, coupled with American Airlines program "Miles for Kids" permits Lifeline to stretch its mission to serve more children. ♣

DUKE UNIVERSITY RETURNS TO NICARAGUA

Twice a year Duke returns to León, Nicaragua. From January 11-19th, 2003 the pediatric cardiac mission team led by Dr. Stephen Sanders had a few surprises.

Program Director, Mary Barrington reports:

"There were several very significant events that occurred, which clearly prove that we are achieving our goals. To our surprise, the OR and ICU staff in León have been working for three months to prepare for our arrival, organizing supplies and conducting educational refresher courses for themselves. We learned that their team performed 10 pediatric heart surgeries (closed cases) during the last two weeks in November and early December 2002. The patients received follow up echocardiograms by our team and all look fantastic! We have taught them to fish and they are fishing up a storm!"

"The ICU staff asked that we allow them to take the lead and provide back up support and continuing education to the patient care process and to the new technologies that we have had donated to the unit. Nicaraguan nurses who have worked with us over the last 5 years are now able to provide education to new nurses on their staff."

"I am always grateful to Variety Children's Lifeline for all that you do for needy children. Moreover, your organization allows people the opportunity to give in a way that is truly profound."

The Duke team operated on 13 children successfully and examined approximately 115 children in the clinic.

Nicaragua is striving to be independent. We shall help them. ♣



Lifeline Children in Nicaragua

MISSION STATEMENT

Variety Children's Lifeline is a program of International Heart of Variety which provides medical and surgical assistance to underprivileged children in developing countries, primarily in pediatric cardiac surgery and newborn intensive care. This is accomplished either by multidisciplinary voluntary missions and/or by forming partnerships with local hospitals in order that they become self-sufficient and achieve independence in their ability to provide appropriate medical care to children within that country. When necessary, Variety Children's Lifeline brings children requiring specialized or highly technical care to appropriate facilities in the United States or other countries. ♣

LIFELINE AND TENT 1 GO TO TIBET AND BEIJING



One of Lifeline's most recent pediatric cardiac missions represents a collaborative with Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, the Southeast Asia Prayer Center (SEAPC) and Pittsburgh's Variety Tent #1. In Tibet, led by Dr. William Neches, the team successfully repaired the PDA heart defects in five children, using catheter interventional techniques and at the Anzhen hospital in Beijing; a child successfully underwent an open-heart surgery. During the winter of 2003 SEAPC will sponsor training of Tibetan doctors to train at the hospital in Beijing to return to Tibet to treat congenital heart disease and to perform interventional procedures in Tibet.

The cooperative arrangement between the groups in Tibet, Beijing and the U.S. has resulted in a unique opportunity to help the physicians and staff to develop expertise to use newer techniques to treat their patients. As the relationship matures, we anticipate a significant expansion of the mission's scope.

Lifeline appreciates the opportunity to partner with Pittsburgh's Variety Tent #1, the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and SEAPC in this worthwhile endeavor. ✦

LIFELINE AND TENT 23 HELP UMASS



Pediatric Feeding Disorder Clinic motto: *"Never give in, never, never – in nothing, great or small, large or petty—never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense."*

Sir Winston Churchill's words of inspiration describe the several hundred children and their families who struggle daily and never, never give in to the feeding afflictions they experience. Through the long-standing and generous support of Variety Children's Lifeline and Tent 23, the children in our feeding clinic are winning their individual battles under the direction of Dr. Michael P. Hirsh, Chief of Pediatric Surgery.

Whether it be due to premature development of the digestive system, malfunctioning of pulmonary organs, behavioral disorders of facial muscular anomalies, the professional staff and the physicians are committed to assisting children and their families strive toward normal eating functions and the nutritional benefits of traditional eating.

We are proud to be part of a team that never gives in. Variety and Tent 23 have never given in or permitted the children to suffer. Our goal is to continue to expand and provide critical care to more children. It is our mission: it is our responsibility: it is our charge! Heartfelt appreciation is extended to each and every member of Variety Lifeline and Tent 23 that help us continue the help these children!

Submitted by Jenique Radin, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Development

Lifeline and Tent 23- New England, collaborate to sponsor over 250 therapy treatments and consultations for children each year at the UMASS Feeding Disorder Clinic in Worcester, Mass. Thank you, Dr. Aaron Lazare, Dr. Michael Hirsch, Jenique Radin, Matt Sinopoli and James Murray for your partnership with Lifeline. ✦

LIFELINE AND TENT 15 GO TO THE YUCATAN

In November 2002, Dr. Chandramouli from Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines traveled back to Merida in the Yucatan, Mexico where he completed 8 valvuloplasties. Mercy has gained success in building a collaborative with the private hospital CMA, to utilize their cath lab. Mercy also is working with the O'Horan Hospital, (the public hospital) to negotiate setting up a cath lab here as well. The full mission team, led by Dr. Tom Becker to Merida and Campeche in February 2003, triggered additional discussions to develop a greater capacity to treat children in this hospital.

In the fall of 2002, the Des Moines Register newspaper provided wonderful coverage of this project and of Mercy Medical Center helping these Mexican children with genetic heart defects. Lifeline is pleased to be associated with this successful program. ✦



Iowa Variety Tent 15 Chief Barker, Rosalie Gallagher and Dr. Tom Becker, Mercy Medical cardiac surgeon and mission leader, pictured here with Leticia, one of 30 children undergoing heart surgery each year in Des Moines

Lifeline

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Lifeline

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One hundred years from now...

it will not matter how much money I made, the kind of car I drove or the size house I lived in, but the world will be a better place because I was important in the life of a child.

For further information
please contact



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Lifeline wishes to thank American Airlines for their support through the Miles for Kids in Need program, which provides air travel for children requiring surgery.

We ask that the Variety members show favor to American Airlines when they travel.

Upcoming Medical Missions

HOSPITALS	2003 DATES	COUNTRY
Doernbecher Children's (Portland)	January & April 2003	Panama
Mercy Hospital (Des Moines)	February 2003	Yucatan, Mexico
Penn State Hershey	April & November 2003	Ecuador
Duke University	January & April 2003	Nicaragua
Association Del Corazon (Castanada)	Ongoing	Guatemala
University of California (San Diego)	March 2003	Chile
Children's Hospital of Michigan (Detroit)	May 2003	Dominican Republic
Mercy Hospital (San Diego)	February 2003 October 2003	Jalapa, Veracruz-Mexico Zamora, Mexico
Children's Hospital (Pittsburgh)	September 2003	Tibet, Beijing
Chain of Hope (London)	January 2003 February and April 2003	Egypt Mozambique
Brooklyn Medical Center (New York)	November 2003	Haiti

LIFELINE HOSPITALS & CORRESPONDENT COUNTRIES

HOSPITAL/UNIVERSITY

Duke University Medical Center (*Raleigh*)
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
Brooklyn Medical Center
Penn State Hershey Medical Center
North Shore University Hospital, N.Y. (*Cornell*)
University of California San Diego
Mercy Medical Center (*Des Moines*)
Doernbecher's Children's Hospital (*Portland*)
Imperial College of Science, London
(*Co-Sponsored with Chain of Hope, London*)
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Barbados
Corazon A Corazon
Association Del Corazon Infantil
Children's Hospital of Michigan (*Detroit*)
University of Florida, Wolfson Children's
The E. Wolfson Medical Center, Israel
(*Co-Sponsored with Save a Child's Heart*)
UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center

COUNTRY

Nicaragua
Beijing, Tibet
Haiti
Ecuador
Colombia & Caribbean, Jamaica, Trinidad, Guyana
Chile
Yucatan, Mexico
Panama
Egypt, Morocco, Mauritius
Jamaica, Mozambique
Caribbean, St. Lucia, Guyana
Bucaramanga, Colombia
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