

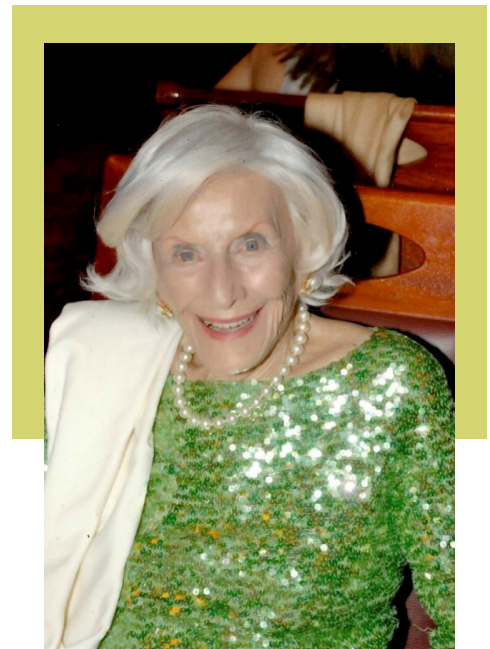


## TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Jane W. Smith was a founding board member of Physicians for Peace (PFP), believing in the organization’s mission to educate and train healthcare providers in the developing world, creating lasting, sustainable solutions and advancements in global health. In recognition of the life-long contributions of Jane W. Smith, her family is raising funds for the naming of a program in her honor. The legacy of Jane W. Smith will reach across borders, associating her with education, training, and the sharing of knowledge between nations. As we celebrate her 102nd birthday, join us in the establishment of the Jane W. Smith Regional Training Program.

### PHYSICIANS FOR PEACE

In 2015 the United Nations updated the Millennium Development Goals first identified in the year 2000, resulting in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) establishing targets for the eradication of poverty, improving health, promoting education, and overall progress of humanity. SDG 3 aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for people of all ages. Improved access to safe, quality surgical care is essential to achieve these targets. Physicians for Peace, with its mission to educate and empower local providers of surgical care to alleviate suffering and transform lives in under-resourced communities around the world, joins with many organizations around the globe to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.



2019 regional training participants pose with PFP volunteer, Michael Serghiou, OTR, MBA after completing hands-on course work in post-operative rehabilitation.

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

Physicians for Peace has been working in Latin America since the 1990s, a region with significant inequities in health care. Over time, PFP has recognized similar challenges exist across the region including access to training in the latest lifesaving techniques and access to critical supplies and materials.

The Jane W. Smith Regional Training Program capitalizes on advancements made in PFP’s earlier training in the region, bringing together health workers from across Latin America to learn and train together, ultimately empowering the propagation of best practices within their respective healthcare facilities and creating a network of specialists to share best practices, alternative solutions, and exchange innovative ideas specific to their similar environments.



NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL THOUGHTFUL GROUP OF COMMITTED CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD. INDEED...IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS.

– MARGARET MEAD

PFP’s training is led by US medical educators to both equip trainees with proper techniques as well as teach and implement the new techniques in ways that are suitable to their own unique environments. Participants in the regional training demonstrate potential for excellence in clinical care as well as aptitude in teaching and leadership skills.



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## 2020 UPDATE

### Training Topic:

The Jane W. Smith Regional Training Program changes in topic, discipline, and location annually based on the gaps assessed in partner locations. To address a critical gap in education, this year's program will focus on training burn unit nurses originally slated to occur in Guatemala in June. The PFP team spent much of the first quarter designing curriculum for the program (a curriculum that can be replicated by unit leaders in the future.)

### COVID-19 Status:

Unfortunately, in mid-March, COVID-19 interrupted our plans. Much of Latin America is seeing COVID-19 cases on the rise. Most countries are under quarantine, borders have been closed, and many have curfews in place to restrict activity. Out-patient surgeries, such as those which address severe scarring and movement related to burns are postponed, and most burn units are unable to continue vital rehabilitation services for their patients. PFP's partner hospitals and clinics in this region are under resourced even at baseline, and they are doing their best to prepare both for the pandemic and the added complications of treatment.

Compounding these efforts, as a result of some of the quarantine realities, partner locations are reporting an increase in child burn cases. The increased number of injuries, coupled with the inability to provide rehabilitation and other patient procedures makes the need for burn injury training important now, more than ever.

## Why is training in burn care important?

EVERY



## FIVE SECONDS

someone in the developing world suffers a burn injury.

- Burn injuries are the fourth most common type of trauma worldwide.
- Non-fatal burns are a leading cause of morbidity, including prolonged hospitalization, disfigurement and disability, often limiting options to earn an income.
- Proper treatment requires specialized care.
- In developing countries, specialized training is limited; skills are often learned on the spot, creating gross disparities in care.



## PFP ADJUSTED ACTION PLAN

Our PFP team is quickly adapting portions of the curriculum to online training so they can begin this vital coursework. Recognizing the importance of the interaction between members of the multidisciplinary healthcare teams, many skills and techniques must be taught in a hands-on environment. With the restrictions in travel and in order to ensure maximum participation, the in-person portions of the Jane W. Smith Training Program are tentatively deferred to 2021.

Despite the complications of addressing this worldwide pandemic, Physicians for Peace remains committed to our vision and mission. The past 3 months have brought to light the fragility and vulnerability of the US health system and our lack of preparedness and capacity to treat and heal our own communities. That sense of vulnerability has given us the power to connect us to the people and communities we serve in low- and middle-income countries around the world. PFP's essential work will aid in building the capacity and developing the resiliency of these fragile health systems so they will be better prepared to heal and restore lives in their own communities for years to come.



*Transformations take place not just in individual empowerment of the healthcare professionals trained, but also in the patients they heal and their families, as well. With their health restored, men, women and children reclaim their lives.*