



BWH DIVISION OF GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY

HAITI: A SPECIAL REPORT

The earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12, 2010, devastated a country already suffering from the effects of poverty and a lack of basic healthcare resources. From the moment this tragedy hit, physicians from the Division of Global Health Equity at Brigham and Women's Hospital were among the many caregivers from Partners HealthCare who worked with Partners In Health, a nonprofit organization affiliated with the Brigham. BWH physicians provide patient care and mentor colleagues at Partners In Health sites around the world.

This special report gives you a look at some ways that global health physicians and residents mobilized a massive and immediate relief effort. Because of our long-standing work in Haiti, our doctors were uniquely positioned to respond. They will continue to help lead Haiti's recovery in the months and years to come.



BRIGHAM AND
WOMEN'S HOSPITAL



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TOGETHER WE CAN



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“As President Clinton has said, ‘Haiti needs to build back better and stronger than before.’ We have already begun to do just that.”

Dear friends,

We are so grateful for the outpouring of support following the January 12 earthquake in Haiti. Your willingness to respond quickly has saved thousands of lives and strengthened on-going efforts to rebuild. This earthquake—the gravest natural disaster to befall this part of the world in modern times—has highlighted some of Haiti’s long-standing medical and public health challenges. The need to improve the quality and availability of healthcare in Haiti can only be met if hospitals such as ours commit to sustained partnerships with Haitian medical institutions. We have already begun to do just that.

In this report, you’ll read about Brigham and Women’s Hospital global health faculty and physicians-in-training who responded bravely to the crisis. Louise Ivers, MD, MPH, Joia Mukherjee, MD, MPH, and David Walton, MD, MPH, were in Haiti in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, working with their Haitian colleagues to provide emergency medical treatment to severely injured patients, coordinating recovery efforts at the main hospital in Port-au-Prince, and working to evacuate the most critical cases to hospitals in the United States, including BWH.

Working alongside them were Evan Lyon, MD, and residents, Natasha Archer, MD, Phuoc Le, MD, and Ranvir Dhillon, MD. Still others, like Koji Nakashima, MD, and Serena Koenig, MD, MPH, cared for the refugees and referrals who flooded Partners In Health hospitals outside of Port-au-Prince. These physicians, along with colleagues from Brigham and Women’s and Partners HealthCare, all responded with great courage, compassion, and skill.

As President Clinton has said, “Haiti needs to build back better and stronger than before.” Today, with Haitian colleagues, BWH faculty and residents are advancing a renewed and broad-based effort to build health systems capable of providing effective service delivery to a people in great need.

I am proud to be part of our hospital, its Division of Global Health Equity, and Partners In Health, and am especially proud of the extraordinary clinicians we have trained and teams we have built. It is gratifying to see the fruits of our shared commitment to research, teaching, and service made manifest in the clinical and programmatic work being done every day in Haiti. And I feel fortunate to serve alongside Brigham colleagues including my former teachers, Harvard Medical School classmates, and co-residents—and, of course, the current and former students who are the future of our division and of this work. They are all living links between settings of great need and the vision of global health equity as it should be, whether in Haiti, the United States, or elsewhere.

Thank you for all you have done and for your commitment to Haiti.



PAUL FARMER, MD, PhD

Chief, Division of Global Health Equity
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Harvard Medical School

Co-founder, Partners In Health

SPOTLIGHT ON GLOBAL HEALTH

FACULTY IN HAITI



*“I’ve worked in Haiti
for seven years, and
I’ve never seen
such suffering.”*

LOUISE IVERS, MD, MPH

LOUISE IVERS, MD, MPH

When the earthquake struck, Louise Ivers, MD, MPH, a BWH infectious disease specialist in the Division of Global Health Equity, and the clinical director for Partners In Health in Haiti, was attending a meeting in a United Nations building in Port-au-Prince. She narrowly escaped unharmed.

Dr. Ivers and her research assistant, Kim Cullen, used whatever they could find for supplies. They pulled license plates off cars for splints, and they took shirts off people for tourniquets.

Said Dr. Ivers: “By Saturday [five days later], approximately five operating rooms were functional in the city, but the majority of injuries that I cared for in the first few hours and days of the tragedy were open fractures and crush injuries that required antibiotics that we did not have and surgery that we could not perform. With the help of surgeons who had just arrived, 48 hours after I found him on the streets where we had both escaped with our lives from cracking buildings, we amputated the arm of a young man on a table in the open air with no available anesthesia. Not to do so would have left him to die of gangrene.”

Dr. Ivers spends 90 percent of her time in Haiti where she conducts research, works with physicians in Zanmi Lasante, (Partners In Health’s sister organization in Haiti), and cares for patients. As Haiti rebuilds, Dr. Ivers will continue to care for thousands of injured patients, train staff, and manage specialized surgical and medical teams to support earthquake survivors.



“Amidst the rubble of houses, schools, and in front of the once grand National Palace, stands Neg Mawon —the symbol of Haiti...
Neg Mawon still stands and will always stand.

We too must stand with Haiti, and,
through solidarity, work toward the future
the Haitian people deserve.”

JOIA MUKHERJEE, MD, MPH



JOIA MUKHERJEE, MD, MPH, AND DAVID WALTON, MD, MPH

Joia Mukherjee, MD, MPH, and David Walton, MD, MPH, both physicians in the BWH Division of Global Health Equity, arrived in Haiti less than 48 hours after the earthquake hit. Dr. Mukherjee, also the medical director of Partners In Health, helped treat 800 patients on the first day, most of whom had suffered orthopedic trauma. “A lot of the injuries were crush injuries, and many Haitians are amputees,” she said. “There will have to be some vision of what it is going to be like to have a nation with many disabled people.”



As one of the primary leaders in developing Partners In Health’s initial response strategy, Dr. Mukherjee will help oversee the long-term healthcare recovery plan for the country. Rebuilding will involve expanding services for earthquake survivors; improving clinical operations and the public health system; and renovating the public health infrastructure. Her guidance will be central to strengthening the public medical and nursing education system in Haiti.

David Walton, MD, MPH, a 2007 graduate of the Doris and Howard Hiatt Global Health Equity Residency Program and a Brigham and Women’s Hospital physician, mobilized infrastructure resources to restore electricity at Haiti’s central teaching hospital and deployed structural engineers to medical sites to inspect and ensure safety.

Dr. Walton, who oversaw the construction of a rural Partners In Health hospital in La Colline, Haiti, spends eight months of the year there treating patients and running its clinical operations. Drawing on this experience, Dr. Walton will lead the building of a new hospital in Mirebalais near Port-au-Prince. The hospital in Mirebalais will act as one of Haiti’s national teaching hospitals since the central teaching hospital in Port-au-Prince was nearly leveled in the earthquake.

At the BWH Division of Global Health Equity, physicians are able to devote their time to global health services, including helping to rebuild Haiti. With the help of our donors, Drs. Ivers, Mukherjee, and Walton, and others will be able to continue their efforts in Haiti and in poor communities around the world.

“It is still difficult for
motivated people
to find tools to
serve the poor.”

DAVID WALTON, MD, MPH

8 STATUE OF NEG MAWON, HAITI’S NATIONAL SYMBOL REPRESENTING ITS STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM

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THE DORIS AND HOWARD HIATT

RESIDENCY IN GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY AND INTERNAL MEDICINE

In 2001, the BWH Department of Medicine, in a bold move, announced the creation of a division dedicated to addressing health disparities in impoverished settings through training, education, research, and service. Today, with a faculty of nearly 40, the BWH Division of Global Health Equity is devoted to improving healthcare in poor communities in the United States and abroad.

One way that the division fulfills its mission is through the Doris and Howard Hiatt Residency in Global Health Equity and Internal Medicine, a physician-training program that combines exceptional education with practical, hands-on instruction in delivering medical care in countries with few resources.

AT A GLANCE: ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIATT RESIDENTS

- Started a comprehensive malaria treatment project in rural Rwanda
- Trained community health workers in Chiapas, Mexico
- Documented efforts to prevent the transmission of HIV from mother to child in Haiti and Rwanda
- Planned and designed a new hospital in rural Haiti
- Developed and implemented oncology treatment protocols in Rwanda
- Raised funds to purchase 30,000 anti-malaria bednets for households in Malawi
- Directed the health component of a preschool program to improve literacy and health to Chilean children in low-income families
- Expanded Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS services in South Africa
- Researched risk factors for stroke in HIV patients in Botswana

15 GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY RESIDENT PHUOC LE, MD, EVACUATING A PATIENT FROM HAITI TO THE UNITED STATES

16 BWH PRESIDENT BETSY NABEL, MD, MEETS RESERVE COFFY (LEFT) AND ZILANIA JOACIN, AND THEIR SON, JEAN PAUL COFFY, STANDING WITH PAUL FARMER, MD, PHD, AT HOSPITAL BON SAUVEUR IN CANGE, HAITI

17 GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY RESIDENTS (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) PHUOC LE, MD, NATASHA ARCHER, MD, AND RANVIR DHILLON, MD, IN HAITI AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE

18 NATASHA ARCHER, MD, AND LOUISE IVERS, MD, MPH, WITH PARTNERS IN HEALTH COLLEAGUE

“I am enormously proud of our entire Brigham and Women’s family for their response to the crisis in Haiti. To see the devastation firsthand is heart wrenching; however, to witness the dedication of our care providers on the scene is inspiring and gives us hope for the future. Our teams mobilized without hesitation when the news of the earthquake reached us. We immediately coordinated with our colleagues at Partners In Health through our Division of Global Health Equity. Through this teamwork you can feel and see the power of what can be done. What is happening in Haiti today speaks to our mission and **our important role in supporting all efforts to improve global health.**”

BETSY NABEL, MD, BWH PRESIDENT, AFTER HER FEBRUARY 2010 TRIP TO CANGE, HAITI, TO ATTEND THE CONVOCAATION OF THE FIRST CLASS OF BWH FELLOWS IN GLOBAL HEALTH IMPLEMENTATION

ON THE GROUND WITH GLOBAL HEALTH RESIDENTS IN HAITI

The Doris and Howard Hiatt Residency in Global Health Equity and Internal Medicine was instrumental in preparing global health residents to respond to the crisis in Haiti.

NATASHA ARCHER, MD, class of 2010, coordinated medical teams in Port-au-Prince, which helped ensure an effective medical response. Emily Maher, MD, BWH anesthesiologist, who volunteered in Haiti, praised her efforts in an e-mail:

“I am one of the volunteers who was in Port-au-Prince from Jan. 22–29. I wanted to let you know that Natasha Archer did a fantastic job with logistics during our stay in Haiti. She worked tirelessly to ensure that staff made it to their correct locations...and she kept us safe and healthy, both mentally and physically. All the while, she was coordinating multiple other groups and attending endless streams of meetings. I am sure she has not slept more than a few hours the entire time she has been in Haiti. Her work was invaluable to patient care...I am also sure she would have rather been taking care of patients than coordinating stubborn physicians. She filled an important, incredibly challenging role, and did an excellent job with it. Thank you, Natasha! You saved countless lives and are saving countless more every day. I am in awe of your tenacity, dedication, and strength. You are a silent hero.”

Dr. Archer was not the only Hiatt resident who helped save lives.

PHUOC LE, MD, class of 2010, helped evacuate patients out of the capital and coordinated services for people who were injured and critically ill. In Cange, Partners In Health’s flagship site in Haiti, **RANVIR DHILLON, MD**, class of 2012, worked alongside **KOJI NAKASHIMA, MD**, a 2009 graduate of the Hiatt residency program who works with Partners In Health, to manage the overflow of patients who evacuated from Port-au-Prince. Going forward, Dr. Nakashima will coordinate rehabilitative medicine and prosthetics for Partners In Health.

“My time in Port-au-Prince was nothing short of transformative... We all recognize that this is a changing point in Haiti’s history, and we have such a unique opportunity to work with our Haitian friends to rebuild in a way that provides equity and dignity, and to lift the Haitian people out of decades of poverty and injustice. Thus, I feel blessed that my residency has given me the freedom and flexibility to be part of this team for change. Often I take a step back and marvel at what an incredible privilege that has been given to me, through the Hiatt Residency, to be able to participate in such important work during my medical training.” —Phuoc Le, MD

In just a short time, these residents made an enormous impact in the aftermath of Haiti’s earthquake. Over a lifetime, the residents’ impact will extend far beyond the patients they care for directly—to whole communities and countries.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

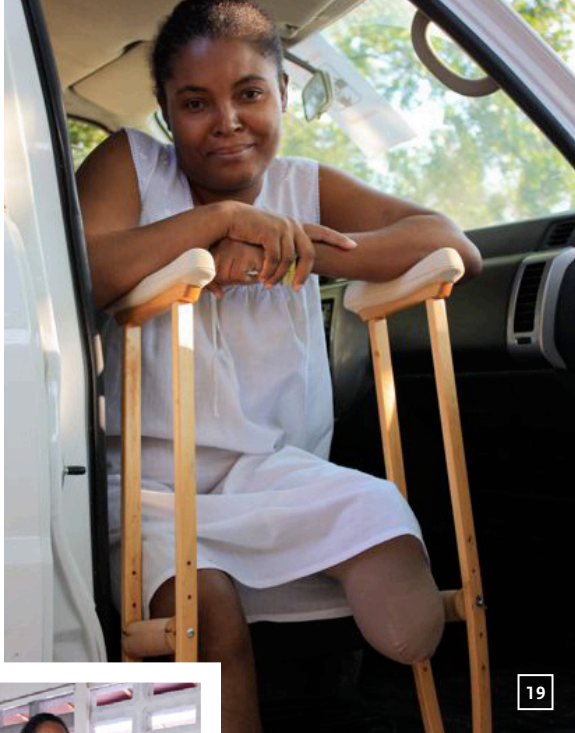
The Doris and Howard Hiatt Residency in Global Health Equity and Internal Medicine, one of the most sought-after programs of its kind, offers three years of training in internal medicine, research methods, public policy, and global-health advocacy, along with extensive Field experience at Partners In Health sites around the world. Each year, the residency program depends on support from generous donors. To learn more, please contact Nancy Sandman at 617.424.4345, nsandman@partners.org, or visit us online at:

www.brighamandwomens.org/medicine/global-health-equity/hiatt-residency-in-global-health-equity-and-internal-medicine

DONATIONS MAY BE SENT TO:

NANCY SANDMAN
Director of Development
for Global Health

Brigham and Women’s Hospital
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FUND to INVEST in HAITI'S FUTURE

GOING FORWARD, THE WORK IS IMMENSE.

In response to the tremendous needs we anticipate in Haiti, the BWH Division of Global Health Equity seeks your support to establish a new \$2.5 million fund, the Fund to Invest in Haiti's Future. This fund will enable our physicians to lead relief efforts over the next three years in partnership with Partners In Health. Perhaps at no other time will your gift have the impact it will have today, both in Haiti, and at our training sites worldwide.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL HELP GLOBAL HEALTH PHYSICIANS AND RESIDENTS:

- Provide urgent medical and surgical care for survivors
- Sustain community-based care and mobile clinic outreach within Port-au-Prince
- Assist displaced survivors
- Increase access for acute trauma counseling and mental health services
- Renovate the public health infrastructure
- Strengthen the public medical and nursing education system
- Coordinate rehabilitative medicine and prosthetics
- Support our Haitian colleagues who have lost so much in the earthquake

PLEASE JOIN OUR EFFORTS TO INVEST IN HAITI'S FUTURE.

Brigham and Women's Hospital has many ways for foundations, groups, and individuals to support global health and our efforts in Haiti. You can make a gift online at <https://giving.brighamandwomens.org/give1/>. Specify the "Fund to Invest in Haiti," as the recipient of your donation in the section marked "other" in the gift information section of the form. You may also send a check made payable to Brigham and Women's Hospital with "Fund to Invest in Haiti" in the memo section. Contact:

NANCY SANDMAN, Director of Development for Global Health | 617.424.4345
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19 REHAB PATIENT VIRGINIE JULES
20 VIRGINIE JULES TAKES HER FIRST STEPS WITH PROSTHETIC LIMB

"The fact that people who have been largely ignored by much of the world are now on the full-time agenda of a major teaching hospital is something **I never thought I'd see.**"

HOWARD HIATT, MD, ASSOCIATE CHIEF
BWH DIVISION OF GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY



BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY