

## **Activities 2012**

### **Medical equipment**

Medical equipment was sent by "Swiss Surgical Team" to Mongolia for the last time. Our association was part of this action.

A container with medical equipment and a great amount of dressing material which the Swiss Civil Protection was planning to destroy was sent to the Solomon Islands . It is expected to arrive in Honiara in February of 2013.

### **Training**

Training is becoming the main purpose of our association. It is by far the most sustainable medical assistance to developing countries.

Other island nations of the Pacific are interested in the successful introduction and development of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology in the Solomon Islands. To include these countries in said training a new organisation was founded: PIOA, Pacific Islands Orthopaedic Association (see [www.pioa.net](http://www.pioa.net)), based in Honiara, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, under the auspices of Orthopaedic Outreach, the humanitarian section of the Australian Orthopaedic Association.

The first training module will start in February 2013 in Honiara. It will be attended by three surgeons from the Solomons and one surgeon each from Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu and Fiji. The program lasts for four years and, if successfully concluded, will result in a Master of Surgery (Orthopaedics).

This project is of course very expensive and is - in the beginning - fully financed by our association. Not only finances but also teachers are required.

The Board of Directors of the Kantonsspital St. Gallen is interested in contributing to the training.

In Mongolia Orthopaedic Surgery (Osteosynthesis) has made great progress since 2005. No more Swiss training courses are needed there. Swiss Surgical Team is reducing its activities in Mongolia and is interested in contributing to the training program of PIOA.

### **Exchange**

It is now more efficient to focus on the Solomon Islands for training and to send teaching personnel to Honiara than organizing six or twelve months' trainings overseas for surgeons. The focus is also on shorter courses or fellowships overseas with specialist training, i.e. AO courses, clubfoot training etc. A surgeon from Honiara will hopefully train in St. Gallen for six weeks in spine surgery.

Dr. Oberli worked as a voluntary surgeon in September/October 2012 in Haiti's Albert Schweitzer Hospital (HAS) to replace one of the two surgeons.

In 2012 our website ([www.hermannoberli.ch](http://www.hermannoberli.ch)) was contacted by 122 students from many countries asking for training possibilities in the Solomon Islands. There were also 36 enquiries from qualified medical personnel asking for job opportunities.

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Dr. Hermann Oberli