

starting a SIGN project in Bentre, a city of 1.5 million people. Our last case at Cho Ray was done by the lead surgeon from Bentre. He proved his capability with the system. We felt confident about giving the Bentre surgeons the set of SIGN instruments that had been delivered to Vietnam by Dr. Gurbani, SIGN project leader from India.



Dr. Lam, Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery at Cho Ray Hospital, demonstrates new SIGN instruments to doctors from province hospitals.

The last morning at Binh Duong we treated three femur fractures with SIGN nails. One of these fractures involved both femurs in a 15-year-old girl hit by a bus while on her bicycle. The surgeons at Binh Duong promote SIGN in many ways. Dr. Han Khoi Quang has been a leader in suggesting new SIGN techniques and instruments.

Thailand—The doctors in Chiang Mai, Thailand are very proficient. The Thailand project is unusual in that we had access to a C-arm that provides real-time x-rays in the operating room. We were able to see the progress of the SIGN nail insertion and the reduction of the fractures as they were being accomplished.

The chief resident, Dr. Samran Phukang, will be leaving in a few months for northern Thailand where he will be treating the mountain tribal people and starting a SIGN project.



SIGN has a project in Chiang Mai.

Summary — This trip has emphasized the camaraderie among the surgeons— which is universal—as well as the fact that projects generate other projects by training doctors who move on to practice in other hospitals. SIGN surgeons are excellent surgeons •

AAOS

Drs. Nguyen Anh Tuan and Han Khoi Quang, both from Vietnam, and Dr. Faruque Quasem from Bangladesh (top to bottom) have been invited by SIGN to attend the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) annual meeting in February in New Orleans.



Richard's Manufacturing Company (Smith & Nephew) has allowed us space in their booth for a poster display showing the doctors' x-rays and SIGN system successes. The doctors will have the opportunity to discuss their surgeries and SIGN with the U.S. surgeons attending the conference.

Dr. Sal LaPilusa, ACUMED, and Randy and Mary Huebner are donating funds to help defray trip costs. •

Russian Surgeons Visit SIGN



Dr. Zhila watches Dr. Bondarenko work the SIGN system on Sawbones®.

Drs. Kikolai Zhila and Roman Bondarenko, Russian pediatric orthopaedic surgeons, visited SIGN on November 7th. The Spokane Rotary Club sponsored the surgeons' trip to the U.S. to learn arthroscopy surgery techniques and return with arthroscopy equipment to their hospital in Khabarovsk. The surgeons were interested in SIGN and flew down to SIGN headquarters where they were given a demonstration of SIGN instruments. They were anxious to handle the equipment and performed a SIGN simulation with sawbones. Drs. Zhila and Bondarenko were very impressed with the SIGN system and expressed an interest in starting a SIGN project in Russia. Their practice sees approximately 80 tibia and femur

fractures per year. A SIGN set will be sent to them along with the arthroscopy equipment from the Spokane Rotary Club. The Spokane Rotary Club has been awarded a \$5000 grant by the Whitney Foundation to start SIGN projects in developing countries. •



SIGN's first Russian project will be in Khabarovsk, a city of more than 600,000.