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OPERATION WALK LOS ANGELES

THE JOINT JOURNAL

OUR FELLOWS, OUR FAMILIES

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Remember: Our newsletter is electronic only. If you wish to receive the next issues via email, please send your email address to Alejandra Castillo at alejandra@operationwalk.org

The newsletter can also be viewed at
www.operationwalk.org/newsletter/



Jeri Ward and her husband Greg had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Vaibhav Kanawade and his wife, Dr. Rupali Patel, while they were in Los Angeles on March 12th.

Dr. Kanawade (known as VK) was a Research Fellow with Dr. Lawrence Dorr for two years (2011-2013). He is now serving a Clinical Fellowship at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

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Coordinating Fellowships for Dr. Dorr for the past 20 years has been a fun part of Jeri's job. The Research Fellows come from India, China, Japan, Australia and Thailand. Each doctor must go through the rigorous process of getting cleared to work in the USA. They need Social Security cards, driver's licenses, apartments, utilities, and family physicians for spouses and children. We also help to find them local churches and involve them in our holidays and cultural events.

Each Fellow spends 1-2 years doing research on hip and knee prostheses, computer navigation, rapid recovery, virtual reality and more.

"I have forged deep and lasting relationships with the Fellows and their families over the years. VK and Rupali invited me to their wedding in India, but I was not able to attend. I was so happy to be able to meet him and his bride in Los Angeles. The Dorr Research Fellows have enriched our lives," says Jeri Ward.



Dr. Vaibhav Kanawade and his wife, Dr. Rupali Patel at the AAOS Conference in Las Vegas with Dr. Paul Gilbert and Dr. Lawrence Dorr



MEET THE STAFF: JULIE ANDERSON, R.N.

My name is Julie Anderson and I am the Orthopaedic and spine service line coordinator at USC Verdugo Hills. I was born in North Ireland where I trained to be a nurse in Belfast. After my graduation I moved to London and worked in elective and trauma orthopaedics. I came to California 20 years ago. I love the sunshine and the beach!



My job involves meeting with patients before surgery, answering their questions and teaching a pre operative class. I then follow the patients during their hospital stay, help coordinate their care and assist with safe discharge planning. I make follow up calls when the patient is discharged, my patients are always free to call me too, with questions or to share progress.

Julie Anderson R.N. working with patients and Dr. Dorr on an OpWalk trip

Another part of my life that I love is going on Operation Walk trips. I have been lucky enough to travel all over the world, meet amazing people and bring benefit to those in need. When I am not at work I love being outside and going on adventures with my daughter who is 11 years old.

ANGEL MISSION UPDATES

By the time you are reading this newsletter, our leadership team will be arriving in Havana, Cuba to prepare for our April 2019 mission. If you are one of our 58 Angels you will receive updates as our mission progresses.

To learn more about becoming an Angel please visit:
www.operationwalk.org/become-an-angel/



PORTER RANCH COMMUNITY SCHOOL STEM FAIR

BY DEANIE KEPNER

Porter Ranch Community School holds a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fair every year at the school.

During this time, each class is expected to participate by entering a project within one of these categories. Ms. Melissa Wendorf decided to teach her fourth grade students about the workings of the human knee, and for this

year's project, her students were required to build a brace for a model knee. Students became "biomedical engineers" through learning more about what an engineer does. After teaching the students about the bones, ligaments, muscles, tendons and cartilage within the knee, she divided the class into groups of three. Ms. Wendorf supplied each group with a round cardboard piece, foam squares, rubber bands, brass brads, felt, cotton t-shirt material, Velcro, pipe-cleaners, tongue depressor sticks, and duct tape. She explained the importance of building a brace flexible enough to bend the knee forward, and yet strong and supportive enough to keep the knee from bending to the side, or from hyperextending. It was quite impressive to see the excitement in these children as they used this new-found knowledge and attempted to invent the perfect models of braces for the knee. Using great creativity and dedication, Ms. Wendorf once again managed to teach these students in a fun and exciting environment. Little did these children know that they had gathered enough knowledge about the knee and its components to produce braces that would be excellent models. Through many attempts and failures, each group was successful in creating a working knee brace for their model knee.



After recently undergoing bi-lateral knee replacement at USC Keck Hospital, one of these student's grandmothers agreed to come into the classroom and explain the process of having her knees replaced. The nurses and doctors at USC Keck were kind enough to provide (on loan) two models of the human knee for the children to inspect. One model showed the workings of the human knee and the second model showed the workings of a newly replaced titanium knee. This classroom of nearly 40 students was extremely attentive and interested in the grandmother's story of two new knees. They shared their excitement and knowledge with her and presented several well thought out questions during this share. It's great to know that we have such dedicated and inspiring teachers in this world and that the doctors and nurses at USC Keck not only care for the sick and disabled, but also take the time to assist in the education of the young.



Ms. Wendorf's fourth grade students observing a knee that underwent knee replacement surgery

Many thanks to Jeri Ward, RN, Dr. Paul Gilbert, and Ms. Melissa Wendorf for making this world a better place!

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Angels Luncheon - May 1st, 2019 Annandale Golf Club

It's not too late to RSVP to the Angels Luncheon! All Angels have received an Evite invitation. Please plan on bringing a guest who you think would enjoy learning about the Angels.

If you would like to become an Angel and attend our annual luncheon, please contact Alejandra Castillo at: (424) 558-8076 or via email at alejandra@operationwalk.org

Annual Gala - October 12th, 2019 Annandale Golf Club

Mark your calendars! More details to follow.



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2019 ANGELS

Jill Baffert
Pat Barkley
Denise Botsford
Louise Bryson
Kathy Cadarette
Barbara Carlsberg
Ever Carradine Brown
Yolee Casagrande
Barbara Casey
Eleda Cohen
Winnifred Crowley
Jinny Dalbeck
Paula Davis
Arlene Deter
Sally Doll
Marilyn Dorr
Kim Evans
Linda Evans
Mitsuko Felton
Susan Flanagan
Susi Gertmenian
Dennis Gertmenian
Cindy Gilbert

Kathy Goodwin
Phyllis Hennigan
Jean E. Hide-Cohen
Cindy Hogan
Cece Horne
Melissa Hotchkin
Stacy Kelso
Joanne Kozberg
Debbie Lanni
Shelly Lowe
Linda Maggard
Margaret Meagher
Carolyn Miller
Theresa Murphy
Caroline Nahas
Yvonne Navarro
Conchita O'Kane
Jill Polsby
Nan Rae
Gloria Raya
Nancy Robinson Van Tuyle
Gayle Garner Roski
Reon Roski

Doris Sarkisian
Diane Saunders
Linda Seiter
Nancy Sheinbein
Jane Song Gee
Jaynie Studenmund
Nora Szechy
Bonnie Thomas
Andrea Van de Kamp
Carolyn Wagner
Jeri Ward
Nina Winterbottom

*You too can
become an
Operation Walk
Angel. For more
information
please contact
Jeri Ward at
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O P E R A T I O N W A L K

**Would you like to submit an article to the newsletter?
Tell us how surgery changed your life! Submit your letters,
questions, and photos to: cami@operationwalk.org**