



បង្កើនសុខភាពកុមារ

CHILDREN'S SURGICAL CENTRE

Rehabilitation surgery for poor disabled Cambodians

Kien Khleang National Rehabilitation Centre

Providing free rehabilitation surgery for Cambodia's disabled children.

Issue 1

Spring 2006

Welcome

Dear friends, colleagues, volunteers, donors, and well-wishers,

Welcome to the first of what we hope to be a regular newsletter from the Children's Surgical Centre (CSC), formerly known to many of you as Rose Hospital. The name change, to those of you unfamiliar with the reason for this, has been necessitated by the confusion arising from the other 'Rose' NGO located in the Kien Khleang compound, so a name change has been implemented to clarify identities and signal a change in focus.

young population of Cambodia. According to the Cambodia Inter-Censal Population Survey of 2004, 60% of the Cambodian population is under 25 years old, presenting a huge burden to Cambodia's health sector.

As the funding from Kadoorie Charitable Foundation (KCF) fades out starting next year, we will be instituting some fundamental changes to the fund-raising practices of Children's Surgical Centre. These changes have the potential for a long-term impact towards ensuring CSC's financial independence. Part of this change is a re-focus on enlisting new and existing donors to contribute to CSC monthly by credit-card, which should ensure a degree of long-term financial stability for CSC.

To this end, we have attached to the end of this newsletter the subscription form from our newly-designed brochure, with an option to contribute to CSC monthly by credit card. We would be most grateful to all the friends of CSC for any subscription of monthly donations and the enlistment of the support of friends and colleagues.

Dr Jim Gollogly

CEO

Children's Surgical Centre

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Statistics for 1st Quarter 2006:

- 1799 consultations undertaken.
- 447 operations performed.
- 9 visiting surgeons.
- 10 visiting medical students.

See page 6 for more details.

"60% of the Cambodian population is under 25 years old."

The shift in strategy to re-name and re-focus has been prompted by current surgical needs of the overwhelmingly

100TH Lucky Subscriber!

In our drive to enlist credit card subscribers for donations to CSC, we will be offering a two night stay at Siem Reap's luxurious Hôtel de la Paix for the 100th subscriber. **Good luck!**





Little Sao—Recovering well after surgery.

Patient Profile: Sao

Tiny six year-old Sao is the size of the average western three year-old infant. She was sold by her mother for \$12 at only 15 days old to a professional begging ring, keen to exploit the potential of a small child with a profound facial disfigurement.

She was recently arrested for begging in Thailand and was subsequently placed in the care of two Cambodian NGO's, Damnok Toek (Goutte D'eau) and Mith Samlan (Friends), both highly credible child-protection NGO's. CSC was then contacted and we arranged for an evaluation in Bangkok by Prof. Henry Wilde, and then for Sao's return to Cambodia for treatment of a Meningoencephalocoele (MEC) and a severely

damaged right eye that had to be removed. She was successfully operated on by the German craniofacial/neurosurgical volunteer team of Drs Gunther Lauer and Thomas Pinzer on the 7th of March 2006.

"Sold by her mother for \$12 at only 15 days old"

She has since been recuperating at the new Physio House in Toul Kork, with medical follow-up provided regularly by the CSC doctors and a recent assessment in mid-April by volunteer Paediatric Ophthalmologist, Dr Judy Newman.

Sao is delighted to receive regular visitors, Clare from 'Friends' and Yann from 'Goutte D'eau' visit frequently. She has been busy during her recuperation learning to count and paddling in the wading pool with other young patients at Physio House. Despite the setbacks of her early life, Sao will be returned to a caring institution and now has a better chance of a normal life and will not be marginalised due to her appearance. She says she is keen to go to school and "have long hair".



The breaking of the sake barrel.

Congratulations John and James!

At the recent civil ceremony of the New Zealand Ambassador to Tokyo, Mr John McArthur, to his long-term partner Mr. James Guoping Hu, the happy couple asked all guests to donate to the Children's Surgical Centre rather than give a wedding gift.

The ceremony in Tokyo was a follow-on from the more formal Wellington ceremony attended by the New Zealand Prime Minister, Helen Clarke, who gave her blessings to the happy couple.

Thank you John & James for the many life-changing surgeries your generosity will give to the people of Cambodia!

Student Profile: Oliver Ng

Oliver is a medical student from Leicester University in the UK who has recently completed a 6-week period observing and assisting with surgery at CSC. We wish Oliver the best of luck in his continuing medical career.

“While researching articles on completing surgical electives in developing countries, it was not long until I stumbled upon Cambodia. The country had an interesting history and several NGO's doing surgery. After Google-ing 'surgery Cambodia NGO' I discovered the work of CSC from their website. Impressed by the breadth and importance of work done at CSC, I contacted the CEO, Jim Gollogly, to ask about an elective and was delighted when the reply came that this was possible.

Since starting at CSC I have seen many new things and have many new experiences. In total I have spent almost 6 weeks with the hospital. During this time I've worked with the local Khmer and visiting foreign surgeons doing plastic surgery, orthopaedics and

ophthalmology. I've assisted two visiting surgeons from Germany (a maxillofacial and a neurosurgeon) repairing meningoencephaloceles (MEC). This condition, thought to be caused by mouldy rice, is virtually unheard of in the UK and results in an often sizable and disfiguring facial lump. I've also worked with the plastic surgeons doing skin grafts for acid burn victims. These acid attacks are a cultural phenomenon in Cambodia, in part as a result of its history and enduring culture of violence, but also due to attacks instigated by the mistresses of senior government officials that received a great deal of media attention. In my last week I worked with a paediatric eye surgeon from the USA, correcting among other things squints and congenital cataracts.

“I have been impressed with the emphasis on partnership between local and visiting surgeons”

In addition to all the surgery, I had the opportunity to study the outcomes of both MEC

and acid burns operations - reviewing case notes and designing spreadsheets to monitor and report outcomes. I also helped the German surgeons in their research into normal Khmer eye measurements; the results of which enable them to achieve better cosmetic results for MEC operations. Such activities allowed me to more fully understand their work.

Overall, my elective has been a very valuable experience. I've seen different problems and practices, experienced a different culture and people and gained a profound respect for the work of CSC. Through all this surgery I have been impressed with the emphasis on partnership between local and visiting surgeons, creating sustainability through education and training such that when visiting surgeons leave, the local surgeons are equipped to treat these conditions. This is of long-term importance for the development and independence of tomorrow's Cambodia, a country that I hope will go from strength to strength.”

Oliver Ng



Oliver relaxing between surgeries.

Cambodian Acid Survivors Charity (CASC)



The CASC physiotherapy house in Toul Kork.

CSC was approached in late 2005 by John Morrison from the Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) of the UK and invited to start a new NGO in Cambodia dedicated to the comprehensive needs of acid attack survivors. Dr Jim Gollogly, Kanya Reinvetch and Penny Tynan were invited to Bangladesh to view the ASF operation there and have meetings with ASF staff, and visited in early 2006.

Following this visit, CASC was registered in Australia as an International NGO, and its status is currently being formalised with the Cambodian Government. Until it attains complete independence, it will operate under the umbrella of CSC, providing a long-overdue residential and medical care facility for victims of this crime. This will allow CASC to build upon the social rehabilitation work for acid victims which was first begun by CSC several years ago after prompting from medical students and Prof Massey Beveridge from the University of Toronto.

A suitable house with a 12-person capacity, currently dubbed "Physio

House" was located in the residential area of Toul Kork; a lease for the property was signed in February; and occupied by patients a few weeks later. This was made possible in part by a very generous grant from Mr. Brian Culbert of Toronto, who raised CAD\$29,000 riding his mountain bike on the "Cambodian Children's Summit Ride."

In Cambodia, as in most of South-East Asia, the majority of victims of acid attacks are poor rural women. Their children sometimes become the unintended victims of these attacks as they are often being held by their mothers when the acid is thrown. Medically, the child victims of these attacks present more complex problems than adults, as their rate of growth necessitates more staged operations than an adult would need and more intensive physiotherapy – a far more resource-intensive load than a purely surgical facility such as CSC can reasonably handle.

Women are often victims because of the perceived threat they present by way of extramarital

affairs and the economic burden of second families to an established family's economic stability. Increasingly, however, the percentage of male victims is growing due to loan defaults and disputes over land titles. CASC intends to follow the example of ASF Bangladesh to push for significant social and legal change, and to try to reduce the incidence of this crime in Cambodia.

CASC and CSC would like to thank Prof. Massey Beveridge, Dr. John Morrison, and the Acid Survivors Foundation (UK & Bangladesh) who have been generous with their time, advice and ongoing support in the establishment of this operation.

Cambodian Statistics & UNDP

The 2005 Human Development Report (<http://hdr.undp.org>) has placed Cambodia at a ranking of 130th of 177 countries in terms of development. The HDI measures achievements in terms of life expectancy, educational attainment and adjusted real income.



Dr Jim & Kanya with ASF Bangladesh staff.

CASC's Youngest Patient

Peou (Pia) was abandoned at Phnom Penh's Kossamak Hospital on 1st August 2005 with suspected acid burns to her head and neck. Kossamak doctors estimated that she was between 6-8 weeks old when she sustained these injuries and, as she was abandoned, no further information was available on what may have caused her injuries, however it is thought that the injuries are consistent with acid burns.

At Kossamak Hospital she was given several skin grafts with the donor site coming from her thighs and buttocks. She was later transferred from Kossamak to the Maryknoll orphanage 'Little Sprouts', where she was later identified as being in need of further

surgery as, due to her muscular contracture, her head was frozen in an upward position, preventing the normal development of her spine and thoracic area.

"Abandoned . . . with suspected acid burns to her head and neck"

This contracture release and further grafts to the neck were successfully performed at CSC in February by Canadian burns surgeon, Prof. Massey Beveridge from the University of Toronto, with the assistance of doctors Jim Gollogly and Australian Embassy doctor, Kayte Evans.

Pia is now recuperating at the 'Physio House' and

receives physiotherapy several times per day and has regained almost full rotation of the head and neck. As she has lost about 70 percent of her scalp, she will require skin extensions when her skull has hardened enough at 4-5 years of age to recover her head with hair and have a relatively normal life and future.

Since her operation and the commencement of her physio, she has developed a dangerous self-preservation technique of launching out and whacking the nearest face – much to the chagrin of several medical students lured into close proximity by her cuteness. We are assured by a psychologist that this will stop in time.



Cute Pia — Don't get too close!



Pia post surgery — She can now move her head.

Thank You . . .

To Don Hancey and his team from Perth (Western Australia) who raised in excess of \$11,000 which they will be sharing between three different Cambodian charities, including CSC. Don says that he aims to do at least 2 fundraisers a

year now as "Cocktails for Cambodia" so will be keeping the Perth scene active. *Thanks Don!*

To Mr. Brian Culbert of Toronto for your very generous donation of CAD\$29,000 to CASC, raised on the "Cambodian Children's Summit Ride."

Thank you also to ANZ Royal for their generous donation of \$5,000 to fund a five month long burn prevention campaign, which will be broadcast on TV station CTN.



Visitors and Statistics for 1st Quarter 2006

In the first three months of 2006, our doctors undertook a total of 1,799 consultations and performed 447 operations at CSC. The numbers appear to be lower than normal, but they do not take into account the monthly surgical program at the Kep Referral hospital, and the activities of 2 of our Khmer eye teams working with the United States Pacific Command's Humanitarian Assistance Program in the provinces of Kompong Thom, Ratanakiri and Kompong Chhnang, wherein over 3,500 patients were treated, and 185 eye operations performed.

Visiting specialists in this quarter included Profs. Peter Westhoven of the University of Bonn, and Gunter Lauer and Thomas Pinzer of the

University of Dresden, Germany; Prof. Massey Beveridge of the University of Toronto; Drs Kevin Winkle and Karl Holzinger of the US Navy; and Drs. Ebby Elahi of New York, Mark Moser of Florida, and Jimmy James of Scotland.

We also had 10 medical students with us this quarter: 5 from the UK (Ben Evans, Kevin Gallagher, Oliver Ng, Niten Vig, Khaled Sarraf), 4 from Australia (Carl Jackson, Luke Collett, Daniel Corkery, Gregory Hall), and 1 from Canada (Yvonne Ying).

Welcome to Carl Moller, Australian Youth Ambassador for Development, who will be working with us over the next 12 months.

We also welcome Penny Tynan who will be spending her time fundraising for both CSC and CASC.

Thank you to everyone who has donated their time and money to helping the Children's Surgical Centre.

Surgery performed from 01 Jan 2006 to 31 Mar 2006

		Adults >25 yr		Children <25 yr		Total
		Male	Female	Male	Female	
Reconstructive Surgery	Cleft Lip	0	0	14	17	31
	Cleft Palate	0	1	8	11	20
	Club Foot	1	0	3	4	8
	Acid Burn	0	1	0	4	5
	Burn Contracture	1	0	15	4	20
	Skin Graft	0	2	8	10	20
	Fracture	1	3	2	1	7
	Osteotomy	0	1	0	1	2
	Dislocation Reduction	1	0	3	1	5
	Z-plasty	0	0	4	1	5
	Syndactyly	0	0	0	3	3
	Other	24	22	37	44	127
	Eye Surgery	Cataract	40	50	4	0
Pterygiums		4	33	2	2	41
Glaucoma		1	0	0	0	1
Squint		0	0	1	4	5
Lid Surgery		6	8	0	0	14
Eviscerations		0	1	0	0	1
Other		9	19	6	4	38
	Total	88	141	107	111	447

Thank You . . .

To LDS Charities for their ongoing support, including a \$3,000 donation towards establishment costs at CASC.

To Virtue Foundation's generous contribution of \$4,000 to CSC.

Also to Smiletrain for their ongoing support for cleft lip and cleft palate operations.

Last but not least to Dr Judith Newman for her kind donation of \$4,500 towards a study scholarship, allowing Dr

Ro to continue ophthalmology training.

Thank You Everyone.

Spring 2006

You Can Help

CSC urgently needs your ongoing assistance.

•

CSC has no political or religious affiliations. We aim to improve the quality of life for Cambodian children in need by providing **free** rehabilitation surgery.

•

Over 5,000 free consultations are done at CSC each year.

•

CSC receives all of its funds from the generosity of individuals, organisations, international support and grants.

•

CSC makes **no profit** from funds received. All funds are spent on providing rehabilitation surgery and care for Khmer patients, and the provision of support services.

•

Your support is critical to the continued success in treating the poor and disadvantaged patients, and in training Khmer doctors.

•

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Yes, I would like to support the CSC and provide a regular **monthly** donation of:

\$30 \$50 \$100

Other amount, please specify: \$ _____

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MasterCard Diners

Credit Card Number

Security Number (3 digits on rear of card)

Expiry Date /

Name on Card _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Your Details

Name _____

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Thank you for your generous support.

Please send this form to the address below.

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