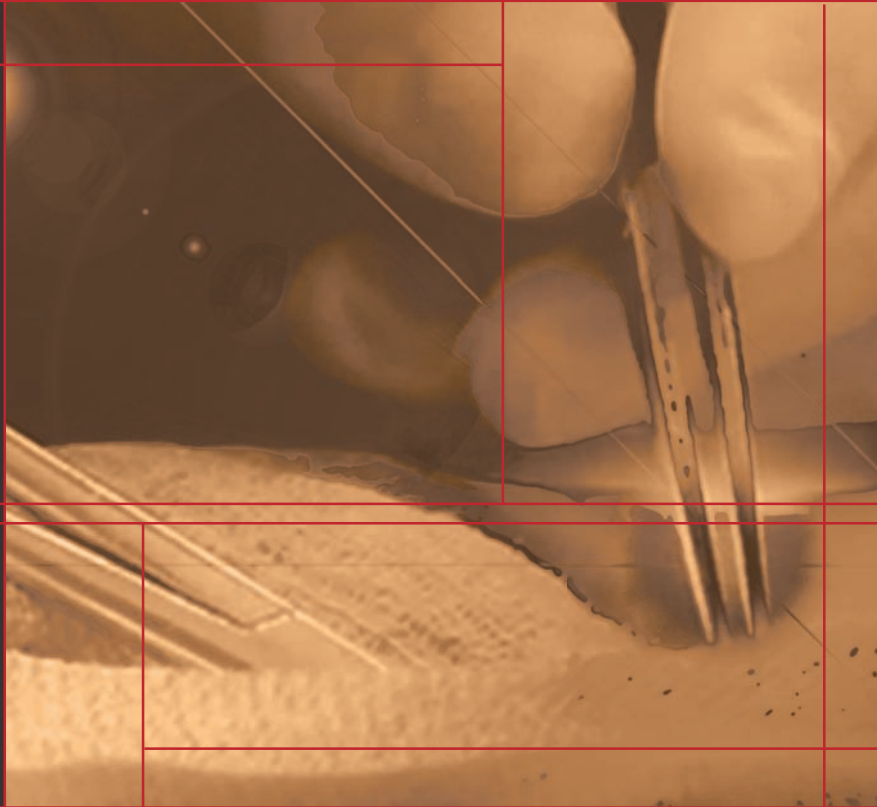


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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

From the President's Desk

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CVT PAs on Medical Mission in El Salvador

CVT PAS ON MEDICAL MISSION IN EL SALVADOR

APACVS members Joanna DeNoble, Jessica Nolan, Michael Gardocki and Issac Hammond, Jr., spent a week of vacation time in September, providing sophisticated cardiac surgery to children in El Salvador. While this medical mission was initially scheduled for May, it was abruptly postponed one week before the team was to leave the United States, due to the H1N1 epidemic in Mexico. While El Salvador lies well to the South of Mexico, it is the most densely populated country in Central America and many of its inhabitants live in poverty. Consequently, although the H1N1 epidemic had not spread to El Salvador in May, the mission was postponed to preserve the beds that would have been used should they be needed to treat individuals with H1N1.

This was the third mission to El Salvador that PAs Gardocki & Hammond have been on, and the first for DeNoble and Nolan. These medical missions are sponsored by Heart Care International (HCI), a nonprofit organization, dedicated to providing life-saving heart care for children suffering from congenital heart disease. HCI was founded by Dr. Robert E. Michler, the Chairman of the Departments of Cardiothoracic Surgery & Surgery at Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

When HCI provides a medical mission, the trip begins with the arrival of a 'screening team,' which includes Pediatric Cardiologists and nurses who evaluate infants and children with cardiac disease, which could be benefited by surgical intervention. The surgical team then arrives and provides the surgical care. Prior to the arrival of the surgical team, all equipment is removed from the operating rooms they will use. When the surgical team arrives their first order of business is to stock the operating rooms with equipment they will need for their week of surgery. The surgical team consists of pediatric cardiac surgeons, physician assistants, cardiac perfusionists, surgical nurses, intensive care nurses and pediatricians. HCI has conducted missions in Guatemala, Dominican Republic and El Salvador.

PA's interested in participating in a future medical mission of Heart Care International, can volunteer via their website:
<http://www.heartcareintl.org/home>



*Joanna DeNoble, PA-C; Lari Attai, MD;
Jessica Nolan, PA-C & Michael Gardocki, PA-C*



Postoperative Open Heart



Medical volunteers in El Salvador



Medical team from Montefiore/ Einstein



Joanna DeNoble, PA-C



*Jessica Nolan, PA-C; Michael Gardocki, PA-C;
& Joanna DeNoble, PA-C*



*Jessica Nolan, PA-C with Dr. Michler on a child
with congenital heart disease*