

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **AAOMS - Henry Schein Cares Foundation Global Outreach Project awards grants to volunteer oral and maxillofacial surgeons caring for at-risk patients worldwide**

[Rosemont, IL, September 2015] The Global Outreach Project, a joint program of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) and the Henry Schein Cares Foundation, has awarded \$2,500 grants to four outstanding oral and maxillofacial surgeons who are volunteering their surgical expertise to treat the faces and save the lives of indigent or vulnerable patients in areas of the world where access to care is limited or unavailable.

Recipients of the 2015 Global Outreach Project grants are:

**Timothy S. Bartholomew, DDS**, has dedicated his career to treating underserved patients in Africa. Dr. Bartholomew, who is currently working in N'Djamena, Chad, treats patients of all ages, from 6 months to the elderly. Working with his wife, an anesthesiologist, he performs multiple surgeries, including cleft lip/palates, jaw tumors, and other facial deformities. Dr. Bartholomew performs all surgeries at no cost to his patients.

**Jolie Chou, DMD, MD**, who leads the pediatric craniofacial surgery team at Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo NY, will use her Global Outreach Project grant to support her tour on the Mercy Ships International's Africa Mercy. During her two week mission to Madagascar, Dr. Chou will perform between 40 and 60 surgeries to correct cleft lips and palates, and treat and reconstruct the faces of patients with oral and maxillofacial pathologies.

**Gary R. Parker, DDS**, is the Chief Medical Officer on the 16,500 ton Africa Mercy, the largest non-governmental hospital ship in the world. Dr. Parker, who joined Mercy Ships in 1987, lives on board the ship with his wife and children. For the last 30 years he has donated his surgical skills to treating the diseases and conditions devastating the faces of the poor and vulnerable patients in Africa.

**Robert H. Wright, DDS**, is a retired oral and maxillofacial surgeon who is spending part of his retirement performing dental surgeries on the neediest patients in the El Esperanza Honduras

area. Dr. Wright's mission concentrates primarily on tooth extractions. He notes that while he and the two general dentists who comprise his team can treat as many as 75 patients a day, they are unable to accommodate all the patients requiring surgery. "The recipients of this year's Global Outreach Project awards embody the dedication and commitment exhibited by oral and maxillofacial surgeons throughout the United States who volunteer their services to treat and repair the faces, mouths and jaws of vulnerable patients around the world," said AAOMS President Dr. Louis K. Rafetto. "The AAOMS is grateful to the Henry Schein Cares Foundation for making these grants possible."

"The Henry Schein Cares Foundation is committed to improving access to care for at-risk and underserved populations around the world through its support of not-for-profit organizations, communities and individuals who share our goal of providing these patients excellent care and treatment," said Foundation President Steven W. Kess. "The recipients of the 2015 Global Outreach Project grants epitomize our goals and mission."

The Global Outreach Project annually provides four, \$2,500 grants to AAOMS members planning to participate in a voluntary surgical mission in the United States or abroad. The grants help defray some of the expenses generally incurred by the participating surgeon. Applications for the 2016 Global Outreach Project grants will open in the spring.

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*The experts in face, mouth and jaw surgery™ - The American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) is the professional organization representing more than 10,000 oral and maxillofacial surgeons, OMS residents and professional allied staff in the United States. AAOMS supports its fellows' and members' ability to practice their specialty through education, research and advocacy. AAOMS fellows and members comply with rigorous continuing education requirements and submit to periodic office anesthesia evaluations. For additional information about oral and maxillofacial surgery, visit the AAOMS website at <http://www.aaoms.org>.*

**Henry Schein Cares**  
FOUNDATION

*Established in 2008, the Henry Schein Cares Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization, carries out its mission through financial and health care product donations that support health care professionals and community-based programs focused on prevention, wellness, treatment, and education; disaster preparedness and relief; and capacity building of health institutions that provide training and care. To learn more about the Henry Schein Cares Foundation, please visit: [www.hscaresfoundation.org](http://www.hscaresfoundation.org).*