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WHO WE ARE

CSC aims to improve the quality of life for disabled poor people in Cambodia by providing surgery for hearing, visual and orthopedic disabilities. Integral to this mission is a program of training local surgeons and health workers, focusing on the development of sustainable surgical services for Cambodians. CSC has become a mentoring organization for healthcare providers throughout Cambodia, training surgeons, nurses, and other health workers to care for Cambodians. Eighty percent of Cambodia is still rural, with truly impoverished people and little access to healthcare. We offer the option of our CSC staff to transfer their talents to other settings and organizations to accelerate the level of healthcare provided in the country.

DID YOU KNOW?

\$299 will support the cost of surgery and inpatient care for a child with polydactyly?

CSC is again faced with the daunting task of losing the land where our hospital has stood for the past 20 years. There are no official communications, but the administrative staff is actively looking for another location near Phnom Penh. A physical move seems to be in our immediate future, with augmented need for donations to support construction of a new building to continue our mission.

Stories from the Ward



Boti is a 3-year-old toddler from Cambodia. He has one older sister, and enjoys playing with toys, drawing pictures, and going to the market with his mother. Boti was born with polydactyly of both hands, and he has an extra thumb on each hand. It is difficult for him to use his hands, and he can't hold objects very well. His parents consulted a local children's hospital about this, and they sent him to CSC. He and his family traveled to CSC, where expert local plastic surgeons were able to remove the extra digits. Boti was very brave despite all the strange, masked faces at the hospital, and he charmed everyone who came into contact with him. When his incisions heal, he will learn how to hold objects and his hands will look normal.

Boti's mother said: *"we are grateful to the surgeons who did Boti's surgery at a young age so that other children will not make fun of him. Thank you to the strangers who paid for his surgery and the staff at CSC for being so kind to us."*



Phors was hesitant to admit his eyesight was failing but driving his moto-taxi and following the maps on his phone had become impossible for him due to a cataract. He was happy to take the advice of a neighbor to visit CSC where he underwent a small incision cataract surgery and intraocular lens implant in his left eye. When his eye has healed, his vision will improve greatly, and he will be able to return to work. This is important for him as the major breadwinner in his family.

Phors said: *"I want to thank to those who helped me see so I can support my children to go to school."*



CONTACT US!
info@csc.org or visit
our website
www.csc.org
and donate [HERE](#)

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CHILDREN'S SURGICAL CENTRE, PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

Children's Surgical Centre Welcomes Visiting Surgeons and Medical Students

Thoughts from Dr Weisang Luo (Dr Wei's six-month surgical fellowship is supported by The Kadoorie Charitable Foundation):

I arrived in Phnom Penh with a story-hungry suitcase in early February 2022. The warming equator sun was a welcome change from the blustery winters of the British Isles. I was eager to embark on this journey at CSC, keen to learn, as well as contribute to this extraordinary hospital. I remember clearly my first day, as I put on my scrubs and triple checked I've packed my surgical cap before setting off to work.

The morning meeting began with a teaching session, followed by ward rounds. The day continued with the operating room, interspersed with seeing patients in clinic between cases. The pathology, plight and plethora of people was something that I had not seen before.

From the very first day, the extraordinary heart of the patients that we see has left a mark on me. These people travelled from all over the country to seek healthcare for their loved ones and themselves. The literal and metaphorical journeys our patients went on for the road to recovery is a testament to the strength of the Khmer people. Daily, we see injuries that were left untreated for years. The resolve of hope with a smile in the face of adversity in our patients are unforgettable.



OUR ASK

Whatever you can give,
please know we are
grateful to receive it!
Please consider signing
up to give us a monthly
gift, it makes a huge
difference to our
community. Even just a
donation of \$10 goes a
long way!
Please visit

<https://www.csc.org/donation.php>

I am fortunate to be surrounded by fantastic colleagues, who help, teach, and guide me in this new world I find myself in. Their enthusiasm, belief and resolve in their work is unparalleled to any other team with whom I have worked. CSC is a small unit, but more than makes up for this with its enormous heart. It is clear that this was a labour of love to foster the relationships between staff. One of my favourite views is under the large tree outside the hospital, where we see staff and patients mingling on a slow day and sharing jokes with flip flops dangling off toes.

It has been three months since I have arrived. There are quiet moments of reflection in the interlude between operating cases, the wobbly tuk-tuk rides home and strolls by the mighty Mekong River. I find myself thinking about the future of CSC, the paths of all the people that come to this house and what our new house will be like.

I look to the future with hope and believe CSC is a truly a House of Wonder.

DID YOU KNOW?

\$487 will support the cost of surgery and inpatient care for a child with a ruptured eardrum and prevent a lifetime of disability?

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CHILDREN'S SURGICAL CENTRE, PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

Notes from Dr Harriett Howells and Sophie Hunt (fourth year medical students from Keele University, United Kingdom) as they interview a Khmer plastic surgeon trainee at CSC:

We were delighted to find that Children's Surgical Centre was accepting medical students again, after the global pandemic had put a halt on travel for medical electives for the last two years. The team has helped us to enhance our surgical and anaesthetics knowledge and are supporting us with our own research projects! With a strong interest in both Anaesthetics and Surgery, the opportunities presented to us at CSC will propel the start of our careers in these exciting fields.

We are both passionate about the role of women in medicine and surgical fields and are both on members of the "Women in Surgery" society at Keele University, set up in 2020 by Sophie who has spent the last 2 years promoting a surgical career to female medical students by educating, empowering and myth busting.

We interviewed Dr. Picheata, a DES trainee in plastic surgery at CSC about her experience as a female surgeon in Cambodia.

Q. What has been your experience as a woman in Cambodia at medical school and training as a surgeon?

"Through my experience, I'm so proud of being one of the women in medical school even though the majority are men. There is such a stereotype in my country since the husband usually makes the income for the family. I broke that stereotype on this journey of mine and now I'm a plastic surgical trainee!"

Q. What made you choose plastic surgery as a specialty?

"I always wondered what doctors did in the OR, how they did such an amazing job with their hands and knife. I knew that I wanted to be a surgeon when I was in 3rd year of medical school, and I had my first simulation class suturing a pig leg. At home I bought another pig leg and did suturing with my sister(she's a dermatologist). I fell in love when I saw the result of cleft lip repairs. It's magic for the baby to be able to feed , breathe, and speak properly."

Q. What are your hopes for the future?

"I hope that there will be more women in the medical field and surgery specifically. Nothing is impossible as long as we enjoy doing it."

We (Harriett and Sophie) feel privileged to be working with Dr. Picheata and have her as a role model. It has been fascinating to hear about her career pathway and the barriers she overcame throughout her training. Working alongside Dr. Picheata and the many other fantastic women at CSC, it is promising to see that progress is being made to empower women to pursue careers in medicine and surgery. We feel very lucky to be given the opportunity to spend our elective at the CSC and thank all staff for being so welcoming and supportive!



Dr. Davy, CSC's Chief ENT Surgeon of an all-female ENT Surgery team

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