

# CHILDREN'S SURGICAL CENTRE, PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

## បង្អួចវេជ្ជសាស្ត្រកុមារ

### In this issue:

-Who We Are	<i>Autumn 2022</i>
-Stories From the Ward	<i>Issue 57</i>
-Visitors & Donors	

### DID YOU KNOW?

\$444 will support the cost of surgical correction and inpatient care for a child with clubfoot?

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.

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

### The Gift of Ambulation After a Devastating Land Mine Injury



Kun is a hardworking rice farmer and caring grandfather from Cambodia. When it is not rice season, he works doing motorcycle repairs. In 1988, Kun's leg was injured by a land mine, and he had to have a below knee amputation. The amputation site has become infected, causing him to experience pain when using the artificial leg. Kun traveled over seven hours to reach Children's Surgical Centre for surgery. With the help of our donors, he underwent a stump revision procedure in August. He spent several days in the hospital and took antibiotics for the infection. Soon after, he was able to return to his village in northern Cambodia. As his incision heals, his pain is less, and he can use his prosthetic leg again. He won't need to use crutches and it will be easier for him to work on his farm to grow rice and feed his family. Kun said: "I am relieved that I can work on my farm again to feed my family. It has been difficult because I could not work when using crutches. I am grateful to the surgeons who fixed my leg. My wife is thrilled that I am improving, and I want to thank the strangers who helped me have this surgery so I can get stronger to take care of my family."

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**Website: <https://www.csc.org/>**

# CHILDREN'S SURGICAL CENTRE, PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

## STORIES FROM THE WARD (continued)



### **“I Used to Be a Patient at CSC”**

Recently, we received a note from a young woman who had surgery seven years ago by Dr. Fred and his surgical team. They visit twice annually from Toulouse, France to perform free maxillo-facial consultations and surgery.

She said: *“I want to make a donation in return of your kindness. I was there five or six years ago and had surgery on my face. Back then my family was so poor. Without your free of charge treatment, I wouldn’t be able to go out with the confidence like I do now.”*

### **Free Hearing Aid for Hearing-Impaired Child**

CK is a nine-year old girl who has profound hearing loss and no speech since she was a child. She had started public school but stopped because she was unable to participate. Ordinarily she would be referred to a deaf school, but there is no school in the province where she lives.

CK was referred to Children’s Surgical Centre ENT Department where - with the help of our donors - we will give her the gift of hearing by fitting her with a free hearing aid. CSC staff hope that the hearing aid will benefit her to start hearing sounds as surgeons and audiologists work to assist her in learning to communicate.



## VISITORS



### **British Ambassador to Cambodia Visits Children’s Surgical Centre**

After the local celebration of the birthday and 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Platinum Jubilee Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the British Ambassador, Tina Redshaw, was delighted to visit CSC to hand over a donation collected at the official event and give gifts collected from the festival. The ambassador was deeply impressed by the dedication and hard work of the Children’s Surgical Centre staff who are improving lives of children every day.



**DONATE HERE:** <https://csc.org/donation.php>

# CHILDREN'S SURGICAL CENTRE, PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

## July 2022 - Thoughts from a Medical Student's Clinical Rotation

This summer, visiting medical students from England were able to observe a Krukenberg amputation - developed during the First World War to restore some functions of an amputated hand. It is a surgical technique that converts a forearm stump into a pincer.

The medical student shared: *"compared to the UK's free and accessible healthcare system, it was eye-opening to see the impact of healthcare in a country such as Cambodia. Many of the patients at CSC arrived with complications arising from chronic injuries that they could not afford to get addressed earlier at a local hospital. Other patients would arrive at CSC bankrupt after a failed/unsuccessful operation at a hospital."*

*The nature of these long-term complications (for example, extensive fibrosis at previously operated sites) meant the operations were unpredictable and required great intuition. During my placement, I was able to scrub in and assist with many operations. I particularly was fascinated by the Krukenberg procedure, an operation on amputees rarely performed in the western world. This highlighted how CSC surgeons had to adapt and perform more affordable operations, when an expensive prosthesis is not available."*

Injuries such as these have slowly transitioned from land mine injuries in the 1990s to amputations from electrical burns, tumors of the hand and wrist, and machine crushes.

Losing a hand is severely debilitating and has a massive impact on a patient's quality of life. This is especially true in developing countries such as Cambodia where there are a high proportion of manual jobs that rely on functional hands and fingers.

This procedure is designed to give the patient a functional limb which will allow them to resume some activities of daily living. In particular, they are able to grasp objects - giving them the ability to lift and catch, as well as write or button a shirt. In a retrospective review of cases, one patient reported being able to write, fish, and cut and plant rice.

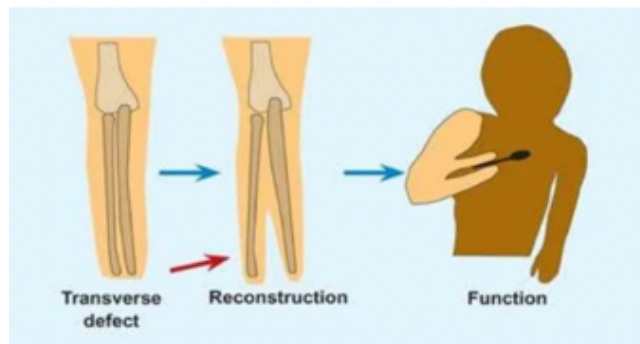
CSC staff is researching our experience of Krukenberg amputations over the last twenty years and so far, the early results seem very promising for good outcomes. Staff have driven around the country to find a few patients - including one who works at a mall with her Krukenberg amputation!

## Krukenberg surgery

**This procedure can be free to those in need, thanks to the generosity of donors like you.**

CSC has done fifteen of these operations over the past few years – you can watch a CSC Facebook video here:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=312397465512709>



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>

# CHILDREN'S SURGICAL CENTRE, PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

## Strapping the Dusty Shoes Back on: David Grosse donates \$2,689 USD through Global Giving.

**Thank you, David,** for choosing CSC as your charity to support Racing the Planet Ultra Marathon in the country of Georgia, that means a lot!

From 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June 2022, David raced 250km (155 miles) in six stages across the Southern Caucasus Mountain Range – one of the world's toughest Ultra Marathons. This was David's tenth Ultra Marathon event – his first in Australia in 2010 and the most recent in Antarctica in 2018.

David has raised funds for previously for us and we are honored to again be the recipients.

More details can be found on: <https://www.racingtheplanet.com/georgia>.

David reiterated: *"Funding is especially required to help with a new facility that will allow CSC to continue providing surgical assistance to Cambodia's most vulnerable populations at no charge, while empowering the next generation of Cambodian healthcare professionals to lead complex reconstructive surgery."*



### DID YOU KNOW?

\$265 will support the cost of surgery and inpatient care for a child who needs a tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy?

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