



Transformations

News from Fistula Foundation, Summer 2014

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Action on Fistula: New partnership a 'game changer' for women in Kenya

On May 23, the United Nations' International Day to End Obstetric Fistula, Astellas Pharma Europe, Ltd., the European headquarters of Tokyo-based Astellas Pharma Inc., announced that Fistula Foundation had been selected as the focus of the organization's flagship corporate giving program, which aims to provide treatment to women who suffer from obstetric fistula in Kenya.



The result of a rigorous and extremely competitive process, the award comes in the form of a €1.5 million (\$2 million) donation to be deployed through Action on Fistula, a comprehensive new Fistula Foundation initiative that will work to deliver life-changing surgery to 1,200 women in Kenya over the next three years. This program marks the first time the Foundation has the funding and ability to go deeply into a single country to treat fistula at its core.

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Fistula Foundation, Astellas Pharma Europe and Jamaa Mission Hospital staff in Nairobi

Photo credit: Georgina Goodwin





One Woman's Story Nairobi, Kenya



Naresia

Naresia was treated at the Jamaa Mission Hospital by Dr. Stephen Mutiso.

Naresia is a Masai girl from a rural village in Kenya. Only five months ago, at the tender age of 14, Naresia gave birth to a baby. After a prolonged and difficult labor, she awoke to find her bed soaked with urine. The doctors informed her that the delivery process had left her with an obstetric fistula and she was now incontinent.

Heartbroken and leaking urine for the last five months, Naresia traveled with her grandmother to Jamaa Mission Hospital in Nairobi seeking treatment. Thanks to a dedicated team and surgeon, Dr. Stephen Mutiso, Naresia underwent a successful surgery in May. She is finally dry again and she and her grandmother are overjoyed!

Supporter Spotlight: Benefit Piano Concert



On May 31, students Timothy Yang, Mason Lau, Ray William and Rose William of Palo Alto, California hosted a piano concert generously benefiting Fistula Foundation. We were honored to be one of their chosen benefactors! These talented young musicians practiced for months to perform the likes of Mozart, Haydn and Chopin and put on a truly wonderful concert. The event also featured remarks from Fistula Foundation CEO and music enthusiast, Kate Grant. All in all, the event raised over \$6000 for Fistula Foundation.

Judy William, Timothy Yang, Ray William, Rose William, Mason Lau, and longtime Fistula Foundation Board Member Dr. Larry William

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK



Nepal | International Nepal Fellowship (INF) focuses on three main areas in its work on fistula: surveillance, prevention, and treatment in remote areas of Western Nepal, where there are currently no other organizations working on this issue nor any hospitals that are able

to surgically treat fistula. With support from Fistula Foundation, INF has been able to purchase critical medical equipment (including a much-needed new ultrasound machine) in order to conduct fistula clinics and treat women in the region. They also recently trained 261 health workers and 136 community members in four districts to help better identify patients and direct them to available treatment.



Photo credit: International Nepal Fellowship



Uganda | Many people don't realize that finding fistula patients can be just as difficult as treating them! Fistula is such a traumatizing and isolating condition that women are often reluctant to come forward, and some are not even aware that they have a medical condition for which treatment is available. Our partners at Uganda Village Project (UVP) recently launched an innovative "Fistula Ambassador" program in eight districts in Eastern Uganda. This program trains fistula survivors to become fistula ambassadors and advocates in their local communities, raising awareness and reducing stigma through outreach and education. Women often feel more comfortable coming forward knowing these advocates have been through the same ordeal. So far, 18 fistula ambassadors have been trained and more patients are being identified and referred for treatment than ever before.

Photo credit: Uganda Village Project



Action on Fistula: New partnership a 'game changer' for women in Kenya

In an interview with Thomson Reuters Foundation, Fistula Foundation CEO Kate Grant commented, "We're thrilled with this partnership with Astellas and its potential to be a 'game changer' for fistula treatment," adding, "We hope to make Kenya, and what we are doing here, a model that we can take to other places."

Action on Fistula will provide free fistula surgeries and also lay the foundation for continuous and lasting availability of fistula treatment in Kenya. Designed and deployed by Fistula Foundation, the program takes a multipronged approach to treating fistula by working to increase the number of highly trained fistula surgeons in Kenya; scaling up a countrywide outreach campaign to identify fistula patients and refer them for surgery; and building a fistula treatment network in medical facilities throughout Kenya in order to reduce the time a woman has to wait before receiving surgery. In some parts of the country, women with fistula must currently wait a year or more for treatment.

Deepening our existing partnership with the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), we will fund training in advanced fistula repair for Kenyan doctors by creating the first-ever FIGO Training Center in Kenya, where expert fistula surgeons will follow the FIGO Global Competency Based Training Manual, the global standard for quality fistula care.

Improved community outreach is also essential in order to reach women who suffer with fistula in rural and remote parts of Kenya. Action on Fistula will build strong networks of community health workers and advocates that will identify, support and refer more women to facilities where they can receive care. The program will also build surgical capacity at five strategically located hospitals in the first year of this campaign, with plans for further expansion.

Dr. Laura Laski, Chief, Sexual and Reproductive Health Branch of UNFPA said that this partnership "...is the first of its kind in Kenya and has the potential to be a roadmap for the way corporations, NGOs and citizens can join together to identify and treat the severe backlog of women who are suffering from obstetric fistula."

To learn more about Fistula Foundation's leadership of the Action on Fistula campaign, visit fistulafoundation.org/join-us/action-on-fistula

Action on Fistula

"...the first of its kind in Kenya and has the potential to be a roadmap for the way corporations, NGOs and citizens can join together to identify and treat the severe backlog of women who are suffering from obstetric fistula."

~Dr. Laura Laski, Chief,
Sexual and Reproductive
Health Branch of UNFPA



Photo credit: Georgina Goodwin

Fistula Foundation CEO Kate Grant and Astellas Pharma Europe Ltd. President and CEO Ken Jones with fistula surgery patients in Nairobi



Photo credit: Astellas Pharma Europe, Ltd.

Fistula Foundation Board Chair Dr. Sohier Elneil (center) with Astellas Pharma Europe, Ltd. President & CEO Ken Jones and Vice President of Licensing and Alliances, Naoki Okamura.

Astellas Pharma Europe, Ltd. Launches *Action on Fistula* Corporate Giving Campaign

On May 23, the United Nations' International Day to End Obstetric Fistula, Astellas Pharma Europe announced their record \$2 million donation to Fistula Foundation to 250 employees at a town hall event at their corporate headquarters in Chertsey, England. Fistula Foundation Board Chair, Dr. Sohier Elneil, attended the meeting and gave remarks about the Action on Fistula campaign and how Astellas' donation will help women who are suffering from fistula in Kenya. Astellas Pharma Europe President & CEO, Ken Jones, and Vice President of Licensing and Alliances, Naoki Okamura, also spoke during the event.

Furthering their company's generous commitment, Astellas Pharma Europe employees will also be raising funds for Fistula Foundation in offices throughout Europe via fundraising events and through individual contributions.

"Action on Fistula tackles a significant unmet need for treatment in urology, where we have a strong heritage. Through our flagship corporate giving program with Fistula Foundation we want to help treat more women living with this devastating condition. Critically, the program will build capacity through surgical training so that even more women can be treated in the future," said Mr. Jones.

View the Action on Fistula campaign website at www.astellas.eu/action-on-fistula.

In Recognition of United Nations' International Day to End Obstetric Fistula

May 23, 2014 marked the 2nd annual United Nations' International Day to End Obstetric Fistula. Although we at Fistula Foundation are dedicated to raising awareness about fistula year round, we are proud to be a part of this important global event. This year we participated in a number of activities to ensure that fistula would be on everyone's radar!

In addition to the official launch of the momentous Action on Fistula program in Kenya (see cover story), we were featured in a number of prominent blogs such as Global Moms Challenge (www.globalmomschallenge.org) and Anna's Friends (www.annas-friends.com).



Johnson & Johnson

We also tweeted up a storm in an #EndFistula Twitter chat hosted by our friends at Johnson & Johnson. This one-hour special event provided a platform for participants to discuss the causes and consequences of obstetric fistula and how we can all work together to #EndFistula. To see a recap of some of the great comments, go to <http://storify.com/JNJGlobalHealth/endfistula>.

Tweet us @Fistula_Fdn using hashtag #EndFistula to tell us YOUR thoughts on ending fistula for women suffering worldwide!

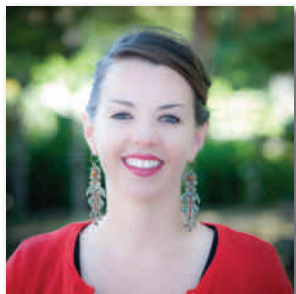


New Staff Spotlight

We are delighted to welcome four new staff members to Team Fistula!



Niki Friedman: Niki is Fistula Foundation's new Office Manager. Previously, she worked at Response, a program of Jewish Child & Family Services in her hometown Chicago that focused on empowering adolescents through education, support and outreach.



Ashley Burke: Originally from Monterey, California, Ashley recently returned to the area following 3 years in Niger and Rwanda with the Peace Corps. She first learned about fistula while in Africa and is looking forward to raising more awareness about this devastating condition in her role as Communications Associate.



Joop Rubens: Our new Director of Marketing and Development, Joop is originally from Belgium but most recently came to us from Santa Cruz, CA where he managed marketing and development at Firelight Foundation. In addition to being a development guru, he has traveled extensively in Africa and is a photographer extraordinaire!



Lindsey Pollaczek is our new Kenya Program Director. Based in Nairobi, she will be overseeing the implementation of the recently launched Action on Fistula program.

Welcome to the team!

Fistula Foundation Board Of Directors

CHAIR

Sohier Elneil, MD

DIRECTORS

France Anne Donnay, MD

Kate Grant (ex-officio)

Kassahun Kebede

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Stephen Saunders, Esq.

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Teri Whitcraft

Larry William, MD

Susan Wilson

Fistula Foundation is dedicated to ending the suffering caused by the childbirth injury of obstetric fistula, because we believe no woman should endure a life of misery and isolation simply for trying to bring a child into the world.

You have the power to make a lasting gift to women who are suffering.

Contact us at (866) 756-3700 for details on how to include Fistula Foundation in your estate plans.





Partner Spotlight Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT) Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT) is our biggest partner in Tanzania and the largest indigenous provider of disability and rehabilitation services in the country. It is one of few facilities in Tanzania to provide comprehensive, high-quality fistula services on a permanent basis and accounts for approximately

one-third of all fistula surgeries performed annually in the country. They have steadily increased their surgical capacity each year, going from 162 surgeries in 2009 to over 700 in 2013!

CCBRT recently expanded their fistula facilities with support from Fistula Foundation. In 2013, they also trained hundreds of community health workers, conducted 15 outreach missions to raise awareness about fistula in rural areas, and aired nearly 7,000 radio and 200 TV ads about fistula. Recently, CCBRT has received praise for its innovative use of mobile technology in reaching out to more fistula patients and facilitating their access to treatment.

Supporter Spotlight: Informed Birth Choices

Informed Birth Choices (IBC) is an organization in the Maryland/DC area that offers childbirth classes and doula services to the community. In May, they held a car seat safety event and fundraiser for Fistula Foundation that raised \$250! The following is part of a blog post about the event, reprinted from their website, www.informedbirthchoices.org.



For months, Informed Birth Choices worked to plan an event to encourage car seat safety and raise money for Fistula Foundation. Finally the day had arrived. The weather was perfect for IBC's New Moms Group to host this awesome outdoor event.

Chloe Chrysanthus, an IBC doula and car seat specialist, volunteered her time to check and properly install infant and toddler car seats for free. Since 8 out of 10 car seats are installed improperly, this was a great service to all the moms who came out.

In addition to the car seat check and installation, IBC also asked for donations for Fistula Foundation. People graciously donated baked goods and handmade crafts to sell to raise money.

Danielle Koontz, the director of IBC, was hoping to raise around \$50 - but to her great surprise, the money collected totaled \$250! That amount is over half the average cost of a fistula repair. The IBC car seat check and Fistula Foundation event was a true success and showed that women all over the world can change each other's lives for the better. Truly this event was a win-win for everyone involved! A BIG thank you to everyone involved!



FISTULA
FOUNDATION

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What You're Saying About Us...


 Hope For Bangladesh @HopeforWCB - Jun 11

Congratulations to our partner
[@Fistula_Fdtn](#) for having provided 10,000
women with fistula surgery. Incredible!

  2  3 ...

 Chrysula Winegar @chrysula - Jun 6

Hey [@Fistula_Fdtn](#) friends, [@LisaBloom](#) and I were singing your
praises this morning! You are amazing!!! #FF

   ...

Supporter Spotlight: Charles Wright Academy



On May 30th, high school junior Constance Hosannah launched her "Fight A Fistula, Save A Life" campaign by organizing a film screening and discussion panel at her school, Charles Wright Academy in Tacoma, Washington. The event was attended by nearly 55 people and raised over \$1,600 for Fistula Foundation. One attendee commented that it was "such a moving experience. As a member of the audience, I got a distinct feeling that Friday night was the start of a growing and powerful movement in our community." And Constance isn't done yet! She has planned a walk-a-thon in August called "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" and hopes to raise \$10,000 by the end of 2014 to help end the suffering of women with fistula.