



Association of Haitian Physicians Abroad

Dear members, friends, and family of the Association of Haitian Physicians Abroad:

It is our great pleasure to welcome you tonight at the AMHE NY Chapter Gala, yet another occasion to recognize Friends, long-time Donors, Partners and Colleagues who have supported our work in Haiti, the Caribbean, Canada, and the United States. Looking back, we realize that in the last 43 years, we have managed to follow traditions while perfecting the original ideas of our founding fathers.

To adapt and adjust to changes in the healthcare system, many discussions generated quite a few ideas over time. Case in point: The Board of trustees, by means of workshops, sought to bring new ideas to boost fellowship and to attract new partners to the AMHE.

The AMHE has not been shielded from changes. Thankfully, the appointment of the first Executive Director helped consolidate the fundamental bases of the institution as we develop and implement key policies and standard operating procedures that will reinforce the Grant qualification and application process. Our projects, which can be viewed on the AMHE Home page, will undergo a similar process.

In keeping with its mission and vision, AMHE has consistently maintained its connections at home and abroad. Our dedicated physicians continually impart their knowledge and experience to our less fortunate colleagues back home who are still practicing medicine the way our generation was taught in the 70's. We have strived to extend our support by facilitating their access to resources and opportunities otherwise scarce in Haiti. A few examples are listed below:

- young physicians through their internship and residency programs;
- hospitals across Haiti through annual missions programs;
- young students through the cafeteria program of “La Maison des etudiants”;
- and many other programs.”

In addition, ongoing efforts to help many others cross a long bridge to find opportunities in and outside Haiti are successful every time. The rotations for interns and residents started in 2007 in Coffeyville, KS with the Orthopedic residents from the HUEH. We have also been able to train hundreds at home, and we are pleased to report that they are in strategic positions at different hospitals throughout the country thus helping to ease the suffering of citizens and saving lives.

Like many of you, I am fortunate to have benefited from a free medical education in Haiti. For this reason, I have made it a sacerdotal mission to provide help when, and where, I was needed. This is my way to pay back a country which has fashioned me into the orthopedist I became. I am honored to be a mentor and a reference for the young orthopedists.

We implemented a similar program in New York. I am happy to report that this program is working very well, however, your support is needed to continue to maintain the activity. For



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example, we have solicited funds via phone call but the financial support we are receiving is not enough to sustain the continuation of this very successful project.

During the annual medical missions to Port-au-Prince, Cap-Haitien, Valley of Jacmel, Léogane, Jérémie, Croix Des Bouquets, Aquin and the South Peninsula we offer didactic lectures (ACLS,BLS, ATLS, PALS) to the medical personnel as well as the surgical expertise. We have also added ways of performing rapid diagnosis in the reading of surgical pathologic slides via (telepathology).

After 43 years of soul searching and hard work, we must not rest on our laurels. There are many projects in the pipeline. We are asking all of you in the AMHE membership community (retired or active physicians) to get involved, take initiatives, so we can see bring them to fruition. We hope that the mini-congress, the opinion survey, the "Focus Group" and the round tables will hopefully bring out new ideas. Food for thought: would a name change of the Association help attract more professionals, grow the membership and encourage involvement in our activities?

I can't conclude without reminding the residents who have benefited from the AMHE-sponsored rotations in US hospitals to, in turn, impart and share their knowledge with their less fortunate compatriots. Finally, I want to congratulate many of the orthopedic residents who benefited from the rotation programs in Coffeyville, Kansas for their recent publications in local and foreign peer-reviewed journals. This program was a dream of mine, and the AMHE needs to be proud of its realization and far-reaching results.

Thanks for joining us tonight and enjoy the moments we are sharing with the AMHE Board of trustees and the Chapter of NY.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maxime Coles', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Maxime Coles M.D., F.I.C.S., F.R.C.S., F.A.A.N.O.S.
Orthopedic Surgeon and Traumatologist
AMHE Central Executive Committee President