



Association  
Des  
Médecins

Haitiens à L'étranger

ASSOCIATION OF HAITIAN PHYSICIANS ABROAD

1166 Eastern Parkway

Brooklyn NY 11213

1718-245 1015/email: eljerome@pol.net

**CENTRAL EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE**

**Eric L. Jerome, M.D.FACP**  
President

**Christian Lauriston, M.D.**  
1<sup>ST</sup> Vice-President

**Roger Duvivier, M.D.FACOG**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President

**Carline Sangosse, M.D.**  
Secretary

**Michele David, M.D FACCP.**  
1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Secretary

**Pierre Paul Cadet , M.D.**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Secretary

**Schiller Desgrottes, M.D.**  
Treasurer

**Reynald Altema, M.D.**  
Assistant Treasurer

**Yves Manigat, M.D FACS.**  
Past President

Administration

**Ms.Michelle Remy**

Website: [HTTP://:WWW.AMHE.org](http://WWW.AMHE.org)

## **Haiti Medical Relief Mission: A "Pilot Project"**

### **1. Executive summary**

The 'Association des Medecins Haitiens a l'Etranger' (AMHE) an Association of Haitian Physicians Abroad, through its various programs is planning a "pilot" or joint project with the 'Hopital de l'Universite d'Etat d'Haiti' (HUEH), the University Hospital of the State University of Haiti/ Faculty of Medicine. The principal objectives are:

- i-to provide medical education to Haitian medical students, interns and residents
- ii-to contribute in upgrading the quality of the health care provided to the one and a half million low income men, women and children who seek care at that institution
- iii-to implement a comprehensive HIV/ AIDS treatment protocol, and train the resident physicians in the care of the disease at the HUEH.

The program will operate with a core of members of the AMHE of Haitian descent and volunteer physicians of other nations willing to help. This project, the "Haiti Medical Relief Mission" will function in cooperation with the Association Medicale Haitienne (AMH) which is the Haitian Medical Association, the US Agency for International Development, (USAID), the Groupes Haitiens d'Etude du Sarcome de Kaposi et des Infections Opportunistiques (GHESKIO) centers and the UN International Children Education Fund (UNICEF).

An administrative staff working on a part-time basis will coordinate the daily activities of the program in the United States and in Haiti. An AMHE steering board of the "Haiti Medical Relief Mission" along with a committee of the different chiefs of medical services of the HUEH, the medical director of HUEH will be responsible for the overall supervision of the program.

**This one year pilot project will afford to the AMHE the opportunity of collecting the appropriate data in order to expand to a full "Twinning venture with the HUEH" for a period of five years or more.**

A request for funding (\$140, 000 to \$150,000) is sought.

### **2. Background/ Statement of Purpose**

Approximately 40% of Haiti's 8 million people have no access to any kind of health services and this impoverished country has the highest maternal mortality rate in the Western Hemisphere; one out of 10 children dies before the age of 5 (WHO). Major endemic diseases remain a public health concern: HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria and STD's. Even though studies have shown a contracting seroprevalence of HIV, adequate therapy is not widely available. The treatment of hypertension, stroke and breast cancer remains problematic throughout the country. Port-au-Prince, the capital with an estimated population of 2,000,000 inhabitants suffers from a chronic lack of adequate health care facilities. Access to the existing ones is also a major problem for the population due to economic reasons.

The HUEH, a 700 bed reference hospital has been providing care for the majority of the population of Port-au-Prince and its surroundings. The largest health care facility in the country, its physical plant was built between 1915 and 1920, and has since undergone multiple renovations. However, it remains inadequate for providing medical services. Nonetheless, numerous generations of Haitian doctors now working in the United States and Canada have been trained in this landmark institution.

Following the political unrest of January/February 2004 a delegation of the Association of Haitian Physicians Abroad (AMHE) visited HUEH in early April. During that time the medical staff of the hospital, for security reasons could not provide adequate care to patients. The AMHE delegation found that different medical and surgical services of the hospital were virtually nonexistent and practically all basic hospital care halted. Power outages had become so common that the operating rooms had to suspend its surgical interventions for a significant period of time.

The members of the AMHE delegation observed that different areas of the hospital did not even have running water with which to wash their hands. Basic medical supplies, drugs and equipment for medical care were non-existent. There was a complete breakdown of health delivery inside this institution. From multiple interviews with the staff and from our own observation, medical education and delivery of care were below average in that institution responsible for providing cares to a large segment of the population. Under these conditions, Medical Training in general suffered.

With a limited budget of less than five million dollars per year, acquisition of medication and new equipment by HUEH is really difficult. Most of the work was being performed by interns, residents and an attending staff grossly underpaid. The medical director, without an administrator has been really struggling.

The women's center, Maternity Isaie Jeanty, and the Sanatorium for Infectious

Diseases HIV/AIDS, satellites of HUEH are all in a state of total disrepair.

## 2.1 Association of Haitian Physicians Abroad (AMHE)

In 1972, the Founders of the Association of Haitian Physicians Abroad had set as one of their objectives to contribute to the advancement of medicine and the betterment of public health in Haiti. The AMHE consists of seven chapters in the United States and Canada with a membership of close to 1500 Haitian physicians which in majority were trained at the HUEH and they speak Creole. AMHE is registered in the United States as a 501(c)(3) organization.

Programs of the AMHE include:

1. *Scientific Program*- The AMHE has organized for the past 31 years annual scientific conventions in cities across the United States and abroad that provide continuing medical education to its members with an average of 26.5(CME) credits per convention. AMHE has also participated in joint scientific programs with local societies and universities to further more and more its continuing medical education program. AMHE conventions programs for the past five years have been:

- 1999 Cancun Convention: "Health Mandate for the Millennium"  
Sponsored by AMHE/Albert Einstein College of Medicine
- 2000 "Medicine and its Challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" Fort Lauderdale, Florida  
Sponsored by AMHE /University of Miami School of Medicine
- 2001 "Recent Advances in Medicine and Surgery" Ocho Rios, Jamaica  
Sponsored by AMHE/ New York Medical College/St-Vincent Catholic Medical Centers
- 2002 "Medicine in African Americans" La Romana, Dominican Republic  
Sponsored AMHE/ New York Medical College/St-Vincent Catholic Medical Centers
- 2003 "Adolescence and Aging" Gatineau, Ottawa Canada  
Sponsored by AMHE/ New York Medical College/St-Vincent Catholic Medical Centers

2. *Visiting Professor Program*- The AMHE, in partnership with the Faculty of Medicine of the National University of Haiti, has been offering a program of medical education to the university's students house staff and has helped to rebuild the physical plant of the *Maison des Etudiants*(Student living quarters). AMHE spent over \$100,000 to renovate this facility at the Faculty of Medicine. The major teaching programs, designed for its students and faculty, for the past three years, have been on Breast Cancer, Emergency Medicine/CPR courses, Pulmonary Diseases.

3. *AMHE Breast Cancer Program*- Provides counseling to women with breast cancer. The specialists in this program have been very busy, in the US and in Haiti working to keep this program running. Educational activities remain in essence the main features of this program with possibility for direct patient care.

4. *HIV/AIDS Program*- The AMHE has been dealing with and fighting against the HIV crisis since 1984 when "Haitian nationality" was listed as one of the four risk factors for the transmission of the human immunodeficiency virus. In addition to a very strong and dedicated advocacy for HIV/AIDS treatment programs, AMHE sponsored continuing medical education on HIV/AIDS offered to AMHE members and a very active community education program. The AMHE has given technical assistance to Community Based Organizations. The HIV/AIDS Program in 2003 included an educational curriculum and linkage with various institutions such as GHESKIO. The program includes up to a dozen faculty specialized in HIV/AIDS care and/or a related subspecialty.

5. *SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM*.- Since 1997, the AMHE has established a Lionel Laine scholarship fund for medical and dental students in Haiti. It rewards the recipients with \$1000 a year if they have a very good academic record and demonstrate a financial need.

### 3. Program Description

The Association of Haitian Physicians Abroad wants to use its know-how acquired along three decades and provide medical assistance to the HUEH by developing that new venture called "AMHE Medical Relief Mission." This pilot project will help improve in the short term the general health care environment at the HUEH and also gather data, set long term plan for a proposal of a five year "twinning" venture with that particular entity.

**Our volunteer members will join the hospital staff and help the administrative body provide effective medical services. They will be scheduled accordingly for a period of six months to a year.** The AMHE physicians in rotations of one to two weeks will assist the staff of the different services in the hospital and provide **medical supervision to:**

- i- medical students,
- ii- interns and residents.

**and training to:**

- i- attendings in HIV/AIDS.
- ii- other members of the medical staff.

#### 3.1 Upgrade of each department.

- i- **Cardiology:** an echocardiography machine is available.

- ii- **Gastro-Enterology:** An endoscopic set is available
- iii- **Dialysis Unit:** four Baxter machines 550 .
- iv- **Infectious Diseases:** AMHE physicians will provide **HIV/AIDS care for inpatients and outpatients including counseling, triple therapy and follow up.** Testing, cell count and viral load will be assured by GHESKIO centers.
- v- **Surgery:** AMHE physicians will perform surgical, as well as urological and orthopedic interventions. The treatment of breast cancer being very problematic, the AMHE surgeon will focus on the **Breast clinic.**
- vi- **Emergency Room:** AMHE physicians will be in present in the Emergency room to assist. Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation courses will be provided.
- vii- **Pediatrics:** AMHE pediatricians will provide clinical services.
- viii- **OB-GYN:** AMHE physicians will provide services at the Obstetrics and Gynecology department. The Maternal/infantile HIV transmission will be reduced or prevented with appropriate medications provided by AMHE.
- ix- **Psychiatry:** AMHE psychiatrists will join the program and assist the psychiatric department.
- x- **Lab and Pathology**
- xi- **Administrative** guidance will be fully assured

### 3.2 Staff Training.

The introduction of new equipment requires training of the staff to maintain it and operate it. In the short term, we can provide some help, but in the long run there needs to be a systematic program where cadres can be trained at US institutions with the sole purpose of forming people who will return promptly once the study cycle is terminated.

For example, an AMHE cardiologist or nephrologists can provide the training and follow up in their respective fields. Pulmonologists can help with the training of nurses, respiratory therapists for maintaining continuous activities of the intensive care unit. An administrator with skills for hospital administration will join the group.

**A program director** will be chosen among the AMHE doctors with specific task to overseeing all the program activities and will report to the AMHE president monthly. He will be in charge of the administrative staff, make the schedule, and look at the availability of supplies and equipment at the hospital. He will maintain the coordination with the other organizations.

An administrative staff composed of three individuals will be hired for the coordination of the program, two in Port-au-Prince, one in the States. Each staff member will need administrative skills to help the program director do the schedule; maintain the contact with volunteers for the work to be as painless as possible. They will also have computer skills and be college graduates as minimum requirements.

### 3.3 Facility upgrade.

Based on the visit of the premises in April of this year, we anticipate the acute need

of equipment such as faxes, oxygen tanks, plumbing for running water, etc. Funding for such materiel will be requested. **Medical supplies and equipment will be sent to the Hospital before the opening of the program.**

### **3.4 Beneficiaries**

Low income citizens of Port- au-Prince, especially those infected with HIV/AIDS, use the Hospital premises for medical emergencies; trauma victims, those hurt in auto accidents, by gun shot wounds, patients with chronic illnesses, patient who need general surgical, orthopedic, and urological operations are all seen there..

### **3.5 Goals/Objectives**

The main goals of the Haiti Medical Relief Mission are:

- i- To keep medical knowledge current among the medical students, interns, residents, attending and medical personnel working at the institution.
- ii- To effectively use physician volunteers (Haitians and otherwise) as educators, training providers at the National University Hospital of Haiti called HUEH.

## **4. Available Resources**

The Hospital plant is still viable but major renovations are needed; in the future we can foresee the submission of another proposal for the physical upgrade of the facilities. The 400 employees paid by the Ministry of Public Health and others need to be made accountable for their daily activities. The intern and resident staff will benefit from the additional teaching and be encouraged to provide better care. A medical committee composed of the different chiefs of service will be available for the program coordination and needs.

Before the beginning of the program we will bring two containers of 30 feet loaded with basic supplies and equipment. From that list we can extract:

- IV fluid (Saline, D5W).
- Needles and syringes, bandages, tape, alcohol, betadine, scalpel, gauze (4 by 4).
- Antibiotics: penicillin, azithromax, tequin, antiretroviral-agents
- Foley catheters.
- Asthma medications and oxygen concentrators.
- Two echocardiogram machines.
- 2 EKG machines.
- 4 dialysis machines.
- Kidney dialyzers, tubing and dialysate.

- Four incubators.
- Four respirators.
- Laparoscopic set for the surgical department, etc.

#### **4.1 Curriculum**

The curriculum for the medical training and all the courses to be provided will be made available through the AMHE. All physician volunteers who agreed to join the program should register with AMHE. Besides their medical diplomas, they will need a state license, DEA numbers, and board certifications.

An equivalent license from the Ministry of Health will be obtained through our administrative office before an applicant is allowed to work in the Hospital premises.

Every effort will be made to have a leading US teaching institution align with us to sponsor/ back up this academic pursuit. All teaching should satisfy the American or Canadian board of the major specialties. HIV/AIDS teaching and training will satisfy the WHO requirements or the CDC.

The schedule can be seen in appendices A.

## **5. Needed resources**

i-Physicians volunteers will be recruited among the AMHE membership in Canada, United States of America or elsewhere. Physicians of other nationalities will be sought via other channels.

ii-Roundtrip transportation between the Port-au-Prince airport and the guest house or Hotel.

iii-Daily transportation from the hotel to the hospital.

iv-Breakfast, lunch and dinner are provided as well as lodging at a Hotel or a Guest House.

v-Internet Access will be available at Hospital and Guesthouse

vi-Program coordinator pro bono.

vii-A three member administrative staff.

Computers with internet services, fax services and telephones will be available on both ends.

Nurses and other allied professionals may join the group

Visa section of the American Embassy will called to help facility training in the US.

A budget for one year is necessary for the proper functioning of the program.

<b>Budget: 1 Year</b>		
PERSONNEL		
Project Director	Part time	\$20,000
Coordinator (USA)	Part time	\$18,500
Coordinator (Haiti)	Part time	\$16,500
<i>Sub-Total</i>		\$52,000
FACILITIES		
Haiti- Rent		\$9,000
<i>Sub-Total</i>		\$9,000
OFFICE EQUIPMENT		
Computers (4)		\$4,000
Copy Machine (1)		\$1,000
Misc. Equipment		\$3,000
<i>Sub-Total</i>		\$8,000
OFFICE SUPPLIES		
Paper supplies		\$1,200
Misc. supplies		\$1,000
<i>Sub-Total</i>		\$2,200
COMMUNICATION		
Telephone (USA & Haiti)		\$8,000
Postage		\$2,000
Internet		\$500
<i>Sub-Total</i>		\$10,500
TRAVEL		
Airline Tickets		\$18,000
Misc Expenses		\$2,000
<i>Sub-Total</i>		\$20,000
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT		
Refurbishing and Storage		\$30,000
Shipping (from USA)		\$10,500
<i>Sub-Total</i>		\$40,500
<b>SUM TOTAL</b>		<b>\$142,200</b>



## 5 Program Implementation

The program will be implemented after a Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Ministry of Public Health. A Hospital committee made of the different chiefs of services/Medical director will be made aware of it and their acquiescence and input will be sought.

**Implementation of the pilot program will start as early as June 28th 2004.**

## 6 Evaluation

The program will be evaluated by committees of both AMHE and HUEH.

**Primarily qualitative** in nature, the evaluation will be conducted through interviews and questionnaires and will cover topics in the training program and other questions to provide feedback for the ongoing improvement of the Project. Monthly reports will be prepared that identify the major findings of the formative evaluation and how they have been used to improve the operation. Both committees (AMHE and HUEH) will receive those reports.

Goal #1: Evaluate medical education.

Goal #2: To effectively use physician (Haitian or otherwise) volunteers as educators and clinicians.

**A summative evaluation** will start with the establishment of baseline data at the beginning of the Project (using a random sample of interns- residents' knowledge) and then be conducted at six month intervals. Small examinations with multiple choice questions will be conducted. Results will be made available to both committees (AMHE and HUEH).

## 7 Appendices

### AMHE HAITI MEDICAL RELIEF MISSION APPLICATION FORM

Please return the completed form and a copy of your Medical Diploma and License, Board certifications if applicable

AMHE, Inc  
1166 Eastern Parkway  
Brooklyn NY, 11213  
Email: AMHE@org  
Tel: 7182451015

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical school \_\_\_\_\_

University affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Field of Expertise \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in: (please check all that apply)

\_\_ joining for one or two week medical mission

\_\_ date available \_\_\_\_\_

June 28<sup>th</sup>- July 03 Full

July 4-10

July 11-17

July 18-24

July 25-31

Aug 1-7

Aug 8-14

Aug 15-21

Aug 22-28

- Sept 5-11   
Sept 12-18   
Sept 19-25   
Sept 26-30   
Oct 3-9   
Oct 10-16   
Oct 17-23   
Oct 24-30   
  
Nov 1-6   
Nov 7-10   
Nov 14-20   
Nov 21-27   
  
Dec 30-1-4   
Dec 5-11   
Dec 12-18   
Dec 19-25

Additional AMHE members may be needed for January 2005 to July 2005.

**NOTIFICATION TO U.S. EMBASSY  
OF TRAVEL TO HAITI**

**All Americans traveling to Haiti:**

You must register with the US consulate in Haiti **before** you arrive. You may contact the consulate at US Embassy. The following information should be included:

Name:

Passport number:

Date of Issuance:

Date of Birth:

Place of Birth:

Dates of Travel:

And:

Address in Haiti:

Telephone number in Haiti:

E-mail Address:

**Travel Warning:** Passports are stolen daily in Haiti. Exercise additional caution when traveling with your passport and always bring several copies of your passport with you in the event that it is stolen.

**Full Schedule to follow**

