

REPORT TO USAID

August 18, 2006

By Paul Nacier, MD, Chief Medical Mission,
AMHE MEDICAL RELIEF MISSION
HAITI PILOT PROJECT (2004-2006)

The AMHE Medical Relief Mission Pilot Project has three components:

- 1) To support academic teaching of medical students, interns, and residents at HUEH
- 2) To improve the quality of health care delivery at HUEH
- 3) To implement a comprehensive HIV program at HUEH

Dr. Berthaud already reported on the third component of the pilot project, the HIV program. We are reporting on the first two components:

Since its initiation in June 2004, AMHE Medical Relief Mission has contributed to nearly \$1,000,000 in medical equipment and supplies to HUEH, including hemodialysis machines, endoscopy equipment, orthopedic supplies, echocardiography machine, pharmaceuticals, computers, books, internet access, and subscription to Up-to-date Medicine, a virtual electronic medical library.

About fifty North American-trained physicians had participated in the mission and many of them made more than one trip. They worked in various clinical departments: Internal Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Orthopedics and Emergency Department. They provided expertise in many specialties such as gastro-enterology, hematology-oncology, neurology, infectious diseases, cardiology, vascular surgery, and hospital administration. They organized bedside rounds, didactic conferences, and hands-on demonstration of medical equipment. Overall, their presence stimulates the academic environment.

However, the major stumbling block to the program has been the exploding insecurity in the metropolitan area. Nonetheless, AMHE leadership continues to explore new initiatives in order to expand its activities beyond HUEH. AMHE had signed a memorandum of agreement with MSPP in July 2006. This memorandum reinforces the partnership between the two entities and serves as the basis for a detailed joint strategic plan that will be developed shortly. AMHE had also signed a collaborative agreement with Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry and the Faculté d'Odontologie of Port-au-Prince.

We thank USAID for his support to the AMHE Medical Relief Mission and hope to continue this fruitful cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Paul Nacier, M.D.,
Chief, AMHE Medical Relief Mission