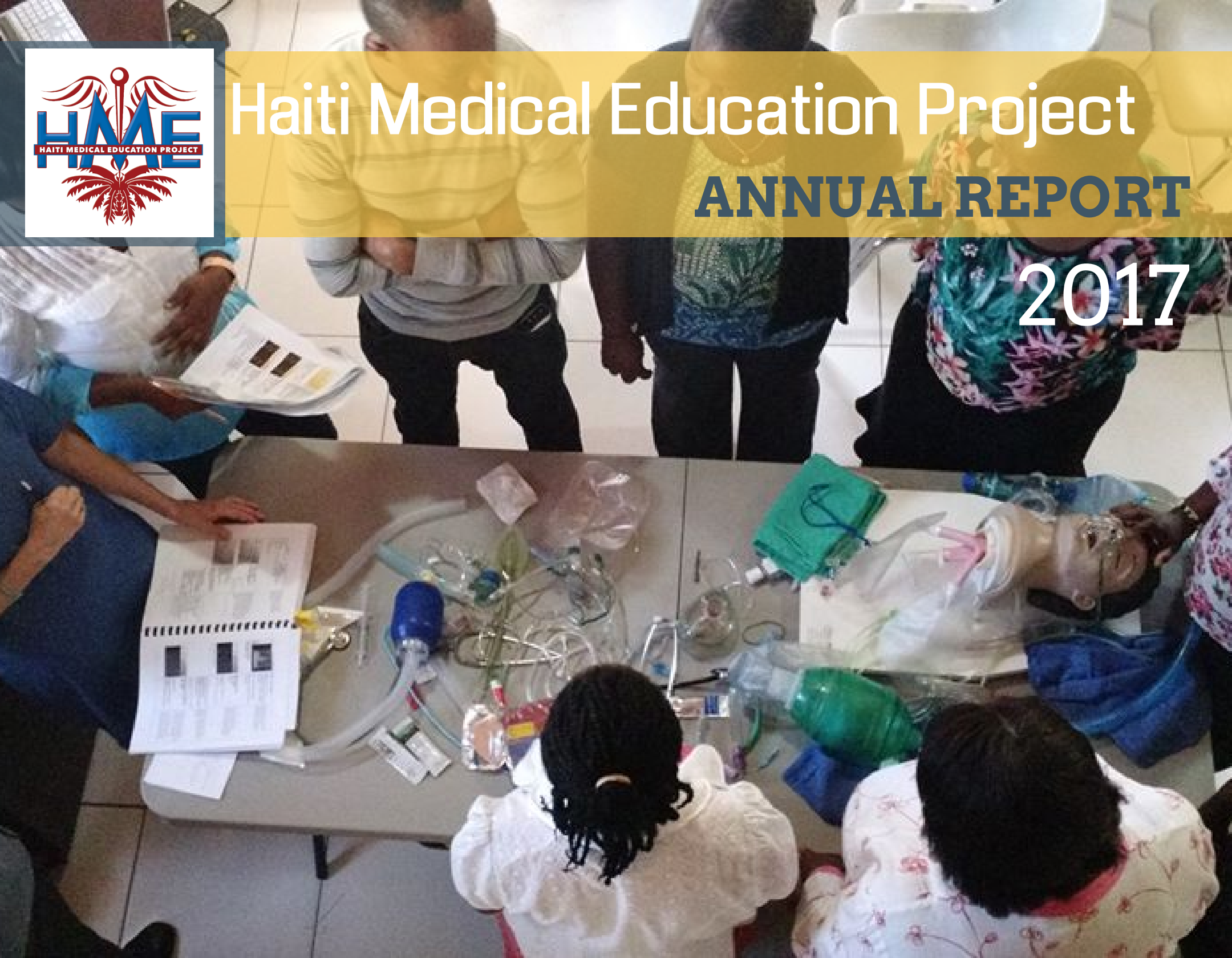




# Haiti Medical Education Project

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

2017





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# MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT AND MEDICAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR



Growing up in Hinche and pursuing my medical education in Port-au-Prince was the initial engagement in my country's well being. Currently as the President of HME, I am in the position to oversee the professional growth of the next generation of Haitian physicians and nurses. Clearly this work cannot be done by one entity or discipline, so HME fosters a collaborative approach to achieve the remarkable goal of medical education.

Students must be taught not only that they are not alone in treating their patients, but also which resources are available to them and how best to use them. Our experiences in 2017 and prior showed us that direct contact with medical educators and colleagues in Haiti and around the world is an irreplaceable component of medical education. A good teacher can make physicians and nurses comfortable in their role, passionate and unrelenting investigators, and active members of the medical community.

In 2017 we created new connections while strengthening existing ones, but there are still significant gaps in medical education in Haiti. We are busy getting ready to continue in 2018 and beyond!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Renard".

Dr. Cruff Renard  
President



My goal as HME Medical Education Director is to lead the formation of curricula and educational initiatives that create a comfort zone allowing to cultivate passionate learning, and to foster teamwork to ultimately practice just and evidence based medicine. Here at HME we also strive to promote an attitude among our trainees and colleagues whereby they never lose sight of the initial passion which drove them to become part of the medical world as physicians or nurses, nor forget the thrill of revelation when they first learned the working of the human body and the connection to humanity. I am convinced that in 2017 HME moved forward toward these goals in our ongoing initiatives and those that were just recently born.

As an entity that focuses on medical education, HME strives to help students and clinicians in training become not only resources of medical knowledge, but, more importantly, physicians and nurses that are passionate about translating that medical knowledge into better care for their patients and the pursuit scientific discovery.

We accomplished much in 2017 and as always were amazed at how our students and colleagues never fail to show us worlds we didn't know. 2018: we are ready to keep at our mission!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Galit".

Dr. Galit Sacajiu  
Founder & Medical Education Director

# WEDNESDAY LECTURE SERIES

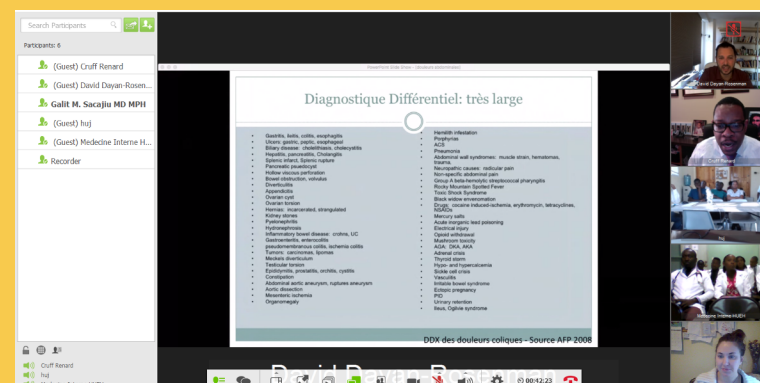
After a brief hiatus in 2016 (due to instability in the medical schools), we were excited to resume our Wednesday Lecture Series in January 2017. As HME's longest running initiative, these lectures offer essential continuing education opportunities to both students and providers.

In 2017, we had a variety of presentations by both former and new lecturers. While some presenters have experience working or living in Haiti, many of our lecturers do not. Through our partnership with Vidyo, these lecturers are able to have a global impact and fill a void without ever having to travel to Haiti.

Throughout the year, HME's lectures were attended by Justinian Hospital in Cap Haitian, Hospital La Providence in Gonaives, and the Hospital of the State University of Haiti. Other attendees included physicians from various locations in Haiti and the US.

The lecturers presented on a variety of continuing education topics. As mental health care is severely lacking throughout Haiti, we were fortunate to organize many mental health lectures this year. Some notable topics from 2017 include:

- Abdominal pain
- ENT (swallowing, throat, voice)
- mhGAP (WHO Mental Health Gap Action Programme - depression, PTSD)
- Child Development
- Delirium
- Psychotropic medications
- Dermatology (skin lighteners, cancers)
- Disabilities
- Reading a scholarly article
- Asthma
- Telemedicine
- ...and many more!



Thanks to our skilled linguists who generously donate their time to translate live for our English-speakers, we are able to overcome language barriers. Brigitte Kazzi, a medical student from Columbia University, translated many times throughout the year. A new translator, Christelle Miot, a medical student at Loma Linda University, translated her first HME lecture in November. Other lectures were translated by HME's President, Dr. Cruff Renard, and Haiti Medical Education and Curricula Coordinator, Dr. Marc Johnson.

Certain challenges still persist that affect the video-conferencing lectures. Despite experiencing a few connection, scheduling, and language issues over the past year, our Wednesday Lecture Series persevered through 2017 as it has for the past eight years. Overall, it was another great year for providing crucial educational opportunities to Haitian students. Our participants know that they can rely on HME to be there every Wednesday, providing them with valuable and engaging training that can be directly applied to serving their local community.



Since its first CALS (Comprehensive Advanced Life Support) training in Cap Haitian in 2015, HME has worked with its Haitian and international partners to continue offering this impactful education opportunity.



HME partnered with Global CALS (Comprehensive Advanced Life Support) to offer a training in Hinche for the first time in April 2017. The CALS Essentials course emphasizes team work and hands-on learning. Students practice a variety of adult medical, pediatric, cardiology, neurology, obstetric, and trauma scenarios. The curriculum was specifically designed for global areas with limited resources like Haiti. 23 physicians and nurses successfully completed this three-day course. The students learned and practiced the universal approach for the initial care of seriously ill and injured patients of all ages and types of medical problems. Haitian physicians and nurses do most of the teaching for our Haiti CALS Essential courses. Instructors in Hinche included:

- Dr. Carlyle Schlabach
- Pamela Allen, PA-C
- Dr. Maudelin Mesadieu
- Dr. Serman Toussaint
- Herve Baptiste
- Dr. Genet Pierre
- Dr. Herry Dely

Roberta Brenza served as the technician, and Dr. Cruff Renard and Dr. Denold Milsoit provided planning and assistance services.

HME also organized the first CALS refresher course in Cap Haitian in April. Students from previous CALS courses gathered to refresh their advanced life support skills. We look forward to having regular refresher courses in the future.

In November 2017, HME supported a workshop in Cap Haitian with the Haitian CALS trainers. The objective of this workshop was to evaluate the CALS program and determine future goals. The doctors and nurses from Justinian Hospital testified to the importance of the CALS program in their medical careers. Given this impact, participants felt that the CALS program should be applied throughout Haiti. The goal is to work with the MSPP (Ministry of Public Health and Population) to integrate the CALS program into the training curriculum for Haitian doctors. In the meantime, trainings are to be scheduled for each department in Haiti. At the end of the workshop, a provisional committee was formed to develop reports on CALS achievements, submit these reports to the MSPP, and plan future CALS activities in Haiti.



# PARTNERSHIPS

HME creates connections to provide appropriate services and expand our reach. 2017 was a great year for continuous collaboration and fostering new partnerships.



In July, our Director of Medical Education, Dr. Galit Sacajiu, was asked to provide a presentation at the Annual Conference for the Association of Haitian Physicians Abroad held in Côte des Arcadins, Haiti. Her presentation on Screening was attended by medical practitioners from throughout the US, all with ties to Haiti or the Haitian diaspora.

Besides presenting at the conference, Dr. Sacajiu and HME's US Administrator Amanda Bickel also had discussions with various actors to seek specific information and develop more partnerships for HME. They met with a local journalist, the Medical Director of the State University, the founder of a telemedicine clinic in Port-au-Prince, and the Executive Director at the Hospital La Providence in Gonaïves.

Many connections were made that led to new partnerships, ideas, and plans for future projects.



In October, HME supported and attended a meeting in Florida for alumni of Haitian Medical Schools. Presentations included:

- Access to Care in Haiti by Dr. Sterman Toussaint
- Hospital La Providence by Dr. Jude Renelique
- HME's beginning and different activities by Dr. Cruff Renard
- A Program for Physicians Trained Abroad by Dr. Sherley David Garcia
- Project of the Asylum Community by Dr. Manouchka Joseph

The conference ended with a workshop led by Dr. Galit Sacajiu titled "Let's make it happen: a step by step tool to bring ideas into the context of health in Haiti" along with a dinner to close the symposium.

It was concluded that the teleconference program is one of the most effective ways to strengthen the training of practitioners in Haiti.



In December 2017, HME organized a trip with Dr. Charous from Loyola University.

They visited the Hospital La Providence in Gonaïves to learn more about the administrative, clinical, and medical education challenges and opportunities. HME and Dr. Charous plan to work with the hospital to develop a big picture partnership and determine the practical first steps.

They also had a meeting with leadership from the General Hospital in Port-au-Prince:

- Dr. Colimon, recently appointed Executive Director
- Dr. Tellemague, Medical Director
- Dr. Jean-Gilles, Chief of ENT and Residency Director.

This excellent opportunity gave HME and Dr. Charous valuable insight on ENT practice and teaching in Haiti, as well as tangible collaboration opportunities for the near future.

# 2017 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Haiti Medical Education Project is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. We run as efficiently as possible and value transparency.

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN ASSETS

**Starting Assets: \$24,972.28**

### INCOME

Donations: \$11,511.32

Direct sponsorship: \$8,823.44

**Total Income: \$19,039.59**

### EXPENSES

Training for Haitian physicians & nurses: \$6,718.20

Transportation for Haitian physicians & nurses: \$1,793.44 (in US) + \$2,521.80 (in Haiti) = \$4,315.24

Internet and computer infrastructure for Haitian residents: \$2,400

Salaries for US-based staff: \$9,299.56 (12.7% grant-writing, 7.1% social media, 80.2% direct medical education administration and arrangement)

**Total Expenses \$22,733.35**

**Current Assets: \$21,278.52**

### PRO-BONO EXPERT TIME DONATED

- 150 hours of video conference preparation and presentations
- 480 hours of curricular development
- 720 hours direct training in Haiti (by Haiti-, US-, and Canada-based faculty)



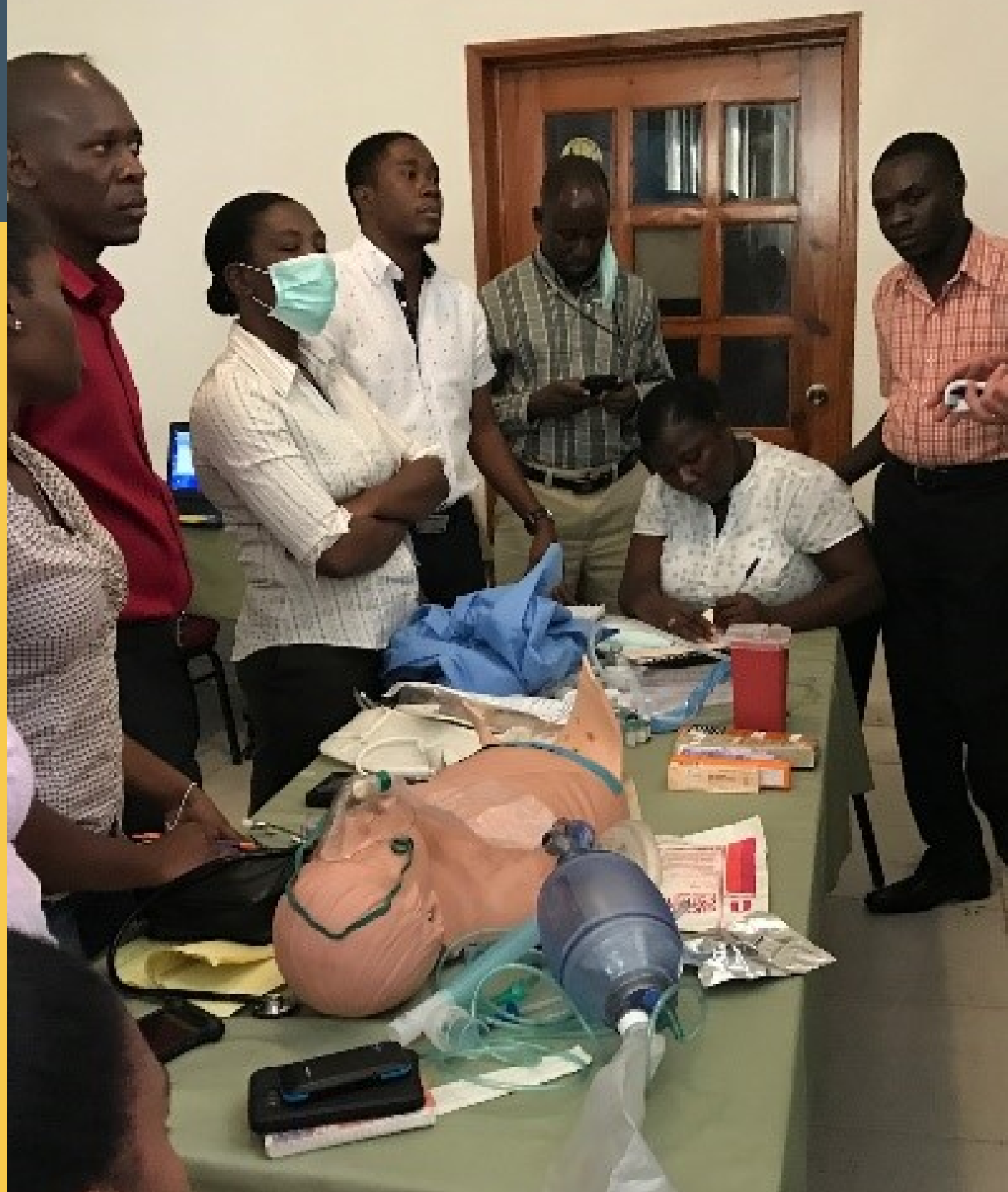
# LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

After an exciting year, we are looking forward to seeing what 2018 has in store.

HME will continue its Wednesday Lecture Series after a brief holiday break. Our first lecture for 2018 will be on January 10th by Haitian-American Physician Dr. Ephese Moise. We have also partnered with a new volunteer translator, who will translate her first lecture in late January.

Our other goals for 2018 include:

- initiating work in Southern Haiti by assisting with technical infrastructure
- bringing our research training course that was a success in Port-au-Prince to the northern region
- establishing a strong working relationship with the Hospital La Providence in Gonaives
- continuing working with the Ministry of Health and their Medical Education Director on curricula and a mentoring program to support those who are doing their Social Service requirement





# HAITI MEDICAL EDUCATION PROJECT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Alex Wright

Roberta Brenza

Dr. Galit Sacajiu

Dr. Cruff Renard

## HAITI MEDICAL EDUCATION PROJECT STAFF

Dr. Cruff Renard

*President*

Carlyle Schlabach

*Director of Emergency Medical Training*

Dr. Galit Sacajiu

*Medical Education Director*

Dr. Nancy Sohler

*Director of Research Education*

Amanda Bickel

*US Program Coordinator*

Dr. Brian Remillard

*Director of External Relations*

Tara Anderson

*Communications Director*

Dr. Ellis Steven Lenger

*Medical Director*

# WE ARE GRATEFUL

FOR THE INDIVIDUALS WHOSE GENEROSITY MAKE  
OUR WORK POSSIBLE.

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## Lecturers

Dr. Brian Remillard  
Dr. Gail Nield  
Dr. Rashed Selim  
Dr. Martin Sedlacek  
Dr. Zoe Blacksin  
Dr. David Dayan-Rosenman

Dr. Ronald Olivenstein  
Dr. Nancy Sohler  
Dr. Steven Charous  
Dr. Cruff Renard  
Dr. Neda Faregh  
Dr. Marshall Fleurant  
Dr. Genny Feinberg

Andrea Daly  
Dr. Samuel Okpaku  
Dr. Galit Sacajiu  
Dr. Marc Johnson  
Dr. Ephese Moise  
Dr. Joey Prosper

## Translators

Brigitte Kazzi

Christelle Miot

Dr. Cruff Renard

Dr. Marc Johnson

## Supporting Companies

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