

### NOTES FROM HAITI

What difference can a split second make? On the Sunday after Christmas there was a packed bus on the road towards St. Raphael. As usual not only the inside of the bus was crowded, but many were sitting on top of the bus as well. Folks were going home to be with family and friends for New Years and Ancestor's Day (January 1 and 2), the most important family celebration of the year. Families who are separated during the year by work or school make a huge effort to come home. The passengers were full of anticipation and laughter. One anxious father was calling his daughter, who was returning home after being away for more than a year, every 15 minutes – "where are you now?", "how much longer before I see you?"

They were all happily chattering away when the bus hit the little bit of black top near Milot. The chauffeur accelerated to shorten the trip a little, he saw a broken down vehicle on the side of the road, he saw the oncoming truck – he gambled that he could get by. The vehicles never touched but the folks on top were swept off the top off the bus and scattered along the road. The chauffeur only realized what happened when he look in his mirror and saw the devastation behind him. He stepped on the gas, drove to the police station and ran away. Others, with cars started ferrying the hurt passengers to HSC. HSC staff, those working, on call and those relaxing, all came. Several of our staff who heard about the accident at home came in to help.

The hospital looked like a scene from MASH, as the hospital staff worked feverishly to attempt to stabilize the patients, to staunch the flow of blood, to console family members. In the end, the chauffeur's impatience cost 8 people their lives, including the young women on her way home to see her Dad after a year's absence.

Split seconds can make a positive difference as well. A frantic, panicked Mom came running into Pediatrics with her limp, cyanotic toddler. He was blue, he had stopped breathing. Dr. Calixte was in

the midst of rounds as the Mom rushed into Peds. However, one quick look was all that was needed to assess the situation. He took the child and performed a Hiemlich maneuver. The balloon which had been obstructing the child's airway came flying out and the child let out a scream to the great relief of his Mom. A few sore ribs, was a small price to pay for a reclaimed life. After a couple hours of observation, just to be sure, Mom and toddler happily returned home.

HSC is here to serve, to offer hope. The staff try hard to keep the light of hope vibrant.

*Dr. Bernes Chalumeau, Jean-Mary Louis,  
Marie Ange Barrella, Raymond Pierre-Louis,  
Sr. Johanna, Sr. Martha*



## President's Comments

Lately in the news there has been a lot of discussion about health care access for everyone in the USA. As you read this newsletter you will see the tremendous efforts of Hôpital Sacré Coeur to provide health care to the people of Northern Haiti. There are no insurance issues. People pay what they can afford and are never denied access to care at Hôpital Sacré Coeur.

This is not supported by the government of Haiti or aid from the United States government. It is supported by the generous donations of individuals like you!

Last fall we had a challenge ~ our generators were not functioning which meant no electricity for the hospital. After the newsletter described our plight we received donations of 3 new generators from supporters in Florida and Connecticut, a value of over \$75,000! We also received a donation of 10 large air conditioners to help protect supplies and equipment in the storerooms, laboratory and OR from



the hot and humid environment. These were sent from a donor in Chicago.

It is common for us to think that to provide health care we just need doctors and nurses. We forget about all the supplies of medicine that are needed and the laboratory tests that are required for the doctors to monitor and treat the various diseases.

Last year we performed over 70,000 lab tests. These tests require sophisticated machines that are not made to last in the harsh environment of Haiti especially with the large number of tests done. We are faced with the continued expense of buying reagents to run the lab tests as well as replacing the machines. The reagents cost more than \$30,000 a year and the machines are \$20,000 each (we have 3 in the lab).

Think of how many lives you will improve and save by helping us with your donations to continue to provide these lab tests.

God bless all of you for your continued support of the people of Haiti through CRUDEM and Hôpital Sacré Coeur.

Peter J. Kelly MD  
President, CRUDEM Foundation

## STATISTICS

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2007</u>
Outpatient Visits	36,470	60,463	57,142
Hospital Admissions	2,940	3,675	4,198
Deliveries	581	1,096	1,322
Operations	1149	1,257	1,148
Prescriptions	83,757	158,030	148,164
Laboratory Tests	50,703	76,884	72,487

First time readers of this newsletter are probably wondering what CRUDEM means. It is an acronym:

**C**enter for the  
**RU**ral  
**DE**velopment of  
**M**ilot

When the Brothers of the Sacred Heart came to Milot in 1968 and started building roads and bridges, constructing schools, medical clinics, a tile factory, a lumber mill and bringing electricity and clean water to the village; they called their mission CRUDEM.

In 1986 they built an 8 bed hospital with an operating room and called it Hôpital Sacré Coeur. St Louis surgeon, Dr Ted Dubuque was the first volunteer to arrive, and shortly thereafter with his childhood friend, Carlos Reese, Dr Dubuque formed the CRUDEM Foundation in St Louis to support the hospital. It is a 501(c) (3) corporation.

## Boston –A New Educational Effort with CRUDEM

My first trip to Milot, Haiti to CRUDEM was in January 2007 with Dr. Peter Kelly and others in his ophthalmology team. Not sure exactly what my role might be, I brought some PowerPoint presentations and lecture materials to possibly share with the nursing staff at Hopital Sacre Coeur. I was pleasantly surprised when the nurses eagerly welcomed the educational sessions. I conducted lectures every afternoon in an administrative office on the ward from 2-4pm for the week, with attendance ranging from 5-15 nurses at any given session. I found they are craving for knowledge.

Their hunger for education led to my bringing a team of nurses to provide more nursing education on our January 2008 trip. The team was comprised of nursing faculty, with varied specialty backgrounds, from Regis College/Lawrence Memorial Nursing Program in Massachusetts. With the help from Dr. Kelly, we were able to ascertain ahead of time, some requested topics and subjects to be covered on our visit. This helped us form the "right team" with the right specialties.

My own background is critical care, so to complement this, Barbara Moloney, MSN, RN whose strength is Cardiology, enthusiastically joined me. She also helped recruit others for the mission. While there, Barbara conducted two educational sessions on separate days: Cardiac Assessment and then Cardiology: ECG Interpretation. Barbara then worked one-on-one with the nurses on the floor to assist in interpreting ECG strips. Barbara and I worked together to demonstrate and explain to nurses



*Jesse, Barbara, Rachel, Deb and Mimi*

a hands-on "head-to-toe" physical assessment of an inpatient.

Mimi Pomerleau, MSN, RNC, conducted a lecture in obstetrics and gynecology. Mimi shared her expertise in the pre-natal clinic, as well as the labor & delivery room. We weren't sure if we were going to be able to pull Mimi away from all "her new babies" she helped bring into the world this particular week!

Jesse Brodbeck, MSN, RN shared her incredible knowledge and expertise in the area of HIV and AIDS. So much new data was made available to our Haitian nurse friends, as well as offering hope after discussing with them the work done in Uganda to decrease HIV rates.

I capped off the week with a lecture focused on Fertility Awareness to lay the foundation to return to teach Natural Family Planning. A young lady from the Archdiocese of Boston, Rachel Hannon, conducted surveys to learn the needs to address for this future project.

At the end we requested evaluations to be filled out to help us learn what we could improve in the future. Attendance alone was one positive indicator. It increased dramatically in one year, with attendees now ranging from 15-25 on any given day.

During a discussion the last day, we were asked to return before a year's time to conduct more educational sessions. We felt honored and privileged at such a request.

Although challenged with much fewer resources, we loved sharing our knowledge, gifts and talents with fellow nurses whose challenges far exceed ours in the resourceful United States. Conversely, we learned much from our Haitian colleagues on how to do more with less. We're happy to say another nursing educational team will return this June to help our new friends and colleagues at Hopital Sacre Coeur, with hopes to continue to send teams every January and June.

***Deb O'Hara-Rusckowski, MBA, RN***





## Washington DC visits CRUDEM

In February, a team of physicians from our Nation's capital visited CRUDEM. One of them writes "The group- all friends from Georgetown Hospital, a mix of medical and surgical specialties. Our plan was to help in clinics and or alongside our young Haitian colleagues. Dick, our internist leader chose to discuss medical history and care of the patient. He reviewed heart sounds and the cardiac clues that lead to diagnosis after careful listening. Mike selected cases from his Gastroenterology experience. He questioned step wise the care and testing of sample patients with the group. Ed is one of the "go to guys" in pulmonary ICU. Al, is a plastic surgeon. He speaks French and made his points for immediate wound care "lavage, lavage lavage".

Monday, a quick morning tour of the upstairs ward with our Haitian doctors. The OB hall is blocked by a temporary curtain. The bed behind it swallows newborn twin girls peacefully sleeping in the morning hullabaloo. Dr Louis walks into the OR. He has a major abdominal surgery, a patient with a large uterine tumor who he has scheduled after several months to allow her to build up adequate blood reserves. His caution pays off, surgery goes well. The next patient follows from a bench outside the OR where she has waited IV in place. Dr Rejouit comes from the clinic to exchange places, perform surgery. This rhythm continues through the week. Both young gynecologists have honed their skills with an exhausting surgical schedule over the past three years. They share the happy news, new sons Sebastian and Ryan.

The Gyn lecture topic is invasive cervical cancer. The recently identified cause is Human Papilloma Virus. One solution is vaccine for high risk types of HPV. The test cost \$150 - the vaccine (not available in Haiti at this time) even more. Invasive cervical cancer targets third world women the hardest. The young colleagues want to learn. They seek the best care for their patients. They will be a force to bring these advances to Haiti. They need to know this possibility for prevention is available.

If wine improves with time, so does medical care at Hôpital Sacré Coeur. Gyn clinic has a working colposcope. This instrument helps screen to identify areas of the cervix where cancer might be starting. The first patient we examine sadly has text book signs of invasive cervical cancer. Her surgery is cancelled. A second exam helps identify areas for biopsy. The results will help plan for her best future treatment. A sonogram is now used to evaluate spotting in early pregnancy. It shows what could be a very early pregnancy. Better to watch, wait and check again. Time will tell. An early bleeding prompted last year's patient to travel the 12 miles to Cap Haitien for a similar emergency sonogram. The building for HIV clinic use is in the final stages. The hospital laundry-four hardworking laundresses, four washboards, hoses and drying lines - will be supplemented by a generator, industrial washers, and dryers en route.

There are changes. Training models and high quality patient care exist side by side at Hôpital Sacré Coeur."

Dr. Joseph Geire

*Dr Geire is an OB/Gyn specialist from Potomac, Maryland*







Included among the February visitors were four members of the Order of Malta's Federal Association; Noreen Falcone, President; Michael Sullivan, Hospitaller; Sue DuFour, immediate past Hospitaller and her husband, Mo DuFour. Two other visitors were Rev Msgr William English and Linda Budney who hope to work with the Parish of Milot. All were impressed with the quality of care given at the hospital, clinic and nutrition center, but even more impressed by the recipients of this care who came in their finest clothes and carried themselves with such dignity. To show them an example of CRUDEM's outreaches they travelled to the village of Thibeau. There they were entertained by and played with some of the 750 grade school children who had just been fed a nourishing meal of rice and beans made possible through a subsidy by the Order of Malta's American Association.





## DIABETIC CLINIC

Diabetes is a very burdensome condition for a patient to manage in Haiti. The Diabetic Clinic at HSC receives patients from all over the northern department; they come from Cap, Plaisance, Limbe, St. Raphael and of course from Milot. There isn't a day goes by, during which we don't hear, "if it wasn't for the care I receive in the Clinic I would be dead by now".



The clinic is staffed by Dr. Cintellus and Dr. Joseph, staff internists, Ms. Celestin and Ms. Casseus, nurses. As the patient gather in the morning, one or another of them spontaneously bursts into a hymn and so starts their day with a prayer. You can hear the voices raised in song all over the courtyard. The clinic begins with an educational session. Information about how to recognize diabetes, what diabetes is, how to control it, danger signs and complications, are reinforced in a lively exchange between the patients and the

nurses. The patients also share their experiences and are supported in their efforts to control their sugar levels.

After their educational session each patient has their blood sugar, blood pressure and weight checked. If a patient's blood sugar or blood pressure is dangerously high or low the nursing staff immediately commence treatment, this tends to happen when they run out of medicines, or try to reduce their cost by taking only half the recommended dose.

Many of our patients are older, they do not have relatives living close by who could help them financially, some have

survived all their children. They eek out their daily lives in ways that we, from a developed country, can't even imagine. The

medications necessary to keep their sugar levels and blood pressure under control are well beyond the means of most. A diabetic patient's prescription cost may range between \$15 - \$50/month. In Haiti, the gross national income is \$450/year (World Bank 2006). The hospital



staff is very sensitive to the patients financial predicament and often intercede on their behalf. The hospital makes a great effort to have each patient receive all needed medications regardless of their ability to pay. We try to keep our patients as healthy as possible.



### CRUDEM FOUNDATION

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## Staff Profiles

### Dieula Joachim

Dieula Joachim remembers clearly the date she first began to work at Hôpital Sacré Coeur – March 7<sup>th</sup> 1989. She works primarily



in the Archives section; inscribing patients, retrieving their files and showing them where to wait for their consultations with the doctors. She is also responsible for obtaining the results from the laboratory after tests have been completed and attaching those results to the patient files. At the end of the day she organizes and archives all of the patients' files. Dieula says that she spends more time at the

hospital than at home but that the hospital is doing very good work. She remarks that the hospital has been an invaluable source of help to her when her children have been ill. Dieula lives in the village of Milot, is a widow and is responsible for 6 children between the ages of 5 and 20 years old.

### Duval Molière

Duval Molière has been working at the laboratory of Hôpital Sacré Coeur since 1987. Molière is the Director of Laboratory Services and currently has a staff of 13 lab technicians, a receptionist, 2 support staff and an Assistant Director of Laboratory Services. He remembers the early days when there were only two lab technicians and remarks that the growth and improvements in laboratory services at the hospital, beginning with the arrival of Dr Dubuque, have been truly extraordinary. A significant turning point occurred in 2000 when Sr Marie Vittatoe, a retired Department Chair of the Clinical Lab Sciences Program at the University of Kentucky came to visit the lab at HSC. Molière recalls fondly how Sr Marie mentored and encouraged the staff to improve their standards and performance. She provided and continues to provide education and guidance on her visits. Molière remarks that the lab staff cannot thank Sr Marie enough for all that she has done



for them. He would also like to sincerely thank all of the donors that have made it possible. " *My desire is that we will always strive to be the best little lab in all of Haiti*". Molière lives in Cap Haitien with his wife and 5 children including 8 year old twins.

## Wish List

*Micros 60 CT  
Unit Lab Machine*

*Lab Air  
Exchange System*

*Toyota Hilux  
Truck*

*Truck Battery  
Charger*

*Outdoor Brooms  
~one dozen*

*Paint and Cost  
for Painting  
Labor*

*Note: If you would like to donate any of the above, please contact either Denise Kelly or Joni Paterson at the CRUDEM Foundation offices (314) 754-7471. They can help to arrange for the purchase and delivery to CRUDEM of any item(s) you want to provide. Thank you.*



Since our last newsletter, two wonderful events that helped the poor in Haiti have taken place in different parts of the country. CRUDEM would like to say "Thank You" to Angelina and Adalyn Santamaria of Limerick, Pennsylvania who sold their toys, books and games at a tag sale to raise money for CRUDEM. To sweeten the event they also sold brownies for total sales of \$500! Their Grandpa, John Gilbertie, from St. Cecelia's parish in Wilbraham, Massachusetts visited CRUDEM in January. He matched the funds raised for a total donation of \$1000.

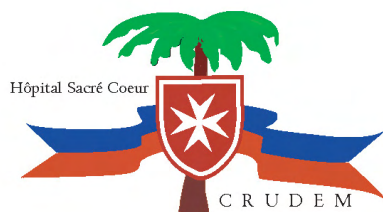


*Angelina and Adalyn Santamaria,*



In Hampden, Massachusetts, the "Friends of Hôpital Sacré Coeur" celebrated their 2nd annual Gala at the Hampden Country Club in early December. Over 240 people came to the event and raised \$42,000 to support the hospital!

Highlights of the evening included the auction of a 2007 World Series baseball signed by Boston Red Sox pitcher Josh Beckett and a new song, "Sacré Coeur", written, composed and played by international recording star, Mark Kelso. Nearby Magnificat Academy's 31 member choir captivated the crowd as they sang seasonal and Haitian tunes.



Hôpital Sacré Coeur  
**CRUDEM**

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