

Through the neurotology clinical fellowship program, HEI and the House Clinic continue to participate in humanitarian otology projects, working with Global ENT Outreach



In the Andean region of South America (Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia), there are few resources for physicians specializing in hearing problems and the ear. Temporal bone laboratories, where otolaryngology residents can practice their surgical skills on donated temporal bone specimens, are rare and equipment is extremely limited. Providing access to laboratory facilities and training local otolaryngologists in ear surgery techniques promotes the long-term hearing health of the local population.

In March, Dr. Eric Wilkinson, House Clinic associate, traveled to Lima, Peru to participate as a guest faculty member in the third Ear Microsurgery and Temporal Bone Dissection Course. The course was held from March 7 to 10, 2009, and was sponsored by San Marcos National University and an alliance of Peruvian hospitals and medical associations. In addition to temporal bone dissection, medical residents from Peru, Ecuador, and Paraguay participated in lectures, seminar sessions, round table discussions, and watched live

surgery performed by course faculty. In addition to participating as faculty, doctors conducting the course performed several surgeries at local hospitals.

Global ENT Outreach (www.geoutreach.org), headed by Dr. Richard Wagner, guided the local Peruvian effort to build a six-station temporal bone laboratory. The laboratory, located in Lima at the ophthalmology clinic of Divino Niño Jesús Foundation, received generous donations from Karl Storz, Kurz, Zeiss, Invacare, Novvag Surgical, and Medtronic. Local carpenters built

the temporal bone dissection tables to specifications, complete with recessed trays to hold the temporal bone dissection cups, continuous suction-irrigation, and electric high-speed drills. Zeiss otomicroscopes provided the latest optical technology. Further temporal bone courses are planned in future months.

Through our Neurotology Clinical Fellowship Program, HEI and the House Clinic continue to participate in humanitarian otology projects, working with Global ENT Outreach. Each year, a neurotology fellow from HEI/HC travels with Dr. Wagner to perform ear surgery in underserved areas of Central and South America. Future trips are planned to El Salvador and again to Peru for additional temporal bone courses. ♦

Beyond Borders:

Teaching Surgical Skills in Peru

BY ERIC WILKINSON, MD

Dr. Eric Wilkinson demonstrating tympanoplasty at the Hospital de la Solidaridad, Lima, Peru.

