

The number of GM employees who work in the automaker's 158 facilities on six continents and in 23 time zones. GM workers speak more than 50 languages.

202,000



“For a doctor it’s a professional exercise, but it’s also a big mitzvah”

— Dr. Mark Eidelman

Orthopedists Operate in Ecuador

There was no shortage of work for members of an international medical mission to Ecuador to treat patients with orthopedic problems.

Four orthopedic doctors — including Dr. Mark Eidelman and team leader Dr. John Herzenberg — performed an astonishing 33 operations in just four days.

They were part of a 22-member team organized by Operation Rainbow, a US nonprofit dedicated to performing free orthopedic surgery and providing treatment for children and young adults in developing countries that lack the necessary medical services, particularly in Latin America.

For Dr. Herzenberg, director of pediatric orthopedics at Baltimore’s Sinai Hospital, and Dr. Eidelman, who holds the same position at Rambam Hospital in Haifa, it was a reunion of sorts.

“Dr. Herzenberg was my chief in 2002 when I was training at Sinai together with the other Israeli doctor, Dr. Noam Bor, so that’s how we ended up on the team,” said Dr. Eidelman who performed 13 of the operations himself — more than five times the number of orthopedic surgeries in a normal week at Rambam.

The operations were performed at the university

hospital in Loja, which has no pediatric orthopedic department. The Operation Rainbow mission had been publicized in Ecuador for the past year. Since then, more than 350 people had stepped forward requesting treatment. Medical officials had the difficult task of reducing that list down to the most urgent cases.

“There were many challenging cases,” said Dr. Eidelman. “One was an eight-year-old girl with a dislocated hip. It’s something you don’t see in Israel, where every child is checked for this condition at six weeks old. This girl had never been treated and had been limping all her life.”

The Israeli doctors were something of a novelty for the natives. “For the Ecuadorians, it was the first time they had ever seen Israelis. They were so friendly and happy to see us,” said Dr. Eidelman.

Now back in Israel, Dr. Eidelman’s memories of the Ecuador mission remain vivid.

“It was an experience not to be forgotten. First and foremost for a doctor it’s a professional exercise, but it’s also a big mitzvah. These people are very poor and have little or no access to proper medical services.”

Will he return to Ecuador? “There was one mother there with two clubfeet — I operated on one foot this time, and I promised her I would come back next year to operate on the other,” said Dr. Eidelman.

— Shira Yehudit Djalilmand

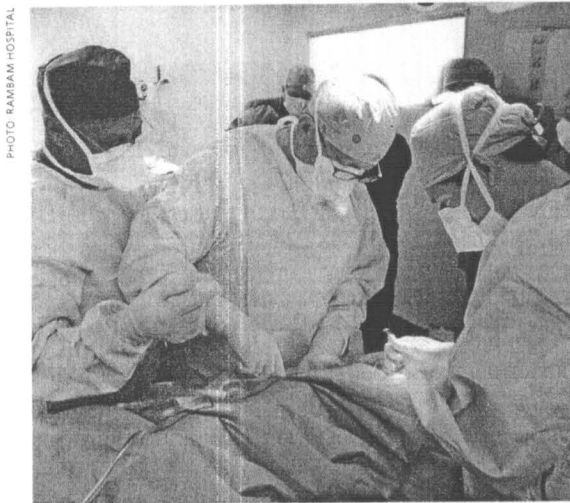


PHOTO: RAMBAM HOSPITAL

This girl on the operating table had never been treated and had been limping all her life

Detroit’s U-turn on Profits

American automakers are hoping the third quarter of 2012 will be as good to them as the end of the second quarter.

General Motors (GM) and Chrysler, both beneficiaries of more than \$62 billion in taxpayer funded bailouts in 2009, saw their June sales spike by 16% and 20%, respectively, compared to the same period last year.

Sales at Ford Motor Company, which did not require any government assistance, rose by a leaner 7%.

President Barack Obama has repeatedly touted the bailout’s apparent success during his bid for reelection.