

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Institute for Global Orthopaedics and Traumatology Celebrates Anniversary with Expansion of Global Impact and Renewed Funder Support

San Francisco, CA — [Institute for Global Orthopaedics and Traumatology \(IGOT\)](#), which addresses global disparities in orthopaedic trauma care, is celebrating the organization's 15th anniversary with renewed support from one of the group's inaugural funders that is driving greater global impact than ever before.

Orthopaedic trauma care is a major issue for global health equity, as traumatic injuries are responsible for 40 million permanent disabilities every year, and 90 percent of injury-related mortality occurs in low- and middle-income countries. Worldwide, more people are affected by traumatic injuries each year than by HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis combined.

During the height of the pandemic, IGOT moved the group's renowned in-person training (which has supported 300+ surgeons from around the world annually) to more frequent online trainings, with a significant surprise return in terms of increased impact and reach.

Recently renewed funding from one of IGOT's founding funders, the Wyss Medical Foundation, promises to help launch a new era of growth and impact for IGOT. Following up on previous support for IGOT, Wyss has pledged \$360,000 per year for five years to fund the further expansion of IGOT's educational programming, including the organization's Surgical Management and Reconstructive Training (SMART) courses, IGOT's Digital Learning Platform, Consortium of Orthopaedic Academic Traumatologist (COACT) outreach organization, and Visiting Scholar exchange programs.

"Support from the Wyss Foundation has been transformational for IGOT, accelerating its growth and enhancing its programmatic reach," said Theodore Miclau, MD, Professor and Vice Chairman of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of California, San Francisco; Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery at the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital; and Director of the Orthopaedic Trauma Institute. "As IGOT continues to grow, so will its reach, and the organization will have continued opportunities to create new programs that will significantly impact international orthopaedic surgery."

IGOT's impact is a remarkable example of philanthropy-funded, high-impact health care solutions, highlighting the role of technological innovation in both reducing costs and expanding impact, and, more importantly, the value of academic collaboration in helping to move global health care efforts past a "medical tourism" model. This will aid the sustainable growth and

capacity of local health care providers in developing countries, leading to tremendous outcomes for local, under-resourced communities.

Housed at the Orthopaedic Trauma Institute within the University of California (UCSF), San Francisco and Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, IGOT aims to help save limbs and lives by providing accessible, high-quality surgical education for medical personnel in developing countries around the world, from Latin America to Africa, Asia, and beyond.

Orthopaedic injuries frequently result in death or amputations, leading to devastating lifelong health and economic impacts for individuals and their families. Historically, in places where plastic surgeons are not available, medical mission models have been used to deploy specialists to help deliver the type of treatment (soft tissue coverage) that is commonly used to save limbs and lives in more developed countries. Yet, this type of medical mission care is inherently unsustainable, and can even be detrimental by preventing infrastructure development in developing countries.

IGOT offers a new approach. IGOT's Surgical Management and Reconstructive Training (SMART) course provides specialized training in soft tissue coverage techniques to orthopaedic surgeons in countries where this need is present, and resources are unavailable. Follow-up surveys with participants have indicated an over 93 percent soft tissue flap survival success rate using the new techniques from the course, with an estimated 3,200 limbs saved by local surgeons based on a self-reported survey to attendees.

While traditionally using an in-person train-the-trainer model, IGOT pivoted during the pandemic. Along with much of the global social sector, deployment of educational programs has primarily been carried out through virtual trainings, and the impact has been significant, opening the door to an expanded impact, at lower cost, and far-reaching accessibility for more surgeons and staff to attend more frequent trainings, ultimately touching far more lives worldwide.

Rooted in IGOT's commitment to academic collaboration and innovation, the program offers insights for fellow philanthropy-funded partners seeking to foster health equity and deep, sustainable impact in a global context.

Learn more about IGOT's innovative work and impact:

<https://vimeo.com/igotglobal>

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### **About the Institute for Global Orthopaedics and Traumatology (IGOT)**

IGOT's goal is to improve patient care in under-resourced environments through sustainable programs with regional academic partners. IGOT is recognized widely as the global leader in orthopaedic trauma academic outreach through its sustainable partnerships in education, research, and collaboration. IGOT's programs, based on long-term academic partnerships, have

evolved from simple educational exchanges to comprehensive partnerships that promote high-quality clinical research projects and large-scale regional educational courses. The model has now expanded to other programs through the Consortium for Global Orthopaedics and Traumatology (COACT), a coalition of North American academic programs, led by IGOT. Learn more at [www.igotglobal.org](http://www.igotglobal.org) .

### **About The Wyss Foundation**

The Wyss Foundation is a private, charitable foundation dedicated to supporting innovative, lasting solutions that improve lives, empower communities, and strengthen connections to the land. The Foundation is headquartered in Washington, DC in a restored historic building that houses its offices and rents space to several other non-profits. Learn more at <https://www.wyssfoundation.org> .