

April 4, 2006

AN APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE

Historical Background

The A.M. Dogliotti College of Medicine was established in 1968 through a tripartite arrangement involving the Vatican, the Government of Liberia and the Dogliotti foundation in Italy. The college became the 7th academic Organ and 2nd Professional program of the University of Liberia in 1970.

The college has a maximum capacity of 125 students (25 per class). Currently two schools, the College of Medicine and the School of Pharmacy, are housed on the College of Medicine campus. There are 83 medical students and 64 pharmacy students sharing the college facilities. There are also 34 faculty members; ten (10) full-time and 24 part-time. The need for teachers in the basic science division (Biochemistry, Physiology, Pathology, Microbiology, Pharmacology, etc. is more acute.

The John F. Kennedy Medical Complex, with over 700 beds, has been the official University Teaching Hospital, but other hospitals in the country have been accredited by the College of Medicine to provide clinical exposure to students as well.

Achievements

The goal of the College of Medicine has been to train high-level medical manpower for the nation, competent to serve the international community. 260 doctors have graduated to date. The college's graduates provide the core of medical expertise in the Liberian health care delivery system. The College of Medicine graduates currently staff the central Ministry of Health and the country hospitals in rural Liberia, as well as training and research institutions that remain in operation.

War and its Effects

The 13-year civil conflict has resulted in major damage to the health care system of Liberia. After each of the four major waves of conflict (1990, 1992, 1996, 2003), many hospitals were at least partially restored, only to be looted and destroyed again in the next wave of violence. As of January 2004, all Liberia's hospitals and the vast majority of clinics had been looted and severely damaged.

There has been a flight of medical doctors from the country over time. In 1990, there were over 500 practicing physicians in the country, including public and private sectors. Today, there are fewer than 75, with 36 of those serving the public sector.

Rehabilitation Goal and Objectives

The goal is to revitalize the A.M. Dogliotti College of Medicine, restoring it to full international standards, with emphasis on service to Liberia. Objectives include:

- To provide electricity for the college campus.
- To provide additional textbooks.
- To complete the remodeling of the laboratory building on the college campus.
- To provide pipe borne water to the laboratory and other buildings on the college campus.
- To provide teaching aids and basic clinical instruments to Liberian medical students.
- To provide transportation for students and faculty to move between the college and clinical sites, to public health field exercises, etc.
- To complete the construction of a perimeter fence.
- To provide salary incentives for instructional staff.

Laboratory Facilities

The college was originally designed to host just one school, the A.M. Dogliotti College of Medicine. In 1986, the School of Pharmacy was added to the campus. Some laboratory rooms have been turned into pharmacy classrooms. Laboratory equipment and supplies were looted in successive waves of conflict and have not been replaced.

The smallest and most heavily damaged dormitory has been converted into a laboratory. This needs to be completed and equipped. Estimated cost for the completion of the laboratory is **US\$60,000**.

Estimated cost for equipment is **US\$150,000**.

- “ “ “ air conditioners is **US\$50,000**.
- “ “ “ Reagents is **US\$100,000**.

Water:

The college urgently needs bore holes and water tower to supply pipe borne water to the laboratories and all other buildings. Estimated cost is **US\$75,000**.

Electricity & Wiring:

The college has no power supply. In the absence of city power, a 75-100 KVA generator will be needed to supply power to run the laboratory equipment, computers, teaching aids

(such as LCD projector, overhead projector, etc.) and to provide light to the buildings. Estimated cost of the generator is **US\$40,000**.

Transportation:

The College of Medicine needs at least four vehicles in order to function effectively. Students must move about to reach their clinical sites and to locations for public health practical experience. A medium size bus (30 seats) is needed for the purpose. Three smaller (regular) vehicles are needed to give administrative and maintenance staff mobility to conduct the business of the college, and to provide transport for visiting or short-term faculty in the near term. Toyota vehicles are available for local purchase and they have proven to be the strongest vehicles for use in Liberia. Estimated cost for these vehicles is **US\$100,000**.

Fuel & Maintenance:

Maintenance of costly equipment such as electrical generators and vehicles is a major challenge and will require significant support in the near term. The estimate of the costs for fuel and maintenance is **US\$130,000**.

Basic Educational Equipment and Supplies:

Many of the teaching models and charts, as well as most equipment and supplies have been looted from the institution over the years of conflict. During those same years, computer technology and Internet services have dramatically changed the role of medical libraries and medical education. Teaching equipment and supplies are urgently needed. The estimated cost for teaching aids is **US\$100,000**.

Perimeter Fence:

There is a need to construct a perimeter fence on the college campus to protect lives and property. There has been constant looting of college property by unknown persons. Completion of the perimeter fence will prevent the laboratory equipment and other college property from being easily looted. Estimated cost for the fence is **US\$66,000**.

Salary Incentives for Instructional Staff:

The average pay for a teacher at the A.M. Dogliotti College of Medicine is about **LS2,500**. This is grossly inadequate. As a consequence, it is difficult to attract a full-time commitment from the teaching staff. The incentives being requested will serve as a motivating factor for the staff until salaries are adjusted nationally. An estimated incentive requested is **US\$100,000**.

Textbooks:

The college library has been partially updated with donated books from other medical schools and organizations; there is still need for textbooks and journals for the college. About **USD 100,000** to purchase books and medical journals.

Project Summary

The A. M. Dogliotti College of Medicine is currently operating without the basics that are required to run a medical school. It is therefore important for this institution to be given the attention it deserves if we are to continue to train physicians to man the health care delivery system of Liberia. Some of these basic needs are:

• Laboratory facilities.....	USD 60,000
• Laboratory equipment.....	USD 150,000
• Air conditioners.....	USD 50,000
• Laboratory reagents and supplies.....	USD 100,000
• Construction of bore hole(s) & water tower.....	USD 75,000
• Electricity & wiring.....	USD 40,000
• Transportation.....	USD 100,000
• Fuel and maintenance.....	USD130,000
• Basic educational equipment & supplies.....	USD100,000
• Perimeter fence.....	USD 66,000
• Incentives for instructional staff.....	USD 100,000
Grand Total.....	USD 971,000