

## Neurosurgical Institute Opens in Zanzibar, Tanzania

**November 25, 2014. Zanzibar, Tanzania, Africa.** Three continents, four nations, five cities, three languages were represented, but one common goal united a volunteer team of intensive care nurses, surgical nurses, an anesthesiologist, and neurosurgeons as they inaugurated the Neurosurgical Education and Development (NED) Institute of the Mnazi Mmoja Hospital in Zanzibar, Tanzania on Monday, November 17, 2014. During the subsequent week, a total of 23 neurosurgical and 15 pain management procedures were performed, more than 100 patients were seen in the free clinic, and over 30 didactic lecture sessions were held. Volunteer personnel included Drs. Jose Piquer and Maite Bovaira of Valencia, Spain, Moody Qureshi and Peter Wanyoike of Nairobi, Kenya, and Armond Levy of St. Louis, MO, USA. Nursing staff included Demelsa Martinez, Pilar Chisbert, Amparo Molina, and Nuria Ballo of Valencia; Christine Wanja, Gladys Mahugu Millian Muchai, Linet Mugambi, and Joyce Lang'at of Nairobi. A significant focus of neurosurgical care in East Africa centers upon pediatric neurosurgery, due to the prevalence there of hydrocephalus and spina bifida; accordingly, roughly half of NED's first week of cases were for children with these disorder, but a variety of complex adult neurosurgical cases were performed as well, including those for brain tumors, brain and spine trauma, and degenerative spine disease.

The NED foundation, based in Valencia, Spain is a charitable organization founded by Drs. Piquer and Tony Gomez of Valencia, Dr. Qureshi of Nairobi, and Dr. Paul Young of St. Louis. NED was conceived in order to provide an organized outlet for volunteer neurosurgical missions to East Africa, where there exists only one neurosurgeon for each 2 to 8 million people, varying per country. Drs. Young and Qureshi are the Honorary President and Vice-President, respectively, of the foundation. A number of different locations were investigated since 2009, and ultimately the Mnazi Mmoja Hospital was selected in part because of the absence of local neurosurgical care for its nearly 2 million residents. The foundation independently raised funds and, in cooperation with the existing hospital and the government of Zanzibar, erected a free-standing, three-story building on the campus of Mnazi Mmoja for the care of neurosurgical patients. The facility contains two operating theaters, an intensive care unit, male and female patient wards, a conference center, and clinic space. The stated hope of NED is not only to render high quality neurosurgical care by the visiting volunteer teams, but additionally both to educate the local physician and nursing staff in order to create a self-sustaining neurosurgical unit, and to serve as a center of higher neurosurgical education for East Africa in conjunction with the East Africa Neurosurgery Residency Training Program, which is based in Nairobi and was founded by Drs. Young and Qureshi.

For information about NED, its activities, and charitable donations the website is [www.nedfundacion.org](http://www.nedfundacion.org); email may be addressed to [administracion@nedfundacion.org](mailto:administracion@nedfundacion.org). The above-mentioned physicians can also be reached personally in their home cities for questions.



Drs. Jose Piquer of Valencia, Spain, and Armond Levy, of St. Louis, MO, USA, and their operative team performing one of the first neurosurgical procedures at NED Institute, Zanzibar, Tanzania, November, 2014.



Dr. Piquer of Valencia, Spain, and nurse Christine Wanja, of Nairobi, Kenya, giving a lecture to Zanzibar nurses and physicians, November, 2014.



The NED institute, Mnazi Mmoja Hospital, Zanzibar, Tanzania, November, 2014.





Dr. Armond Levy, of St. Louis, MO USA, in the NED neurosurgical clinic, November, 2014.