

2012 LEADERS IN GIVING ANNUAL REPORT



Small Steps Leave Giant Footprints on a Journey to Advance Skincare in Africa



On the eve of the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Gabon, Africa, a modern-day visionary is following in the Nobel Peace Prize winner's footsteps — AAD member John Strasswimmer, MD, PhD, a 2012 grant recipient of the Academy's newly launched SkinCare for Developing Countries program.

"I am hoping to facilitate for dermatology what Dr. Albert Schweitzer did for the general medical community nearly a century ago when he and his wife introduced the concept of medical missions, which is to create a long-term collaboration in Africa where those of us from privileged parts of the world can serve the neediest.

This new Academy program would give more dermatologists the opportunity to help those in third world countries who are in desperate need of our care, and where life-changing differences are possible through a sustainable collaboration."

Applying AAD grant money toward these efforts, Dr. Strasswimmer conducted onsite evaluations at four hospitals — two in Uganda and two in Rwanda. His assessments also took into consideration patient need, local infrastructure for medical services, logistical support for visiting dermatologists, safety and stability of the region, and local medical society and professional support. The AAD supports the mission of the Regional Dermatology Training Centre in Tanzania, but that Centre is not able to accept volunteer AAD members for short rotations. "There is a need for an 'Operation Smile type of program for private-practice AAD dermatologists," Strasswimmer said, referring to the plastic surgery program that treats cleft palate around the developing world.

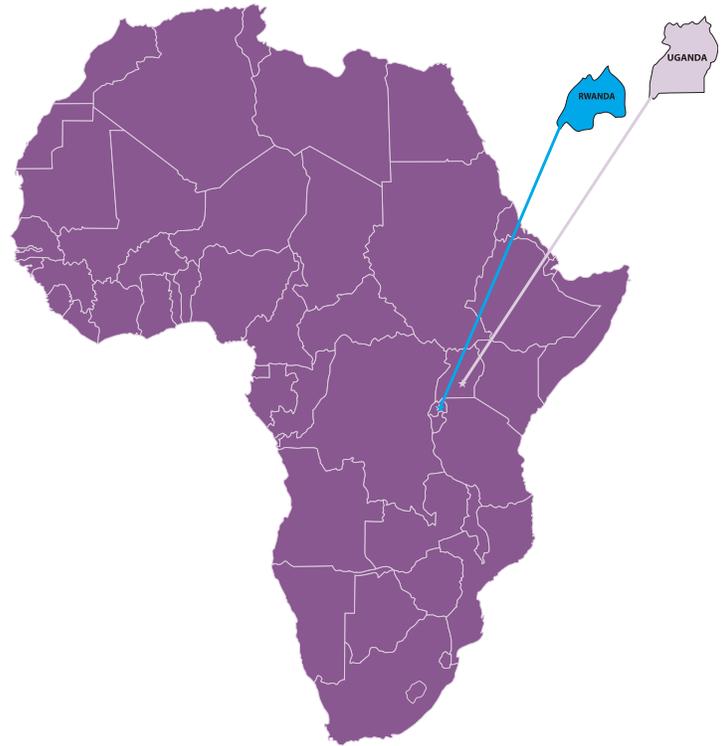


Dr. Grace Mulyowa, Mbarara dermatologist, and the Assistant Dean of Mbarara Medical School, Uganda in front of the new surgical pavilion

“Makarere University and Mulago Hospital in Uganda were particularly promising because they expressed interest in organizing formal programs for treating skin cancer. This site would provide the opportunity to integrate surgical dermatology care of albinos in Uganda within the pre-existing framework of Uganda’s National Cancer Institute. Uganda dermatology also already has important relationships, including an HVO volunteer location in Mbarara that is enthusiastic about welcoming more volunteers.”

In growing numbers, albinos in Central and East Africa face horrific persecution and victimization. Across an ocean, Dr. Strasswimmer heard their cries and is taking vital steps to create a life-changing albino care program, which will integrate dermatologic surgery in other locations, such as the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Gabon.

Many organizations provide advocacy and education efforts, but the AAD goes one step beyond: “I am exceptionally proud to be a member of the Academy, which is the only national organization making dermatology medical service missions a priority, and, in turn, supporting the next generation of Albert Schweitzers who will ensure that dermatology care knows no boundaries.”



With President Jude Ssebyanzi and other members of the Uganda Albino Association, Kampala, Uganda

2012 SkinCare for Developing Countries Grants

- 5 grants awarded
- Grants supported projects in:
 - o Botswana
 - o South Africa
 - o Argentina
 - o Gabon
 - o Rwanda
 - o Guatemala
 - o Belize
 - o Ethiopia
 - o Uganda
 - o Tanzania
- International volunteer and humanitarian projects included:
 - o Teledermatology in underserved areas
 - o Community dermatology
 - o Dermatology training for primary health workers
 - o Evaluation of volunteer host program