2021

ANNUAL REPORT & 2022 UPDATE

ConnectMed INTERNATIONAL

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TOGETHER WE TRANSFORM LIVES

LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDING MEMBERS

Dear ConnectMed family:

2021 was the year we all hoped "everything would go back to normal". Instead, while some aspects of pre-Covid life have returned, we realize that circumstances can be unpredictable and we have to adjust to a "new normal". From conferences over Zoom to sending kids to school with masks, our lives have adjusted to accommodate practices that we would have never imagined 2 years ago.

Likewise, ConnectMed has adjusted to our own new normal. Luckily, these adjustments allow us to make long-lasting connections with more people around the country and world. For example:

- Our Camp Cosmos programs continue to be offered multiple times a year, both in-person and virtually, allowing participation from families from San Diego to Massachusetts to Mexico. We bring in special guests and speakers from across the country to engage with and inspire our Campers.
- Travel for medical outreach remained at a halt in 2021. However, we look forward to our in-person medical "jornadas" in 2022 in Mexico. We also know that we impact more patients in the long-term by supporting education and research of partner specialists. For example, our TWO International Fellows in 2021, from Zimbabwe and Argentina, are conducting country-wide research on health issues of concern to their populations that will lead to systemic improvements in delivery of care.
- ConnectMed is an active member of Face Equality International, a global alliance of organizations working to promote the campaign of face equality. Together we advocate for the rights and fair representation of people with craniofacial differences around the world.
- Through a wonderful collaboration with Palomar Family Counseling Services (PFCS), ConnectMed will be able to sponsor free, ongoing, preventive counseling services, provided by PFCS personnel in-person or virtually, to children with differences and their families.

The flexibility to make and follow through with these adjustments that benefit so many requires the support of innovative community partners, our hard-working board of trustees, advisors, and volunteers....and **YOU**. We thank each of you who has taken the time to read about, understand, and donate to our work. YOU have helped to make our "new normal" as impactful as ever!

Dr. Amanda Gosman, Dr. Alicia Sigler & Rita Abbati Albert

Please save these dates - we would love to see you at these San Diego events!
Sat., May 7 - Happy Hour Mixer at The Cove House, 3-6PM, $30 suggested donation
Sat., Sept. 24 - 2022 Gala at Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center, 6-10PM

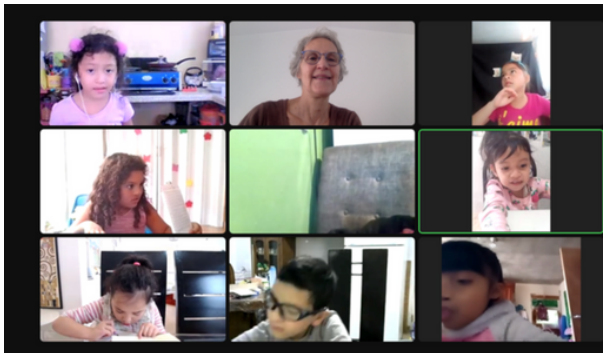
SUPPORT OF PATIENTS & THEIR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

Supporting local specialists in resource-limited communities to provide the best possible care for their own patients is critical. We sponsored the AMLPHAC conference in the fall of 2021, which brings together expert surgeons and related specialists in Mexico who care for thousands of children. We proudly supported the participation of 4 long-time partners from Ensenada and Tijuana who provide charitable care to their local cleft & craniofacial patients.

"Improving diversity in our healthcare workforce is essential to reducing health care disparities at home and abroad".
-Dr. Amanda Gosman

Our commitment to improving healthcare equity by empowering the next generation of physicians extends to the US. We partnered with UCSD Division of Plastic Surgery in supporting their diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, and collaborate with underrepresented medical trainees on ConnectMed research projects.

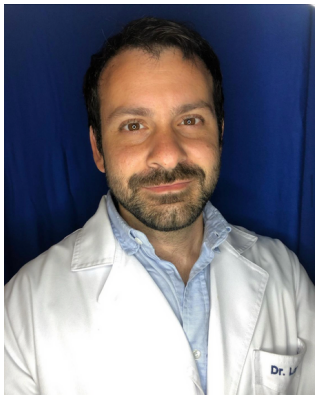
With Covid-19 precautions still in place, CMI continued to support patient care provided by local partner teams in Mexico and Vietnam. For example, we support ongoing speech therapy for families who would otherwise not be able to pay for sessions by a renown therapist in Mexico City. We also held a toy drive, delivering over 38 toys to patients in Tijuana, Mexico.



INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS: 2 IN 2021!

A RESEARCH PROJECT-BASED FELLOWSHIP FOR SURGEONS NATIVE TO AND PRACTICING IN RESOURCE-LIMITED COMMUNITIES

Dr. Nyoni is a plastic surgeon from Harare, Zimbabwe. As 1 of the 3 practicing plastic surgeons in a country of 15 million people, Dr. Nyoni is passionate about improving the health of her community. As our 2021 Fellow, she is conducting a study about the incidence and causes of facial burns, especially as they relate to epileptic seizures.



Dr. Lozano is 1 of 2 plastic surgeons committed to treating cleft patients in Corrientes, one of the poorest provinces of Argentina with a high incidence of cleft. His goal is to improve the quality patient care at his hospital by evaluating long-term outcomes that are based on quality of life and social integration data. He is working with UC San Diego School of Medicine to administer its Pediatric Craniofacial Health-Related Quality of Life tool.

CAMP COSMOS PROGRAMS

PROVIDING POSITIVE, REAFFIRMING EXPERIENCES AND A NETWORK OF SUPPORT FOR THE CRANIOFACIAL COMMUNITY AND OTHERS WITH PHYSICAL DIFFERENCES - VIRTUALLY AND IN-PERSON

In 2021, CMI continued to grow its programs providing psychosocial services and a community of support for children with physical differences and their families. Each program provides an inclusive, community-building environment, fun games and activities with therapeutic objectives, and opportunities to engage with healthcare professionals, advocates and others going through similar experiences.

Special guests in 2021 included:

- Phyllida Swift - appearance activist and CEO of Face Equality International
- Rasheera Dopson - activist, author, podcaster and scholar
- Robert Wagner - performing arts educator
- Azmaira Maker - family therapist
- Margot Gonzales of Positive Parenting
- Healthcare providers from Rady and UCSD

THANK YOU ALL!

HIGHLIGHTS

- 318 REGISTRANTS
- 2 CAMP COSMOS WEEKENDS - "BEACH CAMP" IN AUGUST AND "HOLIDAY CAMP" IN DECEMBER
- 3 FAMILY MEET-UPS
- ACTIVITY KITS FOR ALL ONGOING RESEARCH ASSESSING IMPACT OF VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

We were thrilled to expand our virtual Holiday Camp to 19 families from Tijuana & Ensenada! Thanks to the providers in the area who helped spread the word and distribute Activity Kits!

CAMP HORSIN' AROUND: With Mustard Seed Ranch (MSR), launched in June 2021!

Led by MSR's Dana Howorth LMFT (equine therapist), our inaugural week-long horse therapy camp included riding & caring for horses, team-building games, daily journaling, and hands-on activities for 6 kids from and around San Diego County. The goals were to strengthen the Campers' self-confidence and self-expression, interpersonal connections, and ability to cope with bullying/teasing and other social issues.

"*My favorite thing about Camp Cosmos is that it feels like one big family and I like hanging out with everyone!*"
- Melina, age 10 (pictured)

ALL Camp Cosmos programs are **FREE,** as these families have enough ongoing worries and medical bills! We are blessed for all donations that support these programs. Special thanks to Camp Cosmos Sponsors whose consistent support over the past few years allowed us to expand to meet the need!

BUDGET

Statement of Financial Position - as of January 2022

REVENUE

Contributions, grants & gifts (including in-kind): $131,298
Fundraisers: $146,864
Total Revenue: $278,262

EXPENSES

Program Expenses: $170,301 (62%)
Fundraising Expenses: $73,476 (27%)
Administrative Expenses: $31,853 (11%)
Total Expenses: $275,683

Net Operating Revenue: $2,632

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Amanda A. Gosman, M.D.
Vice President
Alicia Sigler, M.D.
Treasurer
Lili Huang
Secretary
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Shankar Sitipati
Glendora Tremper, Ed.D
Advisory Council
Y'vonne Ormond
Keri Robbins
Blake Selby
Executive Director & Legal Counsel
Rita Abbati Albert, JD

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Gold ($1000-$4999)

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Platinum (over $5000)

Dr. Amanda Gosman & Mr. Justin Brown
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John Selby & Family
Anne Gaffey Art
Anonymous Donor
Gilbert J. Martin Foundation
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Vangar Family Foundation
Object Edge
KLS Martin
Las Patronas
Resthaven Children's Fund

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

WHAT WE ARE UP TO IN 2022

WHAT WE HAVE DONE SO FAR...

- February 26, 2022 Family Meet-Up with 21 registered families focusing on "The Power of Yet", with guests from Ned's Mindset Mission. This was our first hybrid event, with families from San Diego in-person engaging with families from across the country online.

- Featured on "Everybody Has Sh*t" podcast, our February Smile4Kids Community Partner.
  - **Listen here:** https://tinyurl.com/ConnectMedPodcast

- Rita Albert, Executive Director, named a *Woman of Distinction* by San Diego Woman Magazine.

- Awarded a CCA Retreat Travel Grant to the Pacheco family to attend the CCA Retreat this summer in June! The family is thrilled to connect with others - especially the two teenage sons who have facial differences.

- As part of the Cal State San Marcos School of Business Accelerator Program, CMI is investigating the possibility of providing outreach similar to Camp Cosmos to the autism community in San Diego.

- Invited to participate in the AMLPHAC conference in Ensenada, Mexico March 23-25. AMLPHAC is Mexico's national organization for cleft and craniofacial care, and **CMI Vice-President Dra. Alicia Sigler is President of this remarkable organization.**

We performed charitable surgeries as part of a cross-border collaboration of specialists and trainees from Mexico and San Diego, led by 4 female surgeons. As a conference sponsor, CMI volunteers participated by exchanging ideas and innovations, discussing research collaborations, and engaging the next generation of specialists on both sides of the border.

Sponsoring the travel of 3 exceptional residents from Mexico City and Guatemala to join the surgical team and attend the conference was critical to growing our network of future collaborators.

WHAT WE ARE UP TO IN 2022

WHAT WE HAVE DONE SO FAR...

- Launched a Junior Board of CMI's Board of Trustees, which provides young people with opportunities to have board experience, network with professionals in their fields, and develop mentorships.

- Participated in the Imperial Valley Parent Conference, to spread the word about Camp Cosmos and our psychosocial resources to the area

MORE TO COME IN 2022!

- **Saturday, April 30th & Sunday, May 1st |** Sponsorship and participation in PREPPED, a diversity and mentorship conference hosted by UCSD Division of Plastic Surgery
- **April 1st |** International Fellowship Applications for 2022-2023 opens
- **Saturday, April 30th |** Booth at Involved Exceptional Parents Resource Fair, for parents with a child with special needs, to promote Camp Cosmos Programs
- **Saturday, May 7th, 3-6PM |** Happy Hour at The Cove House, La Jolla, CA, $30 suggested donation
- **Saturday, May 14th, 9AM-10:30AM |** Camp Cosmos Family Meet-up # 2
- **May 17th-24th |** Social media live events and virtual meetings for International Face Equality Week, in partnership with Face Equality International
- **Saturday, May 21st |** CMI leads activities for San Diego Girl Scout troops to earn Ability & Inclusion badges as a Girl Scout Community Partner
- **June 23rd-26th |** Camp CARE & booth at CCA (Children's Craniofacial Association) National Family Retreat in Dallas, TX
- **Saturday, July 30th & Sunday, July 31st |** Summer Camp Cosmos Weekend
- **Saturday, July 8th, 4:00PM |** Visit us at the Padres v. Giants game where we will be the Community Partner at the Padres Community Kiosk, selected by The Padres Foundation!

SAVE THE DATE!

2022 GALA ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 6-10PM

CONRAD PREBYS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, LA JOLLA, CA

FEATURING INDIE ROCK BAND HELP THE DOCTOR

LEARN MORE AND DONATE AT WWW.CONNECTMED.ORG

WE RELY ON AND CHERISH YOUR SUPPORT!