

## REFLECTIONS AFTER TORONTO CONVENTION

Rotary



Fellowship of  
Rotarian Doctors

*“At the Toronto Convention, I spent most of my time at our booth in the House of Friendship. This gave me the opportunity to speak to many Rotarians who are involved in health projects. Many of them were health professionals but there were also Club and District leaders, who were interested in health projects.*

*“All of them were proud of Rotary’s achievements in improving health care to the most needy, but many health professionals felt that their skills were underused - they looked to the Fellowship for advice and for opportunities.*

*“I came away with a determination to do my best to help our Fellowship become more active, more robust and more involved in high quality sustainable health projects, training and advocacy.”*

**John Philip, Chairman,  
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Rotarian Doctors**  
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**The Toronto Convention offered us the opportunity to demonstrate that we are a strong organisation with a massive pool of expertise, energy and good will.**

**Given the right opportunities, we can and we must do much more to help those in need as well as play a role in shaping sustainable and high quality health care.**

## THE HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP

**O**ur booth in the Rotary Showcase (House of Friendship) was a focus of non-stop activities – meeting of old friends, making new friends and more importantly sharing stories and hopes.

Our displays were informative and eye-catching.

When we planned the booth displays we set ourselves some broad aims:

### 1. **Raise the profile of the Fellowship**

Although we have been in existence for many years, there are many Rotarians, who have never heard of us. It



came as a surprise to many that we are a genuine multi-disciplinary fellowship open to all disciplines in the health profession. In many countries, health care has become collaborative and multidisciplinary and we are delighted that we are able to welcome into

▪ **Mini-grants from the Fellowship**  
**CLICK FOR MORE DETAILS**

▪ **Are you considering a health project?**  
**Would you like to connect with an expert?**

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**FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARIAN DOCTORS**



our Fellowship all who are engaged in health care. Membership is also open to Rotary alumni, family members of Rotarians and Rotaractors. This offers us a huge opportunity to grow and become stronger, exert greater influence in the design and implementation of health projects.

## 2. Sustainable high quality health projects

We wanted to affirm our belief that successful, effective and sustainable health projects need strong management and good quality control. In developing countries there is great emphasis on good management – human resources, individual performance reviews, adherence to clinical guidelines and protocols, case reviews and above all strong financial management. Yet it is not uncommon to see health projects poorly planned and managed.

Some examples, I've personally seen are:

Equipment without backup - Funds used for

expensive medical equipment without adequate electricity supply or skilled staff.

Misplaced priorities – A request from a hospital for support to 'fully computerise the hospital and make it paperless' but the hospital had no blood bank, radiology staff or pathology just to mention a few challenges with direct impact on patient care.

Lack of protocols - Community-based screening programmes using non-standard equipment, procedures with high risk of false values and with no guidelines, validation of data or referral pathways.

## 3. Provide a forum for our members to share details of their service projects.

Of the five 'areas of focus', two are directly related to health improvements. The Rotary Foundation spends a massive amount of money for Disease Prevention and Treatment and for reducing Maternal and Child mortality. In addition, Rotarians also invest massive efforts and money in delivering health care to those in need. We've no means of quantifying this.

We invited some of our members to share their experience of being involved in health care projects.

The stories were inspiring and gave us a glimpse of Rotarians changing lives of so many.

**MORE DETAILS**

## OUR ANNUAL DINNER

Our annual 'Dine with the Doctors' during the Convention has become an important social event to meet together and enjoy the company of colleagues from different parts of the world.

This year's annual dinner attended by 60 people was very special – we had many 'old' friends and a number of new guests too.

One special guest was Smit Siblinga from the Dutch Rotarian Doctors' Fellowship who spoke to the guests and floated the idea of our Fellowships collaborating on projects.



## DINE WITH THE DOCTORS IN HAMBURG

Our Annual Dinner in 2019 will be on Tuesday 4th June 7 for 7.30pm at Mövenpick Hotel Hamburg, close to the Convention Centre. Please saver this date in your diary. We hope to start taking bookings soon"!!

## BREAKOUT SESSION

We were pleased to have been awarded a Breakout session this year - for the first time in the history of the Fellowship.

The topic was - Health projects - Tips for success from Rotarian Doctors

We aimed to highlight that many organizations including Rotary invest resources to improve health care in developing countries. Most succeed, but some fail due to multiple complexities like inadequate management systems, clinical governance, and quality control. We planned to explore these causes and learn from our challenges to create better projects in the future.



We were privileged to have as key note speaker RI President Elect Barry Rassin who reinforced the need for vigilance when engaging in health projects.

The message about the importance of thinking beyond sustainability and ensuring that all Rotary

projects deliver high quality and internationally acceptable service was echoed by other speakers too.

295 people attended the session and the majority evaluated the session as informative and helpful.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

There were 42 members and 39 guests also present - the highest ever attendance.

We made some important decisions

- to award grants of upto USD 500 to members to support health projects.

[CLICK HERE FOR AN APPLICATION FORM](#)

- the AGM also confirmed the nominations of the 2018-19 Board and supported the idea to invite members interested to join the Board to attend future meetings.

**There were four outstanding presentations**

- Training the Trainers by Dr Mark Berry had worked with staff in a mission hospital in paediatric Orthopaedics in Tanzania. (drmbarry@mac.com)
- Walk India by Dr Sunder Subramaniam Walk India about offering hope for amputees in Rural India. (drsunder@gmail.com)
- A dental project in Jamaica by Byron Brill (byronbrill2@gmail.com)
- Club foot management and rehabilitation of children in Delhi by Dr N Subramniam - (drnsubra@yahoo.co.in)
- Working to create a TB free India by Dr Kusum Chopra

[CLICK HERE FOR THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING](#)

## THE MESSAGE FROM TORONTO

**The most powerful message from Toronto for me was that the Fellowship must galvanise the energy of our members, many of whom are eager to invest their skills, time and money to help others. With this in mind, we are exploring the possibility of adopting a number of initiatives:**

- to liaise with other Rotary and non-Rotary groups involved in health projects and to enhance our advocacy role.
- to encourage and facilitate exchange visits and interactions between members.
- to impress upon those who engage in health improvement projects to think beyond sustainability and ensure high quality and good governance.
- to initiate projects such as school health screening, safety on roads, raise awareness about the dangers of cooking fire and to address the challenges of aging.

## PRE-CONVENTION CLINICAL EVENT

In recent years, we have organised a Clinical event just before the Convention to connect with medical colleagues locally.

Last year's visit to CDC in Atlanta and in 2016 our visit to a leading medical school in Seoul were both informative and inspiring.

This year, we were privileged to be hosted by the Women's Hospital in Toronto. The symposium on the changing pattern of Global Health raised many challenging issues.

We continue to work with colleagues in different parts of the world to have our voice heard and to raise the profile of Rotary and its phenomenal input in improving health care.



## BREAST FEEDING WITHOUT SUPPORT

A SYMPOSIUM ON GLOBAL HEALTH WITH EMPHASIS ON MATERNAL HEALTH AND EQUITY



REGISTER  
<http://rotary2018.org/event/spre/5>

FRIDAY 22 JUNE 2-5pm

Jointly organised by



Fellowship of  
Rotarian Doctors



At the Women's College hospital (76 Grenville St, Toronto, ON M5S

1B2, Canada) on Friday 22nd June 2-5pm. Register now on the

Convention website (<http://rotary2018.org/events/pre/5>).

Limited places - CME awaited.

## WILL BE GLAD TO HELP...



Are you planning a health project? Why not share your idea with the Fellowship of Rotarian Doctors?

We've just completed a review of a project in Nigeria to provide vital health screening for school children. Our members – many of them with valuable experience and skills – will be happy to offer guidance to anyone planning health projects. We will also be happy to share your projects with members and supporters with whom we network.

# NOT A MEMBER YET? JOIN NOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE