

Humanity First 2018--Guatemala

From October 6 to 12, 2018, Loyola Ophthalmology partnered with a team of doctors and volunteers from Humanity First USA for the 8th Gift of Sight trip in Guatemala. Dr. Charles Bouchard, Dr. Michael Henry, Dr. Joel Mann, and Janette Jurynech joined with 10 other volunteers from six U.S. states and Canada to serve patients from remote areas of Guatemala. In the months leading up to the camp, screening eye clinics were performed and ultimately over 250 patients were sent to the Gift of Sight camp for evaluation. A total of 70 surgeries (34 cataract, 35 pterygium and 1 removal of ocular surface tumor) were ultimately performed by the team.



Photo 1: Team of Humanity First volunteers and some of the patients served

Dr. Bouchard worked around the clock performing ocular surface surgery as well as instructing local resident surgeons.



Photo 2: Dr. Charles Bouchard performing pterygium surgery.

Dr. Henry performed pre-operative A-scans, manual keratometry, placed IV's, and assisted Dr. Bouchard with pterygium surgery.



Photo 3: Dr. Michael Henry (right) and Dr. Charles Bouchard (left) performing pterygium surgery.

Three ophthalmology residents (two from Guatemala and one from Mexico) were also trained in surgical techniques.



Photo 4: Humanity First volunteer surgeon Dr. Tayyeba Ali (right) instructing local resident surgeon Dr. Hector Meza (left).

In addition, Dr. Charles Bouchard delivered a lecture to the Guatemalan Ophthalmological Society on October 9, attended by 40 local eye surgeons discussing advanced surgical techniques.



Photo 5: Dr. Bouchard (center) presenting complex anterior segment surgical pearls to local Guatemalan eye surgeons.

The team also toured the newly established Nasir Hospital—a new, state of the art hospital built by Humanity First to serve local Guatemalans and future location for more Gift of Sight trips.



Photo 6: Team of volunteers visits Nasir Hospital

Loyola Ophthalmology has a long history of service to the local and international community. Since 2012, volunteers from Loyola have partnered with Humanity First to provide week-long eye camps. The establishment of the Nasir Hospital will provide year-round care from local providers. The surgical mission achieved its goal of providing immediate care to many in need as well as promoting sustainable solutions to health disparities through education and partnership with local surgeons.