

Essentials of **Cleft Surgery**

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PREFACE:

Skilled providers are the backbone of health-care delivery systems, and effective training programs are central to any strategy for markedly increasing surgical services in low-income and middle-income countries.

The idea for this book originated during our time working with Operation Smile to start and operationalize the Guwahati Comprehensive Cleft Care Center in Assam, India. Located in the impoverished state of Assam, India the GCCCC was developed as a high-volume, subspecialized institution to provide safe, quality, comprehensive, and cost-effective surgical care to a highly vulnerable patient population. Education and training were key pillars of developing the team that would go on to treat more than 10,000 clefts to date, with improved safety and outcomes, decreased costs, and increased investment into the local community. Between 2011 and 2015, more than 220 trainees and visiting professors from 15 countries rotated to the GCCCC for education, training, and research. Additionally, the Cleft Surgery Training Program (CSTP) was established in 2013 as a structured fellowship focused on mentoring surgeons from developing regions to achieve excellence in cleft care. This program has trained numerous committed surgeons throughout India and Africa, and several CSTP graduates have assumed leadership positions at cleft specialty centers in their home regions.

Our goal with this text was to produce a handbook of exceptional quality that would cover surgical treatment of cleft lip and palate in a compact, clear, and concise format. It contains 17 chapters and approximately 430 figures and tables.

The authors took significant time and care to ensure that their chapters are complete and understandable, providing up-to-date information that is high impact and useful. To convey information without ambiguity, we used a consistent, bullet-point outline format, along with Key Tips and Key Points that lend additional insights and practical advice. We worked closely with illustrators, photographers, and graphic designers to create figures, illustrations, and photos that provide intimate visual detail of the concepts and techniques presented in the text. This handbook is also printed in full color for additional value and visual appeal.

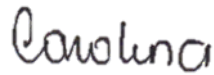
We have tailored the text towards treatment of children in underserved regions, which is impressively complex and challenging. This is not meant to be an exhaustive shelf

reference on the entirety of cleft surgery, but a step-by-step handbook on the essentials of cleft surgery. References at the end of each chapter allow the reader to go to source material for more in-depth reading, and we encourage constant investigations into evidence-based best practices to guide personal practice. The printed handbook is available in a compact size so that it may easily travel with the reader. To optimize availability, we are also making the handbook available in eBook format so that it's viewable on every eReader, tablet, and smartphone. Generous financial support from Premium Care Plastic Surgery® will allow us to distribute the text widely at minimum cost to surgeons in developing regions where it is needed most.

Knowledge is power, information is liberating, and education is the most effective tool we can use to change the world. We hope that this work will further empower surgeons, residents, and students willing to dedicate their time, skills, and compassion to our fellow human beings waiting for their personal miracle through safe and timely surgery.



Alex Campbell, MD



Carolina Restrepo, MD

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We are deeply indebted to our mentors, our colleagues, our patients, and our families.

Bill and Kathy Magee are the founders of Operation Smile, and we have immensely enjoyed working with them and their organization to bring quality cleft care to the most needy of patients around the world. Randy Sherman, Don Mackay, and Mauricio Herrera are all master plastic surgeons and huge contributors to global cleft care. All of you have provided guidance, wisdom, and encouragement that have been instrumental in our careers. We are humbled by your investments in us, and privileged to have you as friends.

Our colleagues have been a pleasure to work with, and continue to make all of this a lot of fun. You know who you are, and we honored pursuing excellence with you in the past, present and future.

Patients and their families are at the center of our daily lives. We thank you for trusting us, for challenging us, and for motivating us to become better. We gain a central joy and satisfaction from sharing our lives and humanity with you, and we look forward to many more smiles in the future.

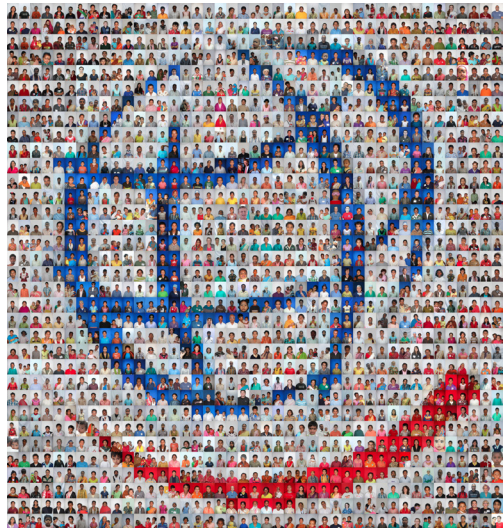
The most important things in the world are family and love. We are blessed with wonderful families that make life so deeply enjoyable, and your support has been everything. We love spending time with you, and always look forward to the next chance to be together. Sofia and Alejandra, we are so glad you have joined the team, and are excited for all that we can accomplish together.

-Alex & Caro (April, 2017)

Faces of Transformation

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Faces of Transformation is a mosaic of the Operation Smile logo, composed of 1462 unique photos of patients, families, staff members, and volunteers in the state of Assam in Northeast India. Inspired by diverse people working together towards a common vision, these images were shot and compiled by Dr. Alex Campbell and Dr. Carolina Restrepo, while serving as founding plastic surgeons of the Guwahati Comprehensive Cleft Care Center and working with Team Guwahati for a cleft-free Assam.



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