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Johns Hopkins Medicine Suburban - Operation Walk: Suburban Staff Help Patients Thousands of Miles Away

New Directions Summer 2016

Operation Walk: Suburban Staff Help Patients Thousands of Miles Away

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This past January, orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Daniel Valaik was one of three volunteers from Suburban Hospital who participated in a 10-day trip to India as part of Operation Walk Maryland. Joined by Suburban OR nurse Madeleine Felley and OR technician Katherine Pelton, Dr. Valaik was part of a group of approximately 50 medical and non-medical volunteers who provided free joint replacement surgeries for needy residents of Ludhiana, India.

Operation Walk, which was started approximately 20 years ago by an orthopaedic surgeon in California, is a private, not-for-profit, volunteer medical services organization that provides free surgical treatment for patients in underserved areas around the world who suffer from debilitating bone and joint conditions.

Operation Walk Maryland was established in 2007 and is headed by Johns Hopkins orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Harpal "Paul" Khanuja and his wife, Maria, a nurse practitioner.

Operation Walk provides all the staff and materials necessary to provide the same level of care that U.S. patients experience, including all health care personnel, implants, instruments and supplies. This year, the medical team screened 75 people before completing 59 joint replacement surgeries for 47 patients.

"I never thought that something as routine to us as a joint replacement could alter someone's life so significantly," says OR nurse Madeleine Felley. "We were not only helping each patient walk, but also helping the larger society by getting these individuals back to work."

"The goal is to restore a quality of life that these patients haven't had in years," says Dr. Valaik. "This work brings out the best in the medical team. It's medicine at its purest."

To learn more | Visit [operationwalkmaryland.org](http://www.operationwalkmd.org/) - (<http://www.operationwalkmd.org/>).

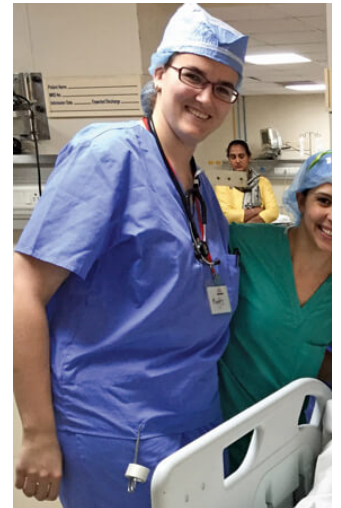
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From left, OR nurse Madeleine Felley, OR technician Katherine Pelton and Dr. Daniel Valaik with a patient they operated on in India during their recent Operation Walk experience.