

# MOMENTUM

Enhancing Quality of Life Through the Science of Orthopaedic Medicine

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## Jacob's Blitz

In football, a blitz is an aggressive attack by the defense against the offense. For 17-year-old Jacob McMullen, his blitz against McCune-Albright Syndrome began when he was 2 years old.

“Jacob fell while running across the room,” recalls Ruth McMullen, who, along with her husband, Daniel, adopted Jacob when he was 1 month old. “His right femur snapped, and we rushed him to Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, knowing their reputation as one of the top children’s hospitals.” And that’s where they met Dr. James Beaty, a pediatric orthopaedic specialist, trained by the Campbell Foundation.

That fracture became another clue in solving a large mystery that had perplexed medical specialists since Jacob was 5 months old. “Jacob was born with cafe-au-lait spots that covered the left side of his body,” says Ruth. “We thought they were just birthmarks, but his pediatrician knew they were indications of something more serious. We began a years-long medical journey that included geneticists, endocrinologists, gastrologists, neurosurgeons, biopsies, chromosome testing, CT scans, ultrasounds — we were seeing so many doctors! But no one could pinpoint exactly what was wrong.”

Jacob was almost 5 years old when another fall caused his second femur fracture. During this visit, Dr. Beaty discovered fibrous dysplasia, a disorder where fibrous tissue replaces bone, causing weak, brittle, uneven growth and deformity. Determined to find the best solution to stabilize Jacob’s weakened femur, Dr. Beaty turned to the latest technology available: an expandable Fassier-Duval nail designed to not only stabilize Jacob’s thigh bone, but to lengthen as Jacob grew.

Shortly thereafter, Jacob was diagnosed with McCune-Albright Syndrome (MAS), a rare, multi-system, non-inherited, incurable genetic disorder that affects bones (fibrous dysplasia), skin (cafe-au-lait spots), and endocrine (hormone-producing) systems. Daniel and Ruth realized that they had a lifetime of care ahead of them, managing Jacob’s complex medical needs. They thanked God for putting Jacob into their capable, loving care, and they thanked God for the Campbell Foundation.

“Dr. Beaty helped us put it all together,” says Ruth. “He is always very honest, forthright, and accessible. Daniel,



Jacob, and I have complete and total trust in whatever Dr. Beaty suggests would be best.”

Jacob, now 17, uses a power wheelchair for ambulation, and he has an insatiable curiosity for his passion: sports. He can’t run a pass play, but he can throw a football; he can’t block a shot, but he can shoot hoops. He has ridden a Zamboni, dropped the ceremonial hockey puck, and called play-by-plays. He is a sports video gamer and spectator extraordinaire.

“The McMullens are a wonderful family ... I am so very proud of Jacob and look forward to watching him grow into a fine young man,” says Dr. Beaty.

“It’s quite remarkable,” says Ruth. “Donating to the Campbell Foundation is the only way we can show our appreciation for all that’s been done for our Jacob. And we know there are others, like Jacob, like us, who need the medical expertise that the Foundation provides. If you want the best care, with very knowledgeable, caring doctors, there is no other choice but to support the Campbell Foundation. God placed Jacob in our care because He knew we would love him and get him the medical care he would need. We are looking forward to watching Jacob become the man we know he can be, with assistance from the Campbell Foundation.

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# Your Gifts Help Patients Across the Globe!



Fifth-year resident, Dr. Carson Rider, joined Health Talents International to provide care in Montellano, Guatemala during his medical mission trip in March.

Thanks to Campbell Foundation donor support, Campbell-trained residents embark on mission trips throughout the globe to reach, teach, and deliver world-class orthopaedic care to under-served communities.

The 54-year-old woman was told about a team of U.S. surgeons who had arrived at the Orthopaedic Clinic and Surgery Center in Montellano, Guatemala, from over 2,000 miles away, to administer orthopaedic care to the rural population. The gunshot wound that had fractured her ankle several years earlier hadn't healed, and she could no longer work in the sugarcane fields due to relentless ankle pain. She limped her way to Clínica Ezell, using a large stick as her cane, and into the care of a team that included Dr. Carson Rider, a fifth-year Campbell Clinic Orthopaedic Resident.

“We elected to perform bone grafting and revision fixation on her distal tibia,” says Rider, who traveled to Montellano in March 2020 on a mission made possible by the Campbell Foundation. “While two surgeons worked on obtaining the bone graft, I worked with students to educate them on the

surgical techniques necessary to remove the hardware and expose the fracture site so we could apply the bone graft successfully. We grafted the fracture site and maintained excellent fixation at the end of the case.”

Clínica Ezell and its accompanying surgery center were established by Health Talents International. HTI, founded in 1973, is a nonprofit Christian organization that works to promote medical evangelism in developing countries.

This organization strives to foster the integral well-being and spiritual growth of all participants by partnering with some of the most prestigious institutions in the world — like the Campbell Foundation.

“The population of Montellano is roughly 2,700,” says Rider. “There is no access to healthcare outside of HTI for most of these people, the majority of whom are manual laborers working in chocolate, coffee, banana, citrus, rubber tree, and sugarcane industries. 60 percent of our patients live at the poverty line, which is roughly \$4 per day, so the access to routine healthcare — let alone orthopaedic care — is extremely limited. Many of our patients traveled from hours away in hopes of being evaluated by an orthopaedic surgeon. Some traveled from so far away, that they would often stay in the recovery room — which was more like a hotel — while they awaited surgery.”

“It was so gratifying to use my training and what I have learned through my mentors at the Campbell Clinic to not only help patients, but also to educate local healthcare workers, so that they, too, could provide better care to patients in the future.” — DR. CARSON RIDER

Thanks to Campbell Foundation donor support, Campbell-trained residents and physicians embark on mission trips throughout the globe to reach, teach, and deliver world-class orthopaedic care to under-served communities. Only one resident, among the 24 upper-level residents in the Campbell Foundation residency program, is chosen each academic year.

“To be chosen to represent the Campbell Foundation at the international level is an honor,” says Rider, who grew up in rural Tennessee. “It was so gratifying to use my training and what I have learned through my mentors at the Campbell Clinic to not only help patients, but also to educate local healthcare workers, so that they, too, could provide better care to patients in the future. Sharing the knowledge that had been previously shared with me was rewarding.”

During the team’s 7-day stay, roughly 60 patients were seen in the clinic for initial examinations, and 24 of them required surgery, ranging from anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction and ganglion cyst excisions to fixation of clavicle fractures and distal tibia fractures. The team also developed treatment plans for a variety of conditions.



Dr. Rider and Dr. David Gilliam from Little Rock, Arkansas visit with a patient after knee surgery.



Dr. Carson Rider operates on a patient during his medical mission trip.

“I am so thankful for Campbell Foundation supporters who made this humanitarian and teaching experience possible,” says Rider. “It was truly a team effort. We are extremely fortunate in the United States to readily have access to excellent medical care. After seeing what patients in Guatemala had to endure for prolonged periods of time due to lack of resources, I am even more grateful to Foundation supporters who help change lives while educating doctors of the future.”

This mission was made possible by a scholarship established in 2013 by Molly and Daniel Shumate to sponsor medical missions nationally and internationally. Because of donor support, hundreds of patients worldwide have received needed orthopaedic care.

**Our life-changing work depends on your support. Donate online at [campbell-foundation.org](http://campbell-foundation.org) or call 901-759-5490. Our mission depends on your support.**



## Journey of a Lifetime

She's been told she may have been many things in her past lives: Joan of Arc's cousin and confidante; a doctor who taught in Egypt's universities; a veterinarian who trained wild cats (leopards and cheetahs, to be exact) as pets for the pharaohs; a Luxor architect who designed waiting rooms for dignitaries and priests at the Karnak Temple.

"I suppose that explains my fascination with Egypt," laughs Geri Meltzer, who, in this life, is not just a world traveler, dreamer, and adventurer — who met her late husband, the love of her current life, while loping across the Nubian sands atop a camel — but also creative designer and estate donor for the Campbell Foundation.

Her journey with the Foundation began in an oblique way when she was 4 years old, in her native Toronto, with a tricycle accident and a complicated bone break. "At the hospital, there was a brilliant orthopaedic surgeon, who, through many years of tending to me, used the latest in therapy and technology. That orthopaedic surgeon is the reason I have an arm and fingers that work today."

At age 26, Geri came to the United States, bringing her passion for travel and the arts with her. After 11 years of working as a graphic designer for Holiday Inn, she started her own freelance design firm, specializing in nonprofit organizations.

Her clients included the Memphis Zoo, Children's Museum of Memphis, Community Foundation of Greater Memphis —and Campbell Foundation.

"In the beginning, I didn't really understand the connection between the Campbell Foundation and Campbell Clinic," says Geri. "But as I designed the stories for their publications, I became more and more impressed with what I read: surgeon education and training; orthopaedic research and practice; Campbell's Operative Orthopaedics — the first textbook on orthopaedic surgery and now the one used worldwide; medical mission trips; commitment to quality; state-of-the-art discoveries; grateful patients — I learned that it was the Campbell Foundation that made this all possible.

And every single person we did a story on — countless people — Campbell had restored their quality of life so they could be productive citizens and live a good life. There would be no future without the Foundation."

In 2019, Geri named the Campbell Foundation in her estate plans. "I realized how lucky I am to live in Memphis, with all of the arts here — opera, symphony, theater, galleries, museums — and I further realized that another big part of my life was working with the Campbell Foundation. And then I remembered my broken arm when I was 4 years old, and it was like everything coming full circle: without a brilliant orthopaedic surgeon, I wouldn't have an arm. It feels good to give back, so that kids in the future can have a life."

"To be able to touch another life in a positive way; I can't think of a more lovely legacy!" — GERI MELTZER

Whether she's starting a film club, sailing down the Nile on a private yacht from Cairo to Aswan, or hosting the Memphis Opera in concert for 23 socially distanced friends seated at candlelit tables with gourmet boxed dinners in her backyard garden, Geri thrives on giving joy to others. "Few of us have a fortune to leave to others, but if we all give something, together we can ensure a healthy future for the Campbell Foundation, and therefore for other people's lives."

**What is your legacy? Call the Campbell Foundation at 901-759-5490 today to discuss legacy giving.**