



Georgia Orthopaedic Society

2020

*F. James Funk Award  
Winner*

**Stephen M. McCollam, M.D.**

The winner of this year's F. James Funk Humanitarian Service Award is Dr. Steve McCollam from Peachtree Orthopedics in Atlanta. Steve is being honored for his career-long devotion to providing healthcare to the underserved population of Haiti. He has been going to Haiti on a regular basis for the past 30 years and has been instrumental in sustaining and improving orthopedic care offered at Hopital Albert Schweitzer (HAS) in Dechapelle, Haiti.

Steve joined Peachtree Orthopaedic Clinic in 1989 and began traveling to Haiti in 1990 with Bob Wells. He has helped bring a new generation of physicians on board to sustain this activity by actively recruiting physicians from Peachtree Orthopaedic Clinic as well as many other groups throughout the state and mentored them in the challenging task of providing medical care in a third world environment. Through his enthusiasm and compassion, he convinced a multitude of orthopedic surgeons to leave their families and practices and go to an often hostile and sometimes dangerous third world nation to take care of problems that they had never seen before with equipment that was sorely lacking. These medical missions have been coupled with efforts in fundraising and equipment procurement here in Atlanta to further support the success of these trips. He arranged for Dr. Kay Wilkins, a renowned pediatric orthopaedic specialist, to visit HAS and teach the Ponsetti method of club foot management that has revolutionized care of this common problem in Dechapelle.

At no time, however, was Dr. McCollam's selfless dedication better witnessed than during the terrible earthquake which struck Haiti on January 12, 2010. Working with Dr. John David Mullins, a plastic surgeon at Piedmont Hospital who is also an Air Force Reserve Flight Surgeon, Steve secured a private twin engine airplane to fly to Haiti and land at Cap Haitian on the north shore distant from Port-au-Prince. He made multiple phone calls and secured supplies from various orthopedic companies as well as Kennistone Hospital and Piedmont Hospital including \$10,000 cash donation. He rounded up a group of surgeons and nurses from these hospitals on a moment's notice and packed them all into a plane completely surrounded by medical supplies including sorely needed antibiotics and pain medications. HAS is equipped to manage 80 in-patients and the scene which awaited Dr. McCollam's team was something out of *Gone With the Wind* with over 500 injured patients lying on the ground on mats shoulder to shoulder on every square inch of ground around the hospital and in the courtyard. It was an immediate triage scenario and Dr. McCollam was responsible to make care decisions and maximize the benefit they could bring to this devastating situation. Many difficult decisions were required and he made them utilizing his team to its greatest potential. Steve's leadership was outstanding and the results realized were only possible due to his and his team's tireless efforts and selflessness in the face of a terrible disaster. Dr. Stephen McCollam stands as a role model for orthopaedic surgeons in Georgia and indeed around the world. His compassion, zeal, devotion and generosity have led to an unimaginable improvement in the lives of so many through his direct work at HAS and his success in relaying his vision to so many other fellow orthopaedic surgeons.

Dr. McCollam is a 1982 graduate of Tulane Medical School and completed his orthopedic residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, Texas in 1987 followed by fellowships at St. Vincent's Hand and Microvascular Surgery, Indianapolis, Indiana and an AO international fellowship in Berne, Switzerland. He has been a member of Peachtree Orthopedics since 1988 and has served on the staff of Piedmont Atlanta Hospital since that time. He has served on multiple committees for the AAOS and currently serves as Chairman of the joint BOC/BOS Resolutions Committee. He has been very active on multiple committees for the American Society for Surgery of the Hand and is a Past President of the Georgia Orthopedic Society, Georgia Society for Surgery of the Hand and Peachtree Orthopedics. He and his wife Kim are newly minted "Empty Nesters" in Atlanta and have 3 lovely daughters, Grace, Clara and Ellie. Despite his busy schedule he still has the energy and courage to don the Speedo and participate in Masters Swimming regularly.

*Xavier A. Duralde, M.D.*

