



LET THEM HEAR FOUNDATION

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Let Them Hear Foundation

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**WE TRAIN INTERNATIONAL DOCTORS
WHO WILL TRAIN THEIR OWN**

With a microphone on his mask and the cameras rolling, Dr. Roberson trains Dr. Zheng in the O.R. and more than a dozen other surgeons in the adjacent observation room.

**TOGETHER WE HAVE
THE PRIVILEGE OF
MAKING THE WORLD
A BETTER PLACE!**

*We maintain a laser-like
focus in four areas:
Hearing services, Education,
Access, and Research.*

Providing **Access** by training international surgeons is a must for helping deaf children around the world. We have had two unparalleled opportunities to provide this training in China. Originally only one training was scheduled—in the largest hospital in the world! By the time we

were finished, we had trained most of the cochlear implant surgeons in China!

Why China? And how did these opportunities come about?

Think of it this way... California is home to almost 1 in 7 people in America. China is home to 1 in 6 people in the world. As the host of the 2008 Summer Olympics and with a population of more than 1.3 billion people, China is experiencing phenomenal growth. Their medical systems and training are trying to catch up. Our work in China began in 2004 and continues to bear fruit... now at the national level.

In 2004 LTHF team members went to southern China, the area most affected by infant hearing loss. Then in

2005, we helped launch a project to teach village doctors about the causes of deafness. Specifically, we trained them to stop prescribing a specific antibiotic to young children because it was causing many toddlers to go deaf. This year, for the first time, the Chinese government admitted there was a problem and will address it nationally. Their largest newspaper, *The China Daily*, carried the story. And the "news" gets better.

Earlier this year the government held a news conference in Beijing announcing their plans to educate doctors to discontinue prescription of "ototoxic" drugs (those that kill the hearing). The Let Them Hear Foundation was the only outside

(continued on pg 2)



Presents the 4th Annual Silicon Valley Benefit Wine Auction

An Exceptional Evening of Class and Culinary Delight!

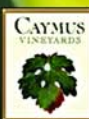
Thursday, November 1, 2007, 6:00 pm
At the Four Seasons Hotel Silicon Valley

Honorary Chair: Margrit Mondavi

Tickets are very limited to this evening of flair, panche, great people, and great fun. World class wines are poured during the silent auction, gourmet dinner prepared by Chef Alessandro Carumini, vinters at your dinner table, one-of-a-kind Private Cellar Auction Lots, David Reynolds (the world's best wine auctioneer!), and truly exceptional wines to bid on. Ticket donation is \$500 per couple or \$2500 for a table of ten.

**Benefiting the life-changing work of the
Let Them Hear Foundation, as they serve hard of hearing
children in California and around the world.**

Sponsors Include:



For more information please visit www.LetThemHear.org/gala/register Or call: 650-462-3146

www.LetThemHear.org

www.LetThemHear.org

Please donate today!



Doctors and friends of the Foundation in Chengdu China.



We train before, during, and after surgery.



Families preparing for interviews.



A father watches over his son with hope and anticipation in post op.

group invited to participate in the news conference. Great progress is now being made, and we were issued a new invitation.

Health officials in Beijing invited us to be the only group to provide live surgical training at the largest hearing conference in the world, the World Health Organization's Hearing Rehabilitation Conference in Beijing. We were already scheduled to teach surgery in Southwest China (see following story), but now we could teach the national leaders of medical colleges that could teach many others.

The first of two medical trips to China that will forever change how generations of children will hear.

How is that for a big statement? It is absolutely true. Thanks to your investments in the Let Them Hear Foundation, we are making a difference in the world. It started in the capital of China.

At the Beijing conference we trained 18 surgeons in the most updated implant techniques. The response was overwhelming. Dr. Roberson performed the live surgeries with Chinese surgeons in the operating room and in the adjacent observation room. There were live, interactive questions and answers during the surgeries. Surgery was followed by a Q&A session that included some of the best questions we have encountered anywhere. The opportunity turned out better than we could have hoped—we were able to train many top ENT surgeons who will be teaching others for years to come. A month later, we returned to China, this time to the largest hospital in the world.

THE WORLD'S LARGEST HOSPITAL.

When we arrived at the West China Hospital, we were unprepared for the size and scope of their work. If you can imagine, this hospital has about 5000 beds with construction underway to soon house 1000 additional beds. That is 10 times larger than most large hospitals in the USA. The hospital had banners at the entrances to welcome us. During the weeklong training,

many families received the gift of hearing, but more importantly to us, many doctors were trained to multiply the gift of hearing to thousands more.

The story of Dr. James Zhao illustrates why we provide Access as part of our mission.

He is an especially sharp young surgeon whom we had heard of even before we arrived. Dr. Zhao learned surgery in one of the top medical schools in Asia. The leader of that school said he was very skilled, but he had never performed cochlear implant surgery. He is the youngest surgeon on his ENT team, and he continues to teach at a major medical college.



Dr. James Zhao

When it was confirmed that the Let Them Hear Foundation would be in China, he contacted the president of his hospital to arrange the international conference and began inviting as many young surgeons as possible. His goal was to help his countrymen to "learn from the best" and to become "excellent surgeons who could teach others." Dr. Zhao is a world-changer. He is very bright and he has a heart to teach. By the time we left China, he had watched several cochlear implant surgeries and then successfully completed his first two on his own! He continues to review and practice the new techniques.

Your investment in the LTHF is making a huge difference. Thank you for helping so many.



Dr. Rob McClelland, LTHF Executive Director, with a new friend.



Training doctors while bringing love and hope to many families.



This child now hears as well.



Many tears were shed when this child heard for the first time.



A welcome meal with the ENT leaders at the world's largest hospital.