



## **PLANNED OBSERVERSHIP FOR POLISH SURGEONS AT MEDICAL CITY DALLAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL – PROJECT ACP**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Project ACP was established in the beginning of 2017 in Dallas, Texas. The idea of the project was first provided by Dr. Malgorzata T. Gajda, MD, a practicing pediatrician. The objective of the Project ACP is to provide funds for the training of a team of Polish physicians by the team of physicians organized by Dr. Jeffrey Fearon, MD, FACS, at Medical City Children's Hospital located in Dallas, TX in highly specialized procedures and care for children with complex anomalies.

The mission of the Project is not only to provide funds for the training but also to help build a team of highly trained and experienced physicians, practicing in Poland, who would meet international standards by undergoing a professional external evaluation and certification by ACPA-CPF.org. It is assumed, that an external evaluation of the interdisciplinary team work and performance of the team would bring the highest possible level of medical care to patients' based on the American standards of care.



## GENESIS OF THE PROJECT ACP

For the past several years Dallas has been hosting children and their families from Poland who travel to seek medical care needed for correction of congenital anomalies related to Apert, Crouzon, and Pfeiffer's syndromes. Dr. Jeffrey Fearon and several other surgeons affiliated with Medical City Dallas Children's Hospital have been correcting those with great patient satisfaction. Dr. Jeffrey Fearon is the World recognized specialist who cares for children with Apert's syndrome. The other option for surgical care for those children is Paris, France. This way of treatment is costly, associated with excess stress and unnecessary discomfort to families' related to staying in a foreign country and intercontinental travel especially for children shortly after major surgery.

### I. GOAL OF THE PROJECT ACP

Organization of observership for practicing and already experienced surgeons from Poland with Dr. Jeffrey Fearon along with other surgeons on his team that would provide Polish surgeons with necessary training to organize ONE center for the care that would start and continue to provide surgical care for children with Apert, Crouzon, and Pfeiffer's syndromes in Poland - **Project ACP**.

### II. ORGANIZATION OF PROJECT ACP

1. Duration of training- about 1 year.  
During the 1 year period each physician from Poland would travel to Dallas for 3-5 observership visits supervised by Dr. Jeffrey Fearon and other specialists on his team, each lasting 1- 2 weeks.
2. Location of training.  
Medical City Dallas Children's Hospital and medical offices of Dr. Jeffrey Fearon and other physicians affiliated with this hospital. Hospital address: 7777 Forest Lane, Dallas, TX, 75230.



### 3. Specialties included in the training:

- a. Craniofacial surgeon
- b. Pediatric neurosurgeon
- c. Hand surgeon
- d. Pediatric anesthesiologist
- e. Pediatric ophthalmologist
- f. Nurse coordinator
- g. Others?

### 4. Plan of the observership:

- a. Preparation for and “hands-off” participation in surgeries and procedures performed by the observership sponsor, e.g., hosting physician.
- b. Participation and learning details of pre-surgery and post – surgery care.
- c. Participation in the outpatient consultations done by sponsors in their offices.
- d. Observation/ learning of rules/tips related to successful care for patients as well as successful multi-specialty team operation.  
(“Hands-off” - physicians in training, due to medical-legal regulations, would not be able to perform surgeries but only observe and discuss cases with hosting physicians.)

### 5. Selection of candidates for training in Dallas

On November 11th, 2017, Small Big Hearts Foundation (SBHF) organized a meeting of volunteers who represented all of the active Polish organizations in the Dallas – Fort Worth area. During the meeting a Project ACP Council (the Council) was established in order to manage and organize the final stages of the planned Project ACP. The Project ACP Council consists of the following people:

- Krzysztof J. Gajda – Project Chairman (Polish Association in Texas);
- Remigiusz Sejwa – Project Vice Chairman (Small Big Hearts Foundation) ;
- George Dabrowski – Project Treasurer (Small Big Hearts Foundation);
- Halina Okolska-Grodd – Council Member (Polish American Foundation);
- Jan Wojciechowski – Council Member (Polish Association in Texas);
- Malgorzata T. Gajda – Council Member (Polish Association in Texas);
- Robert Czajkowski – Council Member;



On November 11, 2017, the Project ACP Council decided to select Institute of the Mother and Child (Instytut Matki i Dziecka), located in Warsaw, the Capital City of Poland, as the Project ACP partner.

During the selection process Council has considered the following criteria:

- Experience of all physicians who would be involved in the training and the future interdisciplinary team of specialists;
- Research and international experience in the medical/surgical area;
- Location of the hospital;
- Physical location of the offices of the future team members.

#### **6. Organization of the training in Dallas:**

- a. Small Big Hearts Foundation agreed to be the legal entity responsible for the Project ACP but direct overseeing of project would be done by special group selected from Polish organizations in Dallas. The mentioned group met on November 11th, 2017, and decided to establish a Project ACP Council. The Council was described in detail in item # 5.
- b. In January of 2018 we will request that IMiD provides all the necessary documents needed to obtain Operating Room access at Medical City in Dallas Children's Hospital.
- c. Selected medical team members from Poland will be required to sign legal documents that will obligate them to use learned techniques in Poland and assure continuation of care within the medical center selected. Those documents would be prepared by a legal team in Poland. Also, we will request that the administration of IMiD sign an agreement that would stipulate that the future medical care, provided by the team trained in the USA, be based on the quality standards developed by ACPA-CFP (American Cleft Palate Craniofacial Association).
- d. Dr. Jeffrey Fearon agreed to provide training free of charge. We have similar agreement with Dr. David Sacco. We are in the process of obtaining those agreements from other specialists.
- e. Final schedule of training will be developed after completion of the first observership by Polish team leader with Dr. Jeffrey Fearon that is scheduled for April 2018. (Schedule of trips, order of training specialties, and how many trips would be needed for each specialty, etc. Would be developed in mid-May of 2018 )



- f. Project ACP would pay for trainees:
- travel to/from USA
  - accommodations during training
  - car rental and phone rental for duration of stay
  - small/stipend to cover living expenses during stay

## 7. Cost of the ACP Project

We estimate the total cost of the project to be about \$140,000.00; or about \$5,000.00 for one trip and 1-2 weeks stay in Dallas for each trainee. The Council assumes that it would take approximately 28 trips from Poland to the USA to complete the described training by the entire team.

For comparison, one trip/surgery for one child coming to Dallas costs \$25,000.00 - \$30,000.00 and an average patient with Apert's syndrome requires 3-5 surgeries in the first 2 years of life.

## 8. Legal and Financial Organization of the Project

- a) Bozena Niemczyk-Drania, Esq., the attorney who practices law in Poland agreed to represent and provide legal counsel for the project in Poland. Her firm agreed to provide this representation without compensation.
- b) We are considering the need for similar legal representation in the USA.
- c) We are seeking to retain a reputable accounting firm in Dallas, Texas, to manage Project's books and control financial expenditures.

## 9. Project Sponsorship

We are hoping to reach out to all the people in Poland and the United States who support this great project and are willing to sponsor it.

- a) We need help to reach out to all individuals and not only charity organizations to help collect money.
- b) We have contacted Polish government and received "blessing" for the Project but they are not able to provide any funds for it at this time.
- c) We have reached out to the President of RP Mr. Duda and we are still in communication with his office (they may consider honorary sponsorship, but not much financial help).



*Any funds can be deposited at: [www.smallbighearts.org](http://www.smallbighearts.org)*

**ACP Project is fairly expensive but not unattainable. If completed in a timely manner, it can make a real difference and have a positive impact among lots of children born with complex head and hand anomalies.**

We appreciate all comments and questions! Please e-mail those to [kjgajda@msn.com](mailto:kjgajda@msn.com).

Comments/Notes and Questions