

ISAPS LEAP Program — Why getting Involved can help grow your practice and make a difference in the lives of others

After the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, hundreds of survivors were left with severe injuries to their faces and limbs, many complicated by tetanus or gangrene. In a village in rural India, children with congenital facial abnormalities are ostracized, with no hope of a productive future. And in Jordan, thousands fleeing violence in Syria arrive at refugee hospitals with gunshot wounds and blast injuries.

What can ISAPS do?

Humanitarian outreach, along with patient safety and education, is a crucial pillar of ISAPS' mission. All three of these are combined in our partnership with [LEAP Global Missions](#), a humanitarian organization which performed almost fifty surgeries on patients in Zimbabwe during the 2009 cholera epidemic, and laid the foundation for an ongoing medical education program for local surgeons, physicians, students and nurses.

The [ISAPS-LEAP program](#) was born from the commitment of both organizations to the medical safety and education of people all over the world, and their dedication to humanitarian outreach, which includes performing crucial surgeries on those who need it most. In collaboration with LEAP's International Disaster Relief Program, ISAPS trains, equips and deploys [Surgical Relief Teams](#) (SRTs) on short-term disaster-relief medical missions. A total of fifteen week-long SRTs have so far been sent to Amman, Jordan to treat injured [refugees from Syria](#). Other missions have been sent to aid earthquake survivors in [Haiti](#) and [Ecuador](#). ISAPS member-surgeons also work individually with other organizations to provide cleft palate surgeries and other reconstructive plastic procedures, such as labiaplasty to treat girls and women who have been subjected to genital mutilation.

Your ISAPS membership provides a unique opportunity to be a part of to ISAPS' [Humanitarian Program](#). Volunteering your professional skills to people affected by disaster demonstrates your commitment to upholding the ISAPS mission statement. You may even want to become involved in the [planning and organization](#) of future relief missions through committee service.

As a member of ISAPS, your LEAP outreach service should also be a cornerstone of your own marketing and publicity. Readers are very interested in stories of humanity's goodwill in the face of disaster, and find inspiration from the survivors who must — literally — rebuild themselves and their lives. That we in ISAPS have the chance to be a part of this rebuilding is truly an honor, one we have an obligation to make the public aware of. Share updates and photos of your SRT mission on [Facebook](#), Instagram and your professional webpage. If you're a volunteer, your monthly newsletter should also feature information detailing your training and deployment, well in advance of the mission itself. Profiles of Surgical Relief Team members and ISAPS-LEAP press releases can also be linked to your professional website and social media. This not only showcases

your surgical expertise, but also lets your readers feel a greater sense of connection to you as a caring human being dedicated to reach out to help others.

Establish your reputation both at home and abroad by [joining ISAPS](#). You'll receive a free subscription to the Society's indexed journal, insurance to protect you and your patients (at home and when they travel for their surgery) and much more — including the chance to contribute to international medical relief efforts. In the twenty-first century, the entire world is watching — and it needs your volunteer efforts.