



2021 Humanitarian Award

Daniel T. Burzon, MD '91

For more than 20 years, New Jersey urologist Daniel T. Burzon, MD '91, has organized annual medical missions to Haiti, bringing much needed urological care to the country's impoverished and medically underserved population. Working through the CRUDEM Foundation at Hôpital Sacré Coeur in Milot, he has performed hundreds of surgeries on patients who would likely not otherwise have access to such specialty care.

Dr. Burzon was raised in Chappaqua, New York, and attended Cornell University. As a medical student at Upstate Medical University, he became interested in surgery, eventually focusing on urology. He completed both general surgery and urology residencies at the University of Rochester. Since 1997, he has been a member of Coastal Urology Associates, a group practice with locations in Brick, Lakewood, and Neptune, New Jersey, and is currently president of the practice. Burzon is also chief of urology at both the Jersey Shore Medical Center and Ocean Medical Center and is medical director of the Shore Outpatient Surgicenter. A diplomate of the American Board of Urology and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, he has conducted research and published on treatments for prostate and bladder cancer.

Burzon made his first trip to Haiti in 1999, accompanying the retired urologist he had replaced in his practice. "All it takes is one trip," he says. "You see the conditions, the need, and the appreciation and you're hooked."



Burzon became part of the medical team of urologists, anesthesiologists, nurses, and other volunteers who would travel to the medical center annually. After five years, he became a team leader, organizing his own team, which travels to Milot

the first week of January every year. "I started bringing urology residents, grooming them, and then when they become attendings, they can lead their own team," says Burzon, who has also taken his wife and children as volunteers. Burzon pays his own travel expenses and those of his nursing staff as well.

The hospital operates on a system that focuses on a different specialty each week. With only three weeks out of the year devoted to urology, Burzon says his team is typically greeted by hundreds of patients, many who have been waiting in line for days. They spend the



"Our Hospital Sacre Coeur Team"—The Haitian operating room staff and our U.S. volunteer doctors, nurses, and anesthesiologists after a busy day

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first day assessing patients, and by the end of that day, the week's surgical schedule is full. In 2010, Burzon and his team were in Haiti during the major earthquake and later returned to lead post-quake care.

Despite donations from abroad, Burzon describes the hospital facilities as "operating in 1950," conditions that limit treatment options. Common surgeries include repair of congenital defects and undescended testicles, hydrocele to eliminate fluid retention around the scrotum, and prostate and penile cancers, which are often much more advanced than seen in the United States. "The patients and their families are incredibly grateful and it's a very rewarding experience," he says.

Closer to home, Burzon has served as a board member for the New Jersey chapter of the Fellowship



"Team Burzon"—Above: wife Teddi of 36 years, son DJ (30) and daughter Mikki-Jean (36), both of whom grew up on the Upstate campus, and youngest daughter Jaylin (26). Left: at our "Happy Place," Lake George.



of Christian athletes for 18 years, a Christian organization that encourages youth from elementary school through college to participate in athletics drug and alcohol free. He is also a board member and medical director of the Open Door Pregnancy Center in Toms River, New Jersey. The organization provides medical care, counseling, and financial assistance to young pregnant women to assist them in keeping their babies.