



A care collaboration spanning two continents: (from left) Orthopedic surgeon Jared Foran, M.D.; patient Paschal Nwankwo; OrthoColorado Hospital CEO Jude Torchia; Father Charles Anedo, St. Anthony Hospital Pastoral Care; Father Emmanuel Umezina, Paschal's advocate from Nigeria.



Orthopedic surgeon Jared Foran, M.D., reviews X-ray images as he explains the complexity of Paschal's surgery.

A Promise to Paschal

Nigerian teen receives life-changing care at OrthoColorado

BY CARLA CARWILE

When OrthoColorado surgeon Jared Foran, M.D., traveled to Africa on a medical mission trip last year, he anticipated a challenging week of orthopedic procedures. What he could not know was that one surgery, too complex to complete in the Nigerian clinic, would be performed months later, right here in Colorado—and that its success would change the life of 17-year-old Paschal Nwankwo.

A childhood fall had left Paschal with a severely broken hip. Treated by a traditional bone setter, the fracture healed poorly and left the young man with a severe and painful limp. With one leg several inches shorter than the other, the teenager relied on a walking stick, unable to play soccer or find work to support his family.

Paschal and his mother had walked miles to see the visiting American surgeons. “One week and 18 surgeries later, we realized it was too dangerous to operate on Paschal’s hip without the proper tools and equipment,” Foran says. “It was heartbreaking having to watch Paschal



Jared Foran, M.D., and patient Paschal Nwankwo on a rehab walk at OrthoColorado Hospital.

and his crying mother walk away, the son leaning upon her shoulder and his cane. I told them I would try to bring them to the U.S. for surgery.”

FULFILLING A DREAM

Last September, that promise was kept, thanks to extraordinary generosity and collaboration. Foran, assisted by Panorama Orthopedic surgeon Peter Lammens, M.D., performed the hip replacement; Father Charles Anedo of St. Anthony Pastoral Care worked closely with Father Emmanuel Umezina, a former seminary friend in Nigeria, to secure Paschal’s visa; OrthoColorado Hospital donated care; St. Anthony Health Foundation provided airline tickets for Paschal and Father Emmanuel; and Zimmer, a leading resource for orthopedic surgical products, provided the total hip implant.

Father Anedo sums up the story with a smile and a single word: “Providence.” ●

Joint Replacement and Reconstruction at OrthoColorado Hospital

At OrthoColorado Hospital, our orthopedic joint surgeons offer innovative joint replacement and joint reconstruction procedures. People experiencing joint pain due to arthritis, deformities, trauma or injury, as well as failed past joint replacements, will find that our joint replacement surgeons are highly experienced and are committed to helping each patient regain an active lifestyle.

Patients undergoing joint replacement surgery at the Denver area’s only orthopedic specialty hospital can be confident in knowing that all members of our staff and team, from preoperative care through recovery, are trained specifically in orthopedics. They offer an unprecedented level of experience and understanding of the needs of joint replacement and joint reconstruction patients.

Among the procedures performed and conditions treated are:

- Total knee replacement
- Partial knee replacement
- Hip resurfacing
- Total hip replacement
- Shoulder pain and problems
- Osteoarthritis



ONLINE

Got Joint Troubles?

Find out how OrthoColorado Hospital can help you get back in action. For more information on the hospital, its skilled physicians and services, visit orthocolorado.org

