

## Research and Innovation in Remote Locations:

American women go to their doctors every year for a Pap smear. It is a nuisance that we endure, and we are relieved when it's done and the results are normal. It's routine. Certainly not rocket science.

But in Guyana, South America, a Pap smear is rocket science because there is no laboratory to process pap smears, and no technologists to read them if they could be processed. The Pap is a very sophisticated test, and out of reach of most developing countries.

### Research ~

The Remote Area Medical Cervical Cancer team, in collaboration with the University of Virginia, is researching:

- The rate of cervical cancer and pre-cancer
- The specific type(s) of HPV causing cancer in Guyana
- The most effective way of screening for cervical cancer

### Innovation ~

A new rapid HPV screening test will soon be available that will provide immediate results. Patients who test positive for HPV will undergo diagnostic evaluation and treatment in one visit. This test may replace the Pap smear, eliminating the need for advanced laboratory facilities and trained personnel. Local health workers, who will administer this test, will then become the primary clinicians screening for cervical cancer in Guyana.



*Cancer surgeon makes post-operative rounds at Mercy Hospital.*

Guyana's villages are widely scattered across a vast savannah or are tucked away in the mountain rainforests.



An intense rainy season from May to August makes navigation nearly impossible.

In order to reach patients our teams travel by small aircraft, boat, and all-terrain vehicle.



## Remote Area Medical® Foundation

1834 Beech Street  
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[www.ramusa.org](http://www.ramusa.org)

Remote Area Medical® is a  
501(c)(3) charitable organization.

## RAM CERVICAL CANCER PROGRAM

### SAVING THE LIVES OF AMERINDIAN WOMEN IN THE REMOTE INTERIOR OF GUYANA



The RAM Cervical Cancer Team is dedicated to improving the health of women in Guyana and preventing the ravages of cervical cancer, the deadliest of cancers affecting women in developing countries.

To continue this lifesaving work requires the commitment of volunteers from around the world, and financial contributions to help pay for laboratory fees and surgical supplies.

We send up to eight teams a year to Guyana and help up to 350 patients per visit. Our volunteers pay their own way and provide for all their own needs while in Guyana.



You do not have to be a doctor or a nurse to save lives. You do not have to travel to Guyana, sleep outdoors on the ground in the savannah or the jungle for two weeks, and eat food you prepare over a fire in order to save lives in Guyana.

You are certainly invited to do all these things with the RAM team, but even if you cannot travel with RAM, you can participate on a RAM team.



*RAM cervical cancer team, 2007*

Your contribution will support our volunteers, who travel to villages by boat or all-terrain vehicle, or hike through the jungles, to bring their skills and the supplies you have helped purchase to the patients whose lives will be saved.

Please give generously, and note on your check "RAM Cervical Cancer Team"

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*Caring for post-op patients in Lethem Hospital*

### How You Can Help:

- A contribution of **\$30.00** will pay for the supplies necessary for one patient to have a lifesaving LEEP procedure to remove pre-cancerous cells from the cervix.
- **\$100.00** will cover the costs of a radical hysterectomy, saving the life of a patient diagnosed with cervical cancer.
- **\$380.00** will pay for aviation fuel to transport one patient to and from Georgetown for surgery.
- **\$1,000.00** will pay for all the disposable supplies needed for a 2-week expedition to Guyana in which up to 500 patients will be screened for cancer.
- **\$2,500.00** will pay for an entire course of radiation therapy to complete the treatment for a woman who would otherwise die of invasive cervical cancer.
- **Airline frequent flyer miles**, or funding to assist nurses and clerical staff with airline fares for a second mission within 1 year. Volunteers take 2 weeks unpaid leave from work and pay their own airline fares - about \$1,200. Experienced team members are vital to the team.

### Donate Gear and Medical Supplies:

Camping gear is needed for first-time volunteers, to reduce the cost and promote volunteerism:

- Lightweight tents (under 5 lbs) with "no-see-um" mesh
- Headlamps with strong beams, for physical examination

LEEP supplies for Wallach Quantum 2000:

- Loop electrodes: 2 cm, 1.5 cm, 1.0 cm square, 5 mm ball
- Grounding pads
- Tubing
- Paracervical block kits
- Spinal needles: 23 g



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