BACKGROUND
From January 18-23, 2015, a team of volunteers from the John A. Moran Eye Center (JMEC) conducted their fourth mission in Haiti since 2013. The team, lead by Moran’s Dr. Craig Chaya, was hosted by the Vision Plus Clinique (VPC) in Cap-Haitien, a small town on the northern shore of Haiti. When the team visited VPC in 2014, they performed the first corneal transplants and micro-invasive glaucoma surgeries in this region.

Goals for the January trip included transferring surgical skills to the local ophthalmologists, providing ophthalmic training for all levels of clinical support staff at VPC, and developing a network of United States-based physicians to volunteer at VPC on an ongoing basis.

THE TEAM
JOHN A. MORAN EYE CENTER
• Craig Chaya, MD, Team Leader
• Amber Bettis, RN
• Dan Bettis, MD
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
• Michael Feilmeier, MD, Team Leader
• Jerry Damme, OD
• Mustafa Hanout, MD
• Shane Havens, MD
• Patty Terp, MD
VISION PLUS CLINIQUE
• Dr. Marie-Carmelle Lucien, MD
• Dr. Pierre Luc-Dupuy, Jr., MD
• Dr. Guerline Roney, MD

MORAN PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS
• Alabama Eye Bank
• Alcon
• Allergan, Inc.
• New World Medical, Inc.
• Glaukos Corporation
• Global Sight Network
• Illinois Eye Bank
• IOP Ophthalmics
• Lions Eye Bank of Utah
• Lions Eye Bank of Nebraska
• Mobious Therapeutics
• Rick Erikson and MicroSurgical Technology
• Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank

OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS
John A. Moran Eye Center and University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) physicians performed 64 surgeries while local hosts observed and learned. Together, they worked through delicate surgeries such as phacoemulsifications, trabeculectomies, keratoplasties, and more.

Along with many other organizations, JMEC generously donated numerous supplies, from eye drops to corneal graft tissue.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS TRANSFER
VPC’s Dr. Luc-Dupuy learned how to perform corneal transplants under the direction of UNMC’s Dr. Michael Feilmeier, a former Moran fellow. Together, they performed the first corneal transplants in the northern region of Haiti. During the January 2015 trip, JMEC and UNMC physicians continued Dr. Luc-Dupuy’s corneal training. The Moran Outreach Division will work to secure corneal tissue for VPC so that Dr. Luc-Dupuy can continue to provide corneal care for the country. Additionally, Dr. Chaya provided an array of glaucoma education to VPC ophthalmologists and support staff.
FUTURE PLANS
The Moran team plans to return to Haiti in May and August of 2015 and for many years to come. The focus of future trips includes eradicating curable blindness, transferring surgical skills from Moran physicians to VPC staff members, recruiting more physicians to assist with care and training at VPC, and creating an ophthalmology residency and fellowship program for Haitian medical students.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE FIELD
Below is an excerpt from the travel journal of Amber Bettis, RN, highlighting her experience in Haiti:

As a Registered Nurse and the wife of a Glaucoma Fellow at the Moran Eye Center, I was thrilled when I was offered the opportunity to journey to Cap-Haitien for an Outreach Medical Eye Camp. My husband and I have always wanted to do medical outreach together, and with this mission, our dream became a reality. I will never forget one particular patient, a 15-year-old boy with a traumatic cataract. He was scheduled for surgery to remove this cataract, however, as it got close to his turn for surgery, he kept disappearing from the pre-operative room....he was so very afraid. When he finally reappeared, I told him (through a Creole translator) that I would be there to hold his hand during surgery. He squeezed my hand so tightly throughout the entire case, calming him enough to hold very still. His surgery had great results! It's amazing how far a little hand-holding can go!