

Supporting the Thomas S. Durant, MD Fellowship in Refugee Medicine

To celebrate the life of Thomas S. Durant, MD, and to continue his extraordinary humanitarian work, the Massachusetts General Hospital is seeking to create an endowed fund that will generate the necessary income to ensure that the fellowship program continues in years ahead. Contributions of any amount are needed for this important effort. If you would like to make a gift to the fellowship, please mail your check to:

Thomas S. Durant, MD, Fellowship in Refugee Medicine
Massachusetts General Hospital
Development Office
100 Charles River Plaza, Suite 600
Boston, MA 02114
Attention: Jeffrey S. LeClair

The Massachusetts General Hospital is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

If you have any questions about making a contribution, please contact Jeffrey LeClair in the Development Office at (617) 724-6087.

The Thomas S. Durant, MD Fellowship in Refugee Medicine

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The Thomas S. Durant, MD



Fellowship in
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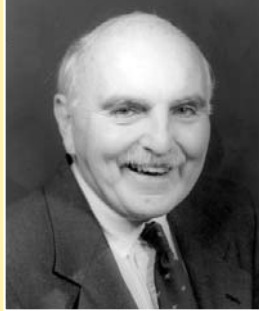
“The greatest tribute is the incredible resilience of the people who in the face of years of famine, oppression, torture and annihilation continue to show their indomitable spirit.”

www.durantfellowship.org

“... just a simple boy from Dorchester —
with a passport.”

Thomas S. Durant, MD (1928 – 2001)

Thomas S. Durant, MD, spent his life chasing catastrophe and chaos in some of the world's most forsaken and forlorn spots. From his service as chief public health adviser in Saigon from 1966 to 1968 to a trip to Honduras in May 2001 to comfort victims of Hurricane Mitch, Dr. Durant was a beacon of hope for those caught up in virtually every international crisis in recent decades.



Dr. Durant compiled a 35-year itinerary that reads like an atlas of modern-day trouble spots: Cambodia, Albania, Northern Ireland, Kosovo, Central America, Bosnia, Rwanda, Somalia, Croatia, Vietnam, the Iraq/Turkish Border and Afghanistan. In his trademark Red Sox cap, “Doc” offered his unique blend of compassion and kindness, helping to soothe the embattled soul and bruised psyche of the dispirited and displaced.

Seizing every opportunity to call attention to the conditions, plight, devastation and horrors he witnessed, Dr. Durant spread his message about the needless suffering that he attributed to man's inhumanity to mankind. He touched countless audiences through disturbing, poignant and humorous accounts of life in one hell after another. His volunteerism and selflessness encouraged others to become involved in international relief efforts or in community programs closer to home.

A lifelong resident of Dorchester, Mass., Dr. Durant graduated from Boston College and received his medical degree from Georgetown University. He completed his training in obstetrics and gynecology at Boston City Hospital. After his service as chief public health adviser in Vietnam, he joined the MGH in 1968 as a clinical gynecologist and assistant director, and he served in this role until his death in October 2001.

The Thomas S. Durant, MD Fellowship in Refugee Medicine

Continuing a legacy

Open to MGH health care professionals and staff, the Thomas S. Durant Fellowship in Refugee Medicine seeks to honor and celebrate the life, spirit, humor, passion, joy and legacy of an extraordinary humanitarian by following his example of aiding victims of war, famine and disaster. Durant fellows are health care professionals who are inspired to make a difference in some of the world's bleakest places, serving refugee populations and other victims of complex human disasters.

The fellowship aims to support health care professionals who are not satisfied by simply hearing, reading and fretting about the people and populations in distress. Durant fellows, embodying the spirit of their founder, are motivated and angry by the plight of the poor, the dispirited, the maimed and the displaced, and as a result are driven to help. By nurturing this sense of commitment to mankind throughout the world, the fellowship will help ensure that new generations of dedicated humanitarians are prepared to respond to the next disaster — and the next, and the next.

The opportunity to serve

Durant fellows receive support to travel to the places throughout the world where needs are most critical. They deliver care, services and hope to people ravaged by war, disease, drought, poverty or politics. The fellowship is designed to be flexible and adaptable to changing global conditions. The duration of the fellowship, the breadth of the experience and the follow-up activities are defined in large part by the desires of the fellows as well as the available assignments and needs at the time.

Specifically, the fellowship provides:

- full and rewarding hands-on experience in the field, administering medical care and specific health care and supportive services to people in need;
- stipend for the fellows and coverage of the expenses associated with the experience;

- the opportunity to work within existing care and relief organizations, such as Concern and the American Refugee Committee, to take advantage of their expertise and experience in providing care to refugee populations and victims of acute disasters. The organizations provide information about specific opportunities and needs for medical assistance throughout the world, travel arrangements, insurance and other logistics; and
- a chance to share information about the experience during and after the fellowship, educating others about the needs of populations devastated by cruelty, injustice, disaster or disease.

All health care providers, including physicians, nurses, psychologists, social workers, physical therapists, occupational therapists or dietitians are eligible for the fellowship. Those interested in applying for the Thomas S. Durant Fellowship in Refugee Medicine are asked to provide the following materials:

- a completed application;
- curriculum vitae;
- a one-page, single-spaced essay explaining why they are interested in refugee medicine and what they hope to accomplish and learn from the experience; and
- two letters of recommendation.

Final candidates will be invited in for an interview with the Durant Fellowship Selection Committee.

For additional information about the Durant Fellowship program, contact:

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Massachusetts General Hospital
55 Fruit Street, Bartlett 9
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(617) 724-3874
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or visit www.durant_fellowship.org