


2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on  
**GLOBAL HEALTHCARE AND NUTRITION**

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## TITLE: A Global Strategy to End Preventable Disability

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### ABSTRACT (up to 300 words)

**Background and Purpose:** Clubfoot is one of the most common congenital deformities affecting more than 174,000 children annually, with 90% in developing countries. In high-income countries, children with clubfoot are treated immediately, yet in developing countries, these children have limited opportunities for early life-changing treatment, leaving them disabled, at risk for abuse and facing perpetuating poverty. The Ponseti Method is the gold standard of clubfoot treatment globally. This straightforward, cost-effective treatment consists of manipulation, casting, a tenotomy in most cases, and bracing. Early treatment, with the Ponseti method, eliminates shame and enables children to take their first steps on straight feet.

**Methods:** Hope Walks establishes and supports national clubfoot programs in developing countries to make treatment so all children have access to care. Our program model focuses on identification at birth and intervention through partnerships within the national health system through local providers. National clubfoot programs offer coordinated training, mentoring, family counseling, quality treatment supplies, sensitization and awareness, and monitoring and evaluation with a vision that all children will run free from this treatable disability.

**Results and Discussion:** Today, through the strengthening of the national health system, our programs enroll greater than 60% of the estimated clubfoot population in Burundi,

Kenya, and Rwanda. Advancement in training and education through the Africa Clubfoot Training (ACT) standardized curriculum and the development of the first mobile phone-based data collection tool in DHIS2, access and quality continue to increase.

**Conclusions:** Keeping in line with SDG3 while building and supporting communities that are able to provide basic services (SDG 11), eliminate poverty (SDG 1) and increase access to education (SDG 4), this straightforward treatment provides equal rights and access to children born with clubfoot. Together we can end disability from clubfoot.

### BIOGRAPHY (up to 200 words)

Scott is the president and co-founder of Hope Walks. A graduate of Messiah College, Scott worked as a nurse in Pediatric Intensive Care Units across the country before becoming involved in international health work with Samaritan's Purse. He pioneered the Post-Residency Program at Samaritan's Purse and served as the Medical Response Coordinator for several of their international medical responses. In 2014, Scott joined CURE International to serve as operations director for CURE Clubfoot before creating and transitioning the program to Hope Walks.

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