

In the early 1970's, a Guatemalan physician named Federico Alfaro, MD, began treating a seventeen-year-old boy. The boy had a heart condition cardiologists refer to as "heart blockage", an affliction in which the heartbeat continually slows until one day the heart just stops pumping. The boy's condition was curable by the implantation of a pace-making device however the boy was poor and therefore couldn't afford the cost of this device. Dr. Alfaro tried desperately to find financial assistance to provide the boy with the pacemaker he needed. But in the end he had to watch the boy die. He swore another person would not die because they could not afford a pacemaker and so Dr. Alfaro started a movement that would grow from one country to spread all over the globe.

His mission was simply to save lives globally by providing cardiovascular implantable devices and treatment to the needy people of the world. In late 1984, the non-profit humanitarian organization of Heartbeat International (HBI) was established, and as the years followed some 12,500 devices comprising pacemakers and defibrillators have been donated and implanted to help save poor people lives in several countries around the world, including Trinidad and Tobago.

In 1985, our Rotarians participated in the formation of the first Pacemaker Bank in Trinidad and Tobago along with 15 other countries. Locally, the Rotary Club of St. Augustine had a huge part to play as they and other member clubs assumed the management of the Pacemaker Bank from 1988 to 2006.

From 2006 onwards, the Pacemaker Bank was re-organized and now operates as a Heart Centre under Heartbeat International of Trinidad & Tobago (HBITT), through an independent Board of Directors that includes Rotarians,



Implant in progress

Medical Practitioners' and other organizations. HBITT was legally incorporated as a non-profit organization in Trinidad in June 2011 and continues to carry out the mission of its parent organization Heartbeat International (HBI), USA.

Since the inception of the pacemaker programme in 1985 to July 2015, HBITT has successfully implanted a total of 1452 cardiovascular implantable devices in needy citizens of Trinidad and Tobago at value of over TT \$60M dollars. Of the 14 Heart Centres

operated by HBI worldwide HBITT is the most active and has consistently been the leader in the most number of implants per year.

At present HBI receives donated ICD/Pace maker devices from only German manufacturer - Biotronik. However HBI, Tampa has recently advised that pacemaker stocks are very low and all Heart Centres shall be required to procure their own ICD/Pacemaker devices as may be required to keep the mission of saving lives ongoing.



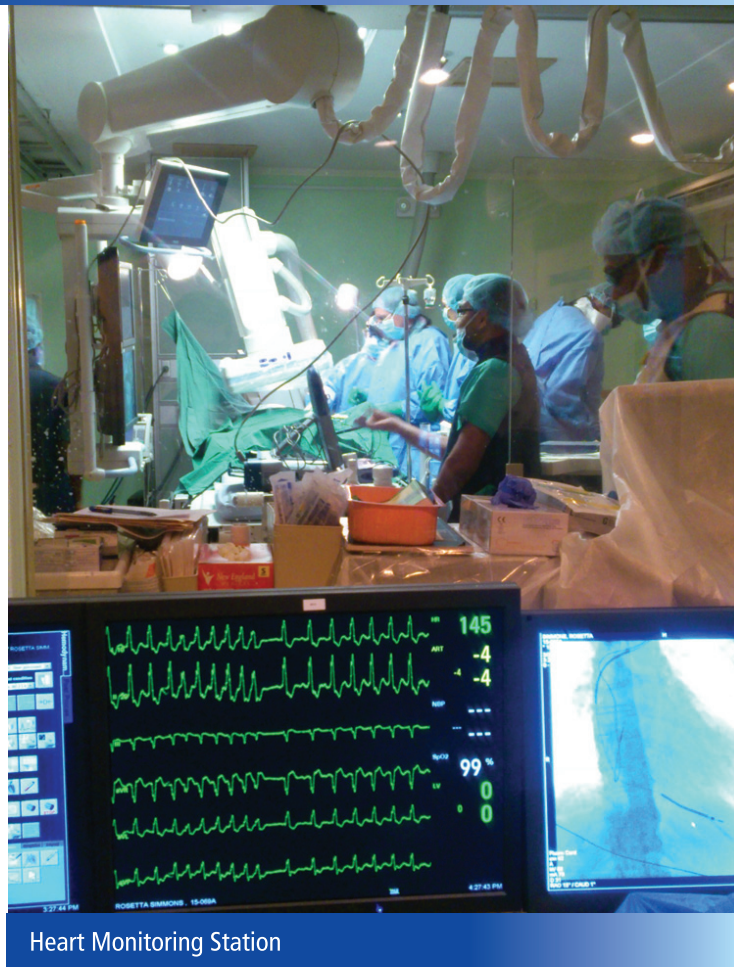
HEARTBEAT INTERNATIONAL (HBI) - Heart Centres Statistics for 2013 & 2014

Heart Centers	ICDs/ Pacemakers Implanted 2013	ICDs/ Pacemakers Implanted 2014	ICDs/ Pacemakers Implanted 2015 (As of July)
Ecuador	26	68	4
El Salvador	20	64	11
Guatemala	17	30	4
Honduras	18	16	13
India - Bangalore	7	14	12
India - Cochin	18	11	2
Mexico	11	25	8
Pakistan	13	37	12
Paraguay	14	87	51
Philippines	31	39	21
Trinidad & Tobago	110	172	102
Total:	314	588	240

HBITT milestones in 2014 and 2015:

- *On October 1, 2014 HBITT saved the 400th life for HBI (across all Heart Centers worldwide for the year)
- * On October 27, 2014 HBITT saved the 100th life in TT for 2014.
- * On October 31, 2014 HBITT saved the 1000th life in TT in HBITT's 29 years history.
- * Two (2) special CRT implant week runs were done in March & April 2015 with assistance of USA retired EP Cardiologist.

Donor	Period	Total Implants
Devices donated and implanted by the Rotary Club of St. Augustine Pacemaker Bank of Heartbeat International (HBI)	1985 - Sept 2006	294
Devices donated & implanted by the Rotary Clubs (T&T) PMB of HBI	Oct 2006 - April 2009	126
Devices donated & implanted by HBITT	May 2009 - Dec 2009	58
Devices donated & implanted by HBITT	Jan 2010 - Dec 2010	52
Devices donated & implanted by HBITT	Jan 2011 - Dec 2011	133
Devices donated & implanted by HBITT	Jan 2012 - Dec 2012	111
Devices donated & implanted by HBITT	Jan 2013 - Dec 2013	110
Devices donated & implanted by HBITT	Jan 2014 - Dec 2014	172
Devices donated & implanted by HBITT	Jan 2015 - July 2015	102
Total Cumulative Implants		1452



Heart Monitoring Station

From Mid-2009 to May 2015. HBITT has implanted over 715 devices in indigent persons in Trinidad and Tobago. Over the next few years some of the same indigent persons will be returning to HBITT to change their implant devices (box changes) due to end of battery life. So far for 2015 HBITT has at least 82 patients in need of these box changes and there may not be enough stock available, hence purchasing devices may be essential. Typical cost of single chamber pacemakers range from TT\$30,000 to TT\$ 45,000. A high end CRT device may cost well over TT\$300,000.

Special Implant Runs for 2015

HBITT normally has at least 2-3 regular implant surgeries on a weekly basis however there is a current back log of over 100 patients that need devices and implant surgeries. To alleviate the backlog of patients the following is planned for 2015:

1. Friday July 3rd 2015: Medtronic CRT Training
2. August 5th - 7th 2015: Paediatric Implants

3. August 17th - 21st +2015: CRT Training and pacemaker Implants
4. September 14th - 18th 2015: CRT Training and pacemaker Implants
5. October 12th - 16th 2015: CRT Training and pacemaker Implants
6. November 16th - 20th 2015: CRT Training and pacemaker implants

The Rotary Club of St. Augustine remains one of the main financial contributors to the operations of HBITT through its annual Golf for Life Tournament. The Club also jointly manages the Heartbeat International Regional Distribution Centre (RDC) that collects, store, and ship pacemakers and defibrillators to other HBI Heart Centres worldwide. The Rotary Club of St. Augustine continues to support and make substantial financial contributions to both Heartbeat International of T&T (HBITT) and the Regional Distribution Centre to assist in their operating expenses thereby continuing the mission of HBI.

Aug 2015