

## 2ND WORLD CONGRESS ON DERMATOLOGY, COSMETOLOGY AND AESTHETIC SURGERY

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INTERPLAST-Germany

### INTERPLAST-Germany—adapting to global plastic surgery

For 44 years, humanitarian surgery with INTERPLAST has been an integral part of plastic and reconstructive surgery in Germany. We are the largest organization of its kind in Europe and have now provided surgical assistance to over 110,000 patients in developing countries in 1,800 missions. In 2024 alone, 3,700 operations were performed in 77 missions. However, the range of missions has changed in recent years, and the expectations of our relief efforts have become more complex adapting to global plastic surgery.

While plastic surgical assistance for socially disadvantaged people previously focused primarily on basic plastic surgery techniques, the range of tasks has now become significantly more demanding. Recurring missions to the same location offer the opportunity to continuously impart plastic surgical knowledge to colleagues on site and also to perform more complex reconstructions that require longer-term follow-up care. Thanks to improvements in the healthcare system and knowledge transfer via the internet, the demands on our collaboration have increased significantly. If we succeed in developing a stable partnership, our short-term assistance becomes significantly more sustainable.

Unfortunately, hospitals in developing countries are also increasingly coming under economic pressure, so that many treatments are no longer accessible to poor patients and are mainly limited to basic care. But our missions remain a social joint venture and not a business.

Extraordinary patient examples and exemplary collaborations with local doctors are demonstrated, but also sad examples illustrate the harsh reality when structural economic changes thwart effective assistance. INTERPLAST is constantly negotiating with local providers to maintain a reasonable basis for our social work. The countless patients testify to the necessity of our actions and thank us for our commitment.

**Keywords:** humanitarian plastic surgery, global plastic surgery, knowledge transfer, voluntary work, international partnership, INTERPLAST

#### Biography

1955 born in Berlin / Germany (West) and grown up in an artist family Study of Medicine in Berlin and Freiburg, M.D. General Surgeon, Plastic and Aesthetic Surgeon in Frankfurt 1990 INTERPLAST-Mission to Guinea / Westafrica 1995-2023 Head of the department of Plastic Surgery in Bad Kreuznach National Society of Plastic Surgery (DGPRÄC) International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (ISAPS) 1999 -2011 and since 2019 President of INTERPLAST-Germany (NGO) Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany Many awards of Medical Societies, "Dieffenbach Medal" DGPRÄC 2023 75 INTERPLAST- Camps in Africa, India, Nepal, Brazil, Peru and Bolivia