

PORTLAND THORACIC SURGEON RECEIVES HONORARY DOCTORATE FOR MISSION WORK IN MONGOLIA

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Contact: Paula Fasano Negele (Providence) 503-215-6200
paula.negele@providence.org

Elizabeth Lindenmuth (The Oregon Clinic) 503-963-2893
elindenmuth@orclinic.com

PORTLAND, Ore. – Portland cardiothoracic surgeon John R. Handy, Jr., M.D., is one of two physicians awarded honorary doctorates for their mission work by the National Medical Research Institute of Mongolia.

Dr. Handy, director of Providence Thoracic Surgery, co-director of the Providence Thoracic Oncology Programs and practicing within The Oregon Clinic, joined cardiac anesthesiologist Patricia Gramling-Babb, M.D., on a medical mission trip to Mongolia in May. Dr. Handy and Dr. Gramling-Babb, assistant professor of clinical anesthesia at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago, led a team performing cardiac and thoracic surgery. The two physicians are members of earthMed, a philanthropic health care organization whose goal is to improve medical care in developing countries by program development, education and direct patient care through medical volunteers.

The doctorates were awarded by Nachin Bassanjav, Ph.D., D.Sc. (Med), director of the National Institute of Health Mongolia, on the basis of eight years of “selfless contributions to the development of cardiothoracic surgery in Mongolia.” Only seven other honorary doctorates have been awarded in the 50 years of the institute’s existence.

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