Dear WCF friends,

For decades, my dad, Kenneth E. Salyer, MD, set a bold vision in motion—bringing together expertise from across disciplines, cultures, and borders to ensure that children with head and facial conditions have the opportunity to live fuller, healthier lives.

Today, that vision continues—but the way it comes to life is evolving.

What began as pioneering surgical leadership and a network of multidisciplinary experts has grown into something broader: a globally connected system of care that builds on collaboration and expands access for children around the world.

We focus on one thing: helping each child access the care they need—working to remove whatever barriers stand in the way.

At the heart of this evolution is the WCF Global Network—a collaborative ecosystem designed to connect each child with the right expertise, in the right place, at the right time.

Because for many families, access to care is not just about surgery—it's about everything surrounding it. Follow-up care, language, travel, and long-term support all play a critical role in outcomes. Whenever possible, care is coordinated closer to home. When that isn't feasible, WCF helps connect patients to the nearest center equipped to meet their needs.

This work is strengthened through WCF's ongoing investment in fellowships, education, and global collaboration—helping build the expertise, systems, and multidisciplinary coordination needed to expand access and strengthen care capacity around the world.

Our new visual identity now reflects this next chapter—one rooted in connection, collaboration, and a shared commitment to advancing care. Because today, WCF is not only supporting patients—it is helping advance the knowledge, expertise, and global collaboration that continue to shape the future of treatment for children with complex craniofacial anomalies, while providing life-changing care at no cost to the families we serve.

And it is through your support that this work continues to grow—expanding access, strengthening global partnerships, and creating new possibilities for children and families around the world.

– KEN SALYER, JR.
BOARD CHAIR

From strengthening partnerships to visiting medical centers around the world, these moments remind me that transforming lives begins with connection. I'm continually inspired by the physicians, care teams, and volunteers who donate their expertise, and by the partners and donors whose generosity helps make specialized care possible for children at no cost to their families.

Introducing the new face of World Craniofacial Foundation.

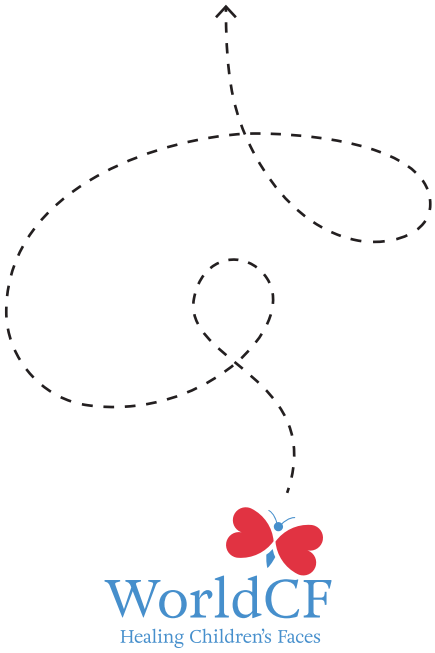
In response to our growing impact and evolving work in the world, we've reimagined our familiar logo—and added a powerful new tagline.

The stylized butterfly has always symbolized transformation. Now, its heart-shaped wings represent each patient's journey—and our commitment to support them as long as it takes.

The words "Face to Face With Hope" are a promise to bring every child closer to care, confidence, and human connection.

World Craniofacial
FOUNDATION

Face to Face With Hope



WorldCF
Healing Children's Faces

"Face to face with hope is the work of mercy and compassion. It reflects the love of God by helping make up what is lacking—allowing children to experience human connection and the fullness of life.

– MONSIGNOR MILAM J. JOSEPH, WCF BOARD MEMBER

To follow and support patient journeys, visit **worldcf.org** and follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube.

WORLD CRANIOFACIAL FOUNDATION

Face to Face

NEWSLETTER / SUMMER 2026

A Reflection on Possibility

When asked about the separation of Egyptian conjoined twins Ahmed and Mohammed, Dr. Kenneth E. Salyer once described the work as both a learning experience and a spiritual one.

"The task seemed almost impossible," he reflected. "But without it, their lives would have been very limited."

Photo credit: Mike Lorfing

Photo credit: Max Sturdivant

For Dr. Salyer, these moments represented more than surgical challenges—they were opportunities to push the boundaries of what was possible.

"Plastic surgery has always been a series of challenges that stimulate new, creative solutions," he wrote. "The goal is always the same—to provide a better quality of life. Without separation surgery and the reconstruction that followed, Mohammed and Ahmed would have never walked, never stood, never looked at each other face to face; their lives would have been very narrow and probably very short. But the collective work on two continents—without any consideration given to distinctions between cultures and religions—to give them good lives was a metaphor, I feel, for how people inherently want to build human brotherhood and move toward a higher consciousness."

For those involved, that outcome was not left to chance.

The case required extraordinary coordination, including 3-D surgical planning and modeling by Andy Christensen of Medical Modeling Inc. "Without his support, it would have been a far more complicated path," said Dallas WCF Medical Director Dr. Raul Barceló, who partnered closely with Dr. Salyer on the case.

"After more than a year of planning," Dr. Barceló, reflected, "to see everything come together exactly as intended—that was the most rewarding moment."

The complexity extended far beyond the separation itself. Ensuring there was enough tissue to safely reconstruct and protect the brain was critical.

"I remember Dr. Kenneth Shapiro, our lead neurosurgeon, looking at the expanded tissue and saying, 'Oh my God, this is magic,'" Dr. Barceló recalled.

"As we stitched it into place, he confirmed, 'We're watertight.' That was a key moment."

Everything the team had worked toward had come together. The outcome was only possible through deep expertise and extraordinary collaboration.

The successful separation of Ahmed and Mohammed was more than a surgical achievement—it was a reflection of what is possible when expertise, collaboration, and a shared purpose come together.

"When we bring joy to one life, to two," Dr. Salyer wrote, "we may bring joy to all of humankind."

A Bright New Chapter

Fatima is all smiles these days.

Now five years old, she's attending pre-elementary school—proudly dressed in her uniform and embracing moments that feel wonderfully ordinary. For those who have followed her journey, this is a meaningful update.

When Fatima first came to WCF, she was a young child in Guatemala facing Crouzon syndrome, a complex craniofacial condition requiring highly specialized care. Through WCF's global network and in partnership with World Pediatrics, her family was connected with the team at Hospital Infantil Universitario de San José (Children's Hospital) in Bogotá, Colombia.

Under the care of Bogotá WCF Medical Director Dr. Rolando Prada, Fatima underwent two surgeries in 2023 to help relieve pressure and support her development—receiving care at no cost to her family.

Her journey is still ongoing, with more steps ahead.

Today, that care is showing up in new ways. In the classroom. In time spent with friends. In the confidence behind her smile.

FOLLOW HER JOURNEY:
Scan the QR code to read more about Fatima's story and the global network of care helping make each step possible.

WCF Around the World

Ken Salyer, Jr. and Eliana Patricia Rincón Muñoz, Fisulab Director, signing formal WCF | Fisulab agreement in May 2026. Before surgery, all patients treated in Bogotá now receive dental evaluations to help reduce the risk of infection, along with imaging to support future orthodontic care.

WCF and Fisulab collaborators, shown left to right:
Ken Salyer, Jr.; Eliana Patricia Rincón Muñoz; Dr. Domenico Scopelliti; Dr. Carolina Tellez, orthodontist; Dr. Diego Steinberg; Dr. Andres Urrego, craniofacial plastic surgeon from Medellín, Colombia.

Building the Future of Craniofacial Care

Around the world, there are far too few surgeons trained to treat the most complex craniofacial conditions.

In many regions, opportunities for specialized training are extremely limited—leaving entire populations without access to the care they need.

"There are only a few hundred surgeons worldwide performing complex craniofacial surgery—and we need at least twice that number to care for all the children who need it."

– Dr. Diego Steinberg, WCF Director of Global Medical Surgery & Operations

WCF's fellowship program is helping change that. By investing in advanced training, WCF is helping expand the expertise and collaboration needed to strengthen craniofacial care capacity worldwide.

WCF Medical Directors Dr. Rolando Prada and Dr. Diego Steinberg with fellows Dr. Nicolás Restrepo Salamanca (shown left) and Dr. Luis Carlos Giovannetti Villegas (shown right).

This year, Dr. Luis Carlos Giovannetti Villegas and Dr. Nicolás Restrepo Salamanca are completing a one-year craniofacial fellowship through a partnership between WCF, Smile House, and Fundación Universitaria de Ciencias de la Salud (FUCS) in Bogotá, Colombia.

As part of WCF's partnership with Smile House, they will also train in Italy, training in Monza with Dr. Fabio Mazzoleni and in Rome with WCF Medical Director Dr. Domenico Scopelliti.

Each fellow helps expand access to care by bringing specialized knowledge back to their communities and strengthening the global network of care.

SEE THE IMPACT: THE MULTIPLIER EFFECT OF FELLOWSHIP

One trained surgeon can change thousands of lives—expanding access to care for children, families, and entire communities.

Fellows review 3D imaging and hand-drawn plans—an approach led by Dr. Rolando Prada that helps build a complete understanding of each case and carries forward a practice from his own training.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ MORE.

Following her child's successful surgery in Bogotá, mother of Arleth shares a moment of gratitude for WCF's support.

Behind every surgery is a team. In May 2026, this multidisciplinary group helped support four surgeries in Bogotá during a week of collaborative care.

A Legacy Behind the Lens

Did you know that even with today's advanced 3D imaging and digital modeling, medical photography remains a critical part of surgical planning and care?

That was especially true during the early days of modern craniofacial surgery. For many years, Max Sturdivant had a photography studio within Medical City Dallas, supporting a wide range of clinical needs, including craniofacial cases. His photographs helped Dr. Salyer and other surgeons study conditions, plan procedures, track outcomes over time, and educate others in the medical community—advancing surgical understanding.

As craniofacial care has evolved, so too has the technology that supports it. Today, 3D imaging through companies like 3D Systems who provide digital modeling and new ways to visualize and plan treatment, while medical photography complements this by capturing the soft tissue and

how a patient is seen. Together, they offer a more complete understanding of each case.

"Photos allow us to plan, but Max brought something more," said Dr. Barceló. "He waited for a smile. That was his signature, because a smile is what connects us all."

He brought a quiet compassion to every interaction, helping children feel at ease in moments that could otherwise feel overwhelming.

"Max had an extraordinary way of connecting with every patient," said Mike Lorfing. "The impact he had on children and families will be felt for years to come."

Through his lens, patients were not defined by their condition—they were seen and respected.

Max passed away on October 30, 2025, leaving behind a legacy that lives on in both the lives he touched and the field he helped shape.

A TRIBUTE GIFT — A LASTING IMPACT

For Cathy Sturdivant, honoring her husband Max through a donation to WCF wasn't a difficult decision—it was a natural one.

"It's the history. It's the work. It's the legacy," Cathy shared. "With Max doing patient photography, Mike Lorfing doing film, and Dr. Salyer's vision—along with countless others—they moved the science forward to make outcomes better."

"I think Max would want to know that he made a difference—that he played a part in making people's lives, even for just a few minutes, easier," Cathy said.

That's what makes Cathy's tribute both deeply personal and universally meaningful.

"These donations go directly to help a child who does not have access to these life-changing surgeries," Cathy explained. "To help a child have a life rather than one marked by suffering and ridicule—how could you not help?"

CREATING CHANGE TOGETHER.

Learn how your continued support helps expand care, connection, and opportunity worldwide. **SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE.**

LOOKING AHEAD

Please consider including WCF in your estate planning. Your legacy can help expand access to care for children and families for generations to come.

GIVING WITH GREATER IMPACT

Gifts of appreciated stock may provide tax advantages while helping expand access to life-changing care.

Visit our website to learn more about stock gifts and planned giving.

SHARE YOUR WCF CONNECTION

Every connection to WCF has a story. Whether you are a patient family, surgeon, medical partner, donor, or supporter, your experiences help reflect the impact of this work around the world.

We'd love to hear your story. Please email us at facetoface@worldcf.org

World Craniofacial FOUNDATION

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