



DOCTORS WITH A HEART

Inside:
Doctors spread pro-bono globally
>> **A8**

"It's a very emotionally powerful thing to transform a kid's life in one operation."

—Dr. Paul Gardner

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY
Above, Bonita Springs plastic surgeon Dr. Paul Gardner mugs with a patient, a young girl grins — Gardner repaired both their cleft lips last year on a mission to Paraguay.

Local physicians venture to desolate areas to cure the needy

BY EVAN WILLIAMS
ewilliams@florida-weekly.com

A group of French doctors and journalists founded Medicines sans Frontiers (Doctors without Borders) in 1971, responding to medical needs in Nigeria after a famine. They were the first nongovernmental organization to provide emergency medical assistance. They didn't have to, but went anyway — leaving private practices, city limits and national borders behind — to offer medical expertise and technology to those with little or none.

Florida-Weekly talked to four local doctors (there are many more in Lee County) who have worked in a similar spirit. They left Fort Myers, Bonita Springs and Cape Coral to operate where

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Lee County leading important cancer research

Hospital selected to conduct tests of new technology

BY MICHELLE L. START
Florida Weekly Correspondent

Southwest Florida patients diagnosed with cancer will be some of the first people in the world to have access to technology that may obliterate the diseased cells within seconds — but they will have to wait a little longer until the Food Drug Administration approves human testing.

Last week Dr. Steven Curley, a clinical researcher at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, and Sanibel John Kanzius, inventor of the new cancer fighting system, announced that Lee Memorial Health System will be one of six sites where human



COURTESY PHOTO

Sanibel resident John Kanzius, left, and Dr. Steven Curley. Curley is currently testing Kanzius' new cancer fighting technology — using high frequency radio waves and nanoparticles — at his Houston clinic.

trials of the new technology will be performed.

However, researchers said it'll still be some time before human trials.

"There are a whole bunch of steps and a

bunch of hoops to get through first," Curley said

While Curley has been using Kanzius' high frequency radio waves and nanoparticles to non-invasively destroy cancerous cells in mice and rabbits for about 18 months now — and noticing no side effects — he said there are numerous expensive toxicity tests that must be completed before moving on to human testing. The toxicity tests can run upwards of \$1.5 million each. Additionally, there are feasibility tests, dosing questions and the necessity of proving the machine which has killed cancer cells within 120 seconds in smaller animals can work just as effectively in larger ones.

In order to get to the point where clinical trials can be conducted on humans, more

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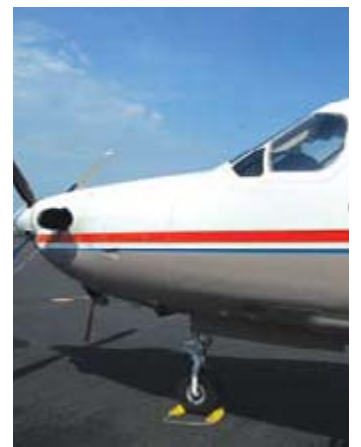
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