

As I am certain you are aware, the pandemic continues to impact the residents of Baja, Mexico to a much greater degree than those of us in Southern California. We anticipate the usual seasonal increase in respiratory infections in the coming months. The current guidelines in Baja, Mexico, recommend that “elective” surgeries in public hospitals be delayed if possible.

Sunday the 4th of October, we had a focused Board discussion regarding the balance of risks to the patients, families and volunteers, vs. the benefit to those patients who would be candidates for surgical repair or revision. Of the 10 patients that were approved for surgery, none were considered to be “urgent”, or unable to be delayed for three or more months.

We decided to cancel the November 2020 clinic.

Please do not make plans to travel to Ensenada to attend the usual November clinic.

On a positive note, we discussed the current status of our construction project at the Ensenada clinic. We anticipate that our new operating rooms will be fully functional and approved by the health department by the February clinic in 2021. This project has only been possible because of our dedicated volunteers, generous donors, Rotary funding, and diligent oversight for the past 4 ½ years. **We would like to sincerely thank everyone who has contributed.**

The Board of Directors, Thousand Smiles Foundation,
Michael Nussbaum, President