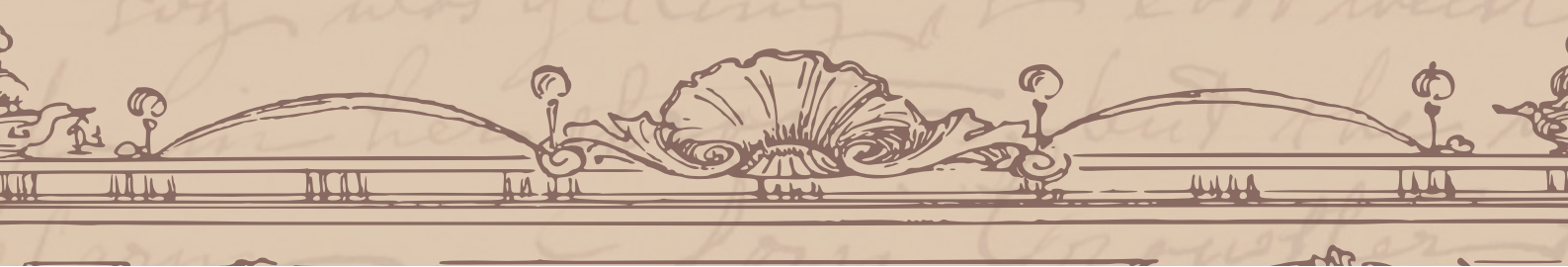




Dear SICOT Family

On the morning of February 6th, 2023, at 04:17, we woke up with a terrible noise and threw ourselves out of the house. People on the street were filled with fear, uneasiness, and worry. There had been an earthquake. After confirming that my family was safe, I quickly got ready and went to the hospital. The emergency room was very crowded, and it had been about two hours since the earthquake. The patients coming in were those who fell, jumped, or had traffic accidents while trying to escape the earthquake, and patients were now starting to come out of the debris. On the first day, my orthopaedic colleague and I were on duty. While I was in the emergency room, he was in the operating room, and while he was operating, I was constantly working in the emergency room. Aftershocks continued. The emergency room was getting more and more crowded. Ambulances were constantly bringing patients, and people were bringing their loved ones that they had rescued on their own. There were many patients with fatal outcomes, open fractures, comminuted fractures, traumatic amputations of limbs, burned patients who were exposed to explosions under the debris, and patients with compartment syndrome in their upper and lower extremities. We tried to evaluate the patients quickly, provide them with admission to the ward, and prepare them for surgery. A patient who was rescued from under the debris was brought to the emergency room by an ambulance. I had detected a comminuted fracture in the patient's right femur on the X-ray films taken, so I had admitted the patient to the ward before surgery to ensure hemodynamic stability. While I was performing an open reduction for the fracture under spinal anaesthesia, and trying to reduce it, the tremors that had started at 13:24 began to increase gradually. Everyone in the operating room had suddenly seen themselves running to the safe area. There was no one left in the room except for me and the patient. The tremors were getting stronger and stronger, and the patient's screams, the shaking of the operating table, and the almost tipping of the scope machine under me had scared me. I couldn't leave the patient like that and leave the room. With one hand, I tried to hold onto the table where the patient was lying, and with the other, I tried to hold onto the scope machine so that it would not fall on me and the patient. The sound of oxygen cylinders falling inside the room had increased my fear even more. Eventually, the tremors of the earthquake had stopped. The team had come back into the room to complete the remaining operation.



After that, every time I went to see the patient, he was constantly thanking and praying for me. February 6th had been a very long day. I and my colleagues had hardly slept for 24 hours, taking care of patients, and performing surgeries. Later, I learned that the neurosurgery department on the lower floor was also operating when the earthquake had struck. Putting our own lives aside and trying to save the lives of the patients was a very heavy feeling, and it's very difficult to express it.



THE EXPERIENCE THAT SHE UNDERWENT ON THE 6TH OF FEBRUARY IS ONE THAT WE HOPE NO ONE EVER HAS TO ENDURE. SICOT WIO IS DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO THIS ANONYMOUS FEMALE ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON FOR SHARING HER INVALUABLE EXPERIENCE WITH THE WORLD. DESPITE FACING IMMENSE CHALLENGES AND DEFYING THE PREJUDICES THAT HAVE HINDERED MANY WOMEN IN THE FIELD, SHE REMAINED REMARKABLY HUMBLE, DEFLECTING PRAISE AND RECOGNITION. HER ACTIONS ARE NOTHING SHORT OF HEROIC, AND HER STORY SERVES AS A POWERFUL INSPIRATION FOR US ALL. EVEN IN THE DARKEST OF TIMES, HER RESILIENCE AND UNWAVERING DEDICATION TO HER WORK AND PATIENTS REMIND US THAT HOPE CAN PREVAIL. AS FELLOW FEMALE ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS, WE ARE PROUD OF HER AND HOPE THAT HER STORY ENCOURAGES OTHERS TO NEVER GIVE UP AND TO ALWAYS STAND UP FOR WHAT IS RIGHT.



SICOT Women in Orthopaedics

