Prior to joining the Vanderbilt residency program, Dr. Jon Niconchuk worked, for several years during medical school, with Partners In Health. He spent time in Guatemala, where he worked to train rural community health workers, and in Haiti, where he was involved in the preparations to open the University Hospital of Mirebalais, a 300-bed teaching hospital in Haiti's dramatically under-served Central Plateau.

Under the direction of the community of globally-minded providers here at Vanderbilt, residents are able to get involved without leaving Nashville. For example, Vanderbilt Anesthesiology residents have the opportunity to participate in developing a curriculum for anesthesia providers in Kenya and beyond, allowing them to reinforce their own training while being actively involved in the training of others. This level of engagement throughout residency is unique to Vanderbilt, and a true asset of our program. In addition to this academic involvement, Dr. Niconchuk is excited to have the opportunity to travel to Kijabe this month, with the support of the Vanderbilt International Anesthesia program.

I believe that health care is a human right, and lack of access to basic, quality surgical (and therefore anesthetic) care remains a reason for far too much unnecessary suffering.