



Restoring Hands, Rebuilding Lives: Claudia Selvetti Joins GICAM's Humanitarian Mission in India

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After more than twenty years dedicated to hand rehabilitation, Italian hand therapist Claudia Selvetti is preparing to join GICAM's upcoming humanitarian mission in Jamkhed, India. Working alongside the Foundation's multidisciplinary team, she will support the rehabilitation of children and adults recovering from complex hand surgery. Her participation reflects GICAM's commitment to providing not only specialised surgical care, but also the rehabilitation that enables patients to regain hand function, independence and quality of life.

A Career Dedicated to Hand Rehabilitation

Throughout her career, Claudia Selvetti has combined clinical practice, teaching and international experience, specialising in the rehabilitation of hand injuries and complex upper limb conditions.

This July, she will bring her expertise to the Julia Hospital in Jamkhed, where GICAM has partnered with the Comprehensive Rural Health Project (CRHP) for more than a decade. As the mission's hand therapist, she will work closely with surgeons, anaesthesiologists and nurses, supporting patients throughout the critical post-operative phase and helping them begin their journey towards recovery. Her role extends beyond patient care. By working alongside local healthcare professionals, she will also contribute to the exchange of knowledge and the strengthening of rehabilitation practices, supporting GICAM's long-term commitment to sustainable healthcare partnerships.

Rehabilitation: A Vital Part of Recovery

Successful surgery is only the first step. Rehabilitation is essential to restoring movement, strength, dexterity and confidence, enabling patients to regain the use of their hands and return to everyday life.

For many of the children and adults treated during GICAM's missions, recovering hand function means far more than healing after surgery. It means returning to school, resuming work, caring for their families and regaining independence.

By integrating specialized rehabilitation into every mission, GICAM helps ensure that the benefits of surgery continue long after patients leave the operating theatre, giving patients the opportunity to rebuild their lives with confidence and dignity.

Working Together in Jamkhed

During the upcoming mission, children and adults affected by burns, congenital malformations and traumatic hand injuries will undergo specialised reconstructive procedures performed by GICAM's volunteer surgical team.

From the first days after surgery, Claudia will guide patients through personalised rehabilitation programmes designed to maximise functional recovery. Working side by side with the medical team, she will help patients rebuild strength, mobility and confidence while also sharing knowledge and best practices with local healthcare professionals.

This collaborative approach reflects GICAM's philosophy: combining surgical excellence, rehabilitation, education and professional training to strengthen local healthcare services and create a lasting impact beyond each mission.

More Than Restoring Hands

For Claudia, volunteering is an opportunity to place years of professional experience at the service of communities where access to specialised rehabilitation remains limited.

"Restoring hand function means far more than healing a wound. It allows people to work, care for their families and regain their independence."

This philosophy lies at the heart of every GICAM mission. Behind every successful operation is a rehabilitation journey that transforms surgery into lasting recovery and renewed hope.

Looking Ahead

As GICAM prepares for another mission in India, dedicated professionals like Claudia Selvetti demonstrate how expertise, compassion and teamwork can change lives. By combining reconstructive surgery with specialised rehabilitation, every mission offers patients not only improved hand function, but also renewed dignity, confidence and hope for the future.

Through the commitment of its volunteers and the support of its partners and donors, GICAM continues to restore more than hands—it helps people rebuild their independence and look to the future with confidence.

About GICAM

GICAM – Groupe International Chirurgiens Amis de la Main is a Swiss humanitarian foundation dedicated to providing reconstructive hand surgery, rehabilitation and medical training in underserved communities around the world. Through long-term partnerships with local hospitals, GICAM helps restore function, independence and hope while strengthening local healthcare systems.

Source

This article is based on an interview originally published in Italian by *Noi Brugherio* and written by journalist **Anna Lisa Fumagalli**.