For Immediate Release
August 30, 2012

Oklahoma Hero of Dentistry
Dr. Perry Brooks Oklahoma Oral Surgeon, Global Servant

Photos Attached

Oklahoma City – According to the World Oral Health Organization, oral disease is a significant burden to all countries of the world. American dentists see this as a reason to volunteer their services abroad and often become missionaries, providing free dentistry to underprivileged countries. Dr. Perry Brooks, DDS, is an Oklahoma hero of dentistry. His main priority is taking care of Oklahoma patients, but Brooks joins the ranks of these benevolent dentists by fulfill his calling to serve as a missionary overseas.

Perry Brooks, an OU College of Dentistry Alumni, is dedicated to improving the availability and quality of dental care in Morocco. Brooks, who currently owns and operates Brooks Surgical Arts in Norman, as well as Lawton Surgical Arts, has been involved with foreign and local missions for the past 16 years.

For the last eight years Brooks has focused his pro-bono efforts to an organization called 1040i. This group partners with volunteers and businesses to provide healthcare, education, safe drinking water and micro-business assistance to people living in the 10-40 corridor spanning West Africa to Central Asia. (10° & 40° north of the equator). Each year groups of volunteers provide aid missions on missions in Africa. This year Brooks went on two trips with 1040i, a two week trip in February and a one week trip in August.

“It is hard to leave my practice and family for three weeks, but I believe that God has richly blessed us in the dental community and it is our obligation to give back to those in need around us,” said Brooks. “In the bible, Luke 12:48 says, “…To whom much is given, much is required…” I believe that this applies to my time, talents and finances. By giving of the areas of which we have been abundantly blessed, we can share that blessing with others who are in need. We are able to bring hope to the hopeless.”

Last February, Brooks was a part of a 70-member team that served in the rebel controlled bush country in north Cote d’Ivoire. His team performed numerous types of surgeries, renovated dilapidated schools, built all-weather soccer fields, distributed school supplies, performed eye exams and distributed eye glasses. As the oral and maxillofacial surgeon on the trip, Brooks performed numerous cleft lip repairs and removed many maxillofacial tumors and lesions on children and adults. His operatory unit functioned from dawn until dusk, and still had to turn away patients.

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“I chose to work with 1040i because they help people who have absolutely no means to help themselves,” said Brooks. “In civil war torn Cote d’Ivoire, the groups we help are societal castoffs that have no resources following wars, ethnic persecution, famine and poverty. Our efforts give them the first ray of hope that they can overcome their dreadful situation.”

Brook’s most memorable experience happened two years ago while vaccinating villagers to protect them from air borne meningitis. Without these vaccines, many villagers would have died. During the mission it became apparent to all involved that there would not be enough immunization supplies to be able to treat all the villagers present.

“As we were administering the vaccines, we noticed we were treating more villagers than we thought possible with the limited supplies,” said Brooks. “We continued in our work, and used the last drop of vaccine on the last villager present. It was undeniably a miracle, and something I will remember forever.”

Some of Brooks honors include being a Diplomat of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, a member of the American Academy Cosmetic Surgeons, and a Fellow of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

This is one in a series of press releases that feature charitable works of Oklahoma dentists. To set up an interview with Dr. Perry Brooks or for more information please contact Steffin Schoeppel, ODA Communications Manager.

**Photo 0209_04 Caption:** Dr. Perry Brooks, DDS has proven himself as an Oklahoma hero of dentistry. From traveling overseas, to provide dental care, to holding a plethora of leadership roles, Brooks continues to set an example in his field.

**Photo 100_2160 Caption:** Dr. Perry Brooks (left) performs surgery to fix a cleft lip while doing mission work in Morocco, Africa.

**About ODA:** Founded in 1907, the Oklahoma Dental Association has a proud membership of more than 1,500 dentist members and is headquartered in Oklahoma City. The Association was established to help foster an awareness of the obligations and responsibilities of the dental profession to society, to help advance the art and science of dentistry and to promote public health and health services in the State of Oklahoma.

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