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(foreword)

The President's Men



SOMETIMES, IN THIS BUSINESS, great stories just sort of fall into your lap. And we landed a whopper while tallying the winners for this year's "Top Doctors" cover story: superstar surgeons Vance and Vince Moss, 37-year-old twin brothers based out of Crozer-Chester Medical Center. Vance is our winner in the Urological Surgery category, while Vince was voted among the best in Cardiothoracic Surgery.

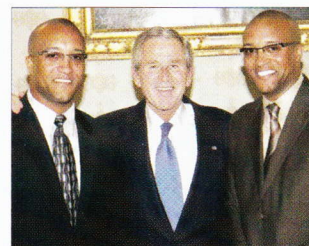
Initially, we'd planned a short profile for Vance and a directory listing for Vince. Then we got wind of what these two had accomplished outside the OR. Conveniently enough, their stunning resume of extracurricular selflessness and generosity was promptly delivered to our e-mail inboxes via

the twins' New York City PR firm.

Former Eagle Scouts and majors in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, the Moss brothers ventured deep into Afghanistan to help men, women and children in need of treatment—largely fending for themselves in hostile Al-Qaeda territory. They'd asked for military help, but were denied when the mission was deemed too risky.

Handling a range of procedures, from appendectomies to colon resections, they cared for as many as 400 patients in their 2005 trip alone. The two returned a year later for more of the same, funding both missions themselves. Read more about their work in senior editor Tara Behan's story on page 90, which features exclusive photos from Afghanistan.

Aside from the many honors they've received—including the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal and *ABC World News Tonight's* Person(s) of the Week—the Moss brothers now have an "in" at the White House, where they've been guests of President Bush. White House staffers have requested a copy of this issue, so the Bushes can read about their favorite top surgeons. Naturally, we'll be happy to oblige.



The Moss brothers with
President Bush

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE: All the financial upheaval of late has cast a bit of a pall over the holiday season. But the area's deserving charities are hoping you won't forget about them this year. Give a little, give a lot, give whatever you can. Most importantly, give consistently. As associate editor Dawn E. Warden explains in this month's "Main Line Philanthropy" package, continued giving is what most nonprofits want, not just a one-off donation. And to keep you motivated in these trying times, we've profiled a few generous souls whose stories should inspire you to dig a little deeper. You'll also find a list of some of our favorite local charities (hint, hint).

Enjoy the season.

Hobart Rowland

Hobart Rowland
Editor

Twin Healers

When two brothers took their medical talents to war-torn Afghanistan, even the president noticed.



(From top) Operating on the 12-year-old child of a drug lord outside Kabul; resting atop a mountain near the Pakistan border, deep in Al-Qaeda territory; getting to know a young patient; one of the many poppy fields uncovered by the CIA.

One of the latest developments in the extraordinary lives of Vince and Vance Moss is the stuff of movies. Identical twin brothers, the 37-year-old top surgeons based out of Crozer-Chester Medical Center took their passion for healing across the world to war-torn Afghanistan. In 2005 and 2006, they organized their own security force of Afghan National Army members and advisors, venturing deep into Al-Qaeda territory to help villagers in desperate need of treatment. They self-financed everything.

None of which should come as a surprise to anyone who knows the Moss twins. Washington, D.C.-bred graduates of Penn State and the Temple University School of Medicine, Vance, a urologist, and Vince, a thoracic surgeon, have always been overachievers. They were Eagle Scouts at 14, and both are majors in the U.S. Army Medical Corps.

By the spring of 2005, the brothers were set to begin their medical careers. Then came the call to serve in Operation Enduring Freedom. Their four-month mission: to care for soldiers stateside, Vance in Texas and Vince in South Carolina. And though they were in different parts of the country, they heard similar stories from the soldiers they treated—harrowing reports of civilians in Afghanistan and Iraq lacking the most basic medical care.

What the Moss brothers heard haunted them, and they were determined to do something about it. So they proposed a formal military mission to provide medical care in those countries. But the risks were deemed too great, and their request was denied. "Basically, this was a mission like no

other," Vance says. "Just about everybody had packed up and left the people without any healthcare because the situation was so dangerous."

So the twins took things into their own hands, coordinating with the State Department, the Department of Defense and private entities to make the mission a reality. "We seem to thrive on things that people say can't be done," says Vance. "The challenge is what gets us going."

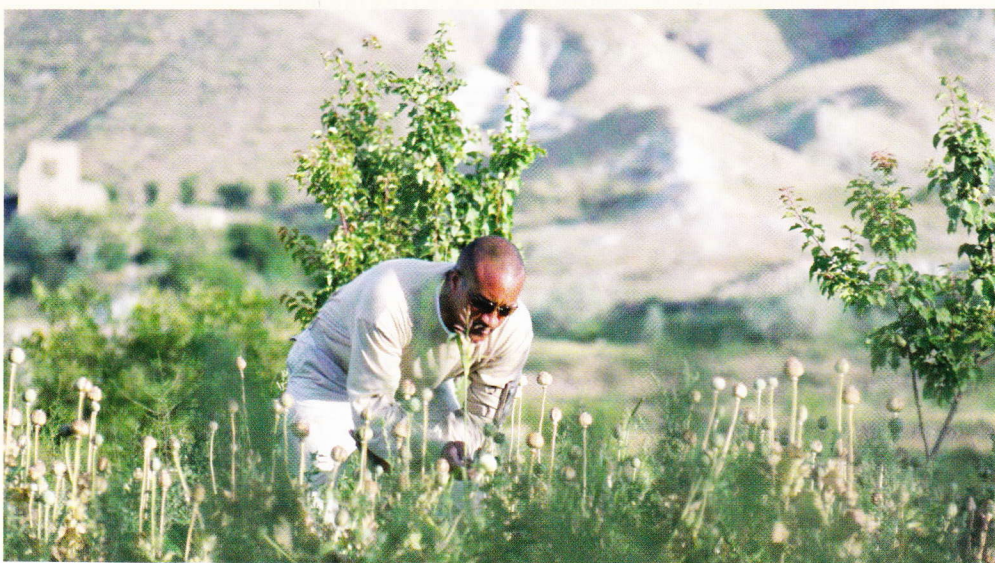
When the doctors first arrived in Afghanistan, they had to earn the trust of the civilians. "For the first few weeks we were there, we ate with them, we lived with them, we intermingled with the community, we spoke to them through the help of interpreters," Vance recalls. "It was crucial for them to understand that we weren't there as occupiers; we were there to help them."

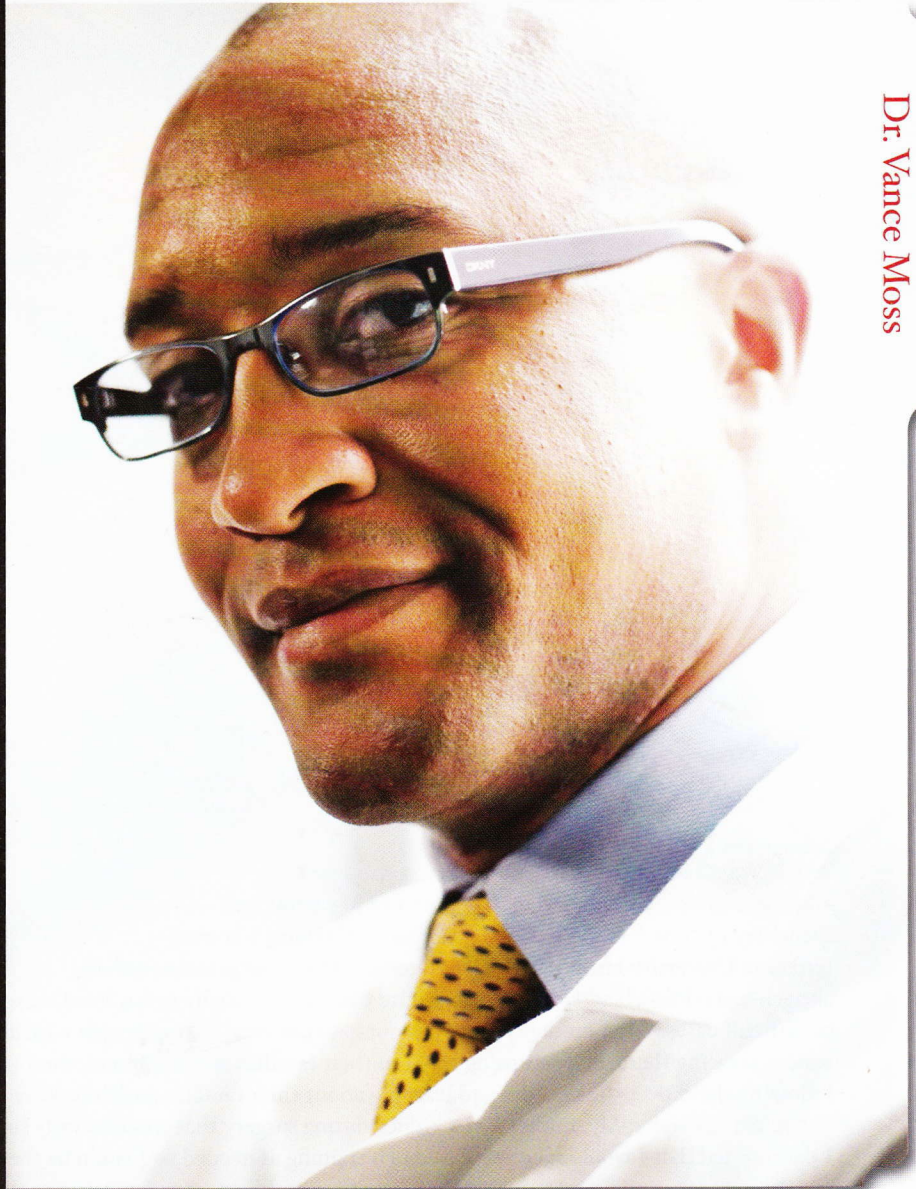
Once they'd established that trust, word got out about the Moss brothers, with patients waiting in line for hours to be seen. Afghan children would cry out, "*Doganagy, doganagy!*"—meaning "same-faced healer."

"That name resonated throughout the whole region up to the Pakistani border," says Vince.

For four months in 2005, the Moss twins traveled throughout central Afghanistan, spending 15-hour days caring for up to 400 patients. They provided a range of treatments, from appendectomies to colon resections. Ironically, it was the first time the brothers had operated together. "We definitely had a unique bond," says Vince.

They cared for people in huts, caves and mud shacks, most of the time without





electricity or running water. Many of the operations were amputations on children. "The number of kids without limbs is unbelievable," says Vance. "They've got over 10 million mines still there. Many children lost arms and legs after stepping on active landmines."

The brothers couldn't stay in any one village for more than two days for fear of being attacked by rebel forces. "Every day, it would be in our minds that our lives were in jeopardy," says Vince. "But we stayed focused on what we were there to do. There was an overwhelming need for our services. When you think about all those we couldn't help, it's very emotional."

The brothers returned to Afghanistan a year later. This time, they were committed to treating women and children. "In the Afghan culture, they don't allow women to be treated by a doctor unless he's a direct relative of that woman," says Vince. "Women are not being treated there."

The Afghan men allowed the Moss brothers to care for the women, though they're still not sure why. "Our translators were amazed," says Vince. "They said they couldn't believe it was permitted. The civilians understood that we were there to help them and to care for them—and they accepted our care."

The brothers have received numerous honors for their selfless acts, including AmeriHealth's Physician of the Year, the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (one of the U.S. Army's highest humanitarian awards), Penn State's Eberly College of Science Distinguished Alumni Award, the Trumpet Award (honoring African-American achievement), *ABC World News Tonight's* Person(s) of the Week, the Global War on Terror Achievement Medal and others. They've even been invited to the White House as guests of President Bush. And while the Moss brothers are humbled by all the accolades, they maintain that they were merely doing their duty.

"We're determined to make a difference in healthcare," says Vince. "We want to be the doctors patients know will take the time to talk to them, treat them and help them understand their disease. We're not only physicians, but also civil servants and teachers." — *Tara Behan*

HAN Urologic Associates

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Years in practice: 3. **Education:** Temple University Medical School.

Residency: New York Medical College. **Areas of interest:** Urologic cancer, renal transplantation, BPH, stone disease, sexual performance and dysfunction.

What he enjoys most about his specialty: The combination of engaging in medical and surgical aspects of urology and transplantation. **Most exciting advancements:** I believe the concept of performing surgery on the prostate for cancer will be phased out in the next 10 years due to the precise radiologic modalities being engineered for now and in the future.

Achievements he's most proud of: My philanthropic work in Afghanistan and Iraq, and volunteering for operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. **What makes a top surgeon:** The ability to educate and help others above and beyond their immediate community. Top surgeons overcome the odds with dignity and honor. They're aware of the microscope they're under, and have the composure to meet the standards the community and patients deserve and require.