



From our chairman

It's been another busy quarter for SWB. A highlight was most definitely the inaugural Global Surgical Issues Forum, hosted by SWB as part of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) Annual Scientific Congress week in Adelaide in May.

The forum saw, for the first time in this setting, an attempt to create a debate about medical aid and education in developing countries. The response from surgeons, medical students and the general public exceeded expectations, with over 75 attendees.

This quarter has also seen the confirmation of dates for the 2011 SWB seminar in Rwanda - 7th to 9th September - as well as the commencement of discussions with the College of Surgeons in East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) to explore running SWB seminars in Malawi.

Read on for other highlights, and visit our website or Facebook page to keep up to date with future developments.

Dr Paul Anderson
Chairman, SWB, May 2011

What we do

SWB is an Australia-based non-profit organisation working to enhance the sustainability of medical service provision in developing countries.

Through the co-ordination of an international group of volunteer medical specialists, SWB delivers specialist-led training programs for medical personnel in partner countries. For more about our projects and our volunteer teams of specialists, please visit our website.

SWB Textbook Project

As part of our commitment to resource provision in developing countries, SWB is seeking funds to purchase much-needed surgical textbooks for medical school libraries in partner countries.

Please contact Megan via our main email address if you can help. Donations via our website would be much appreciated!



SWB joins HIFA2015

In December 2010, SWB became a member organisation of HIFA2015 (Healthcare Information For All by 2015) - a global campaign and knowledge network working to improve the quality of health care for low-income populations in developing countries.

HIFA2015 brings together more than 3000 health workers, librarians, publishers, researchers and policymakers from 157 countries worldwide, all committed to a common goal: By 2015, every person worldwide will have access to an informed health care provider.

For more information, please visit: www.hifa2015.org.



SWB Kigali Seminar - 7th to 9th September 2011

The dates for SWB's 2011 seminar in Rwanda have been confirmed for the 7th to 9th September 2011.

A team of SWB volunteer instructors will travel to Rwanda and deliver the seminar as a mix of lectures and Structured Clinical Instruction Modules (SCIMs).

This year's program will include general surgery, neurosurgery, ENT, orthopaedics, urology,

trauma, cardiothoracic (adult and paediatric) surgery, as well as a full intensive care component with a module on physiotherapy in high dependency and intensive care.

The SWB Executive Committee is currently drafting the program so relevant specialists and physiotherapists are invited to make contact via email to express interest in joining the team.

SWB Paper at Association for Medical Education in Europe Annual Conference 2011

Donald Bramwell will be presenting a paper at the Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE) Annual Conference in Vienna, Austria, scheduled for 27th to 31st August 2011.

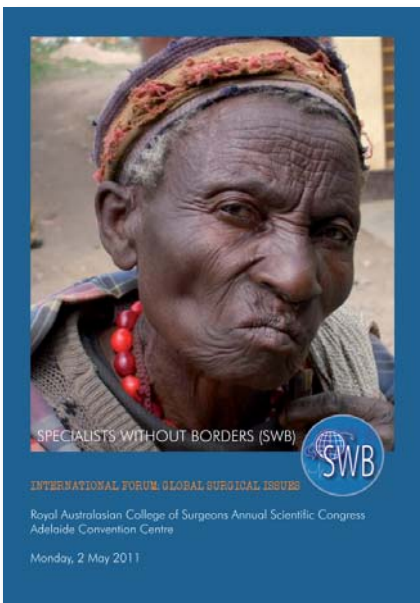
The conference paper is titled "the planning and impact of specialist continuing education in Rwanda - Specialists Without Borders" and the authors are Donald Bramwell and Jeganath Krishnan.

The paper is the result of evaluation of SWB's 2009 and 2010 seminars in Kigali, Rwanda. It discusses the structure and impact of SWB training seminars, illustrating how the seminars have enabled local specialists to extend their competence through a mix of lectures and Structured Clinical Instruction Module (SCIM) sessions.



Mr Alexander Downer opening the Global Surgical Issues Forum

International Forum: Global Surgical Issues



On Monday, 2nd May 2011 SWB hosted an International Forum on Global Surgical Issues as part of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) Annual Scientific Congress in Adelaide.

The program was structured to debate the efficacy of global medical aid and education programs, and over 75 people attended the event.

Alexander Downer, the former Australian Foreign Minister, opened the meeting. His insightful overview of the politicisation of governmental aid set the tone for the meeting, and was followed by a diverse and thought-provoking program of speakers from both surgical and corporate backgrounds.

Feedback from the event has confirmed the inclusion of such a forum in the ASC week to be a welcome development.

Discussion has already been initiated about structuring a program in conjunction with other interested groups within RACS at the 2012 ASC meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

For more information and to download the 2011 Global Surgical Issues program, please visit our website.

Our most grateful thanks go to our event sponsors: Allergan, Covidien and Johnson & Johnson; as well as to RACS ASC staff and to all of our presenters.



Mr Kiki Maoate



Professor John Windsor





Calling Australasian Medical Students

Applications are now open for medical students from Australasian universities to travel with our team of volunteer consultants to Kigali, Rwanda in September 2011. For more information about this fantastic opportunity, please visit the SWB website or drop in on the discussions on our Facebook page. The deadline for applications is Wednesday, 15th June 2011.

You can help.



1. Join our Database of Volunteers

Please contact us if you are a medical specialist, nurse or allied health representative interested in volunteering your time to join us on a trip to a developing country to share your skills. We are always looking to expand our database of volunteer instructors.

2. Make a Donation

Whilst all the specialists involved in the training seminars fund their own flights and accommodation for workshops, general donations are invaluable to our work. Your donation can fund a developing country doctor to attend a seminar, or be used towards the provision of much-needed resources in developing country hospitals and clinics.

3. Become an Ordinary Member

Help grow SWB by joining our membership, which is entirely free of charge. As a member you can provide input and feedback into the policies and direction of the organisation, attend SWB's Annual General Meetings and all members receive regular updates on our work.



Visit our website or join our Facebook group for more.



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