



SWB

Specialists Without Borders
meeting needs through medical education

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12

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2017 Edition

In Brief.



Chairman's Report:

2017 has already seen some exciting developments for SWB. I have taken on the position of Chairperson of SWB, which is a great honour. We have also welcomed Brad Hockey, Alex Newton, Lu Barassi and Heidi McAlpine (co-opted member for junior doctors) to the SWB board and look forward to their contributions in the coming months as we develop the organisation's strategic plan. We have also been fortunate to have Sarah Delbosc join as a co-opted member and contribute to the development of SWB through her skills in Learning and Development. This injection of new skills and enthusiasm is of great value to the organisation as we plan for the SWB's future.

We are currently planning the 2017 trip to Malawi and Zimbabwe for late August and early September. We are seeking volunteers trained in orthopaedics, plastics, radiology, intensive care, ENT, paediatrics, general surgery, anaesthetics, peri-operative medicine, vascular surgery and psychiatry. If you are interested in joining the team and having an incredibly rewarding experience, please get in touch.

As always, our sincere thanks goes to all our donors, both big and small. Without the support of both organisations and individuals, we would be unable to continue our work. We again received support from the Surgical Students Society of Melbourne through their

hugely popular charity calendar, featuring RMH consultants recreating famous works of art. The team behind this fundraising effort are equal parts creative and generous, we can't thank them enough.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge Dr Paul Anderson for the incredible organisation that he has created and extend my thanks for being trusted with ensuring that SWB continues to carry out its mission. Paul, of course, continues as a board member.

Kate Drummond
Chairperson
Specialists Without Borders

WHAT WE DO

[www.
specialistswithoutborders.org](http://www.specialistswithoutborders.org)

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

SWB co-ordinates an international group of volunteer medical specialists, delivering 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.

Thank you to the Flinders University Surgical Society

FUSS held their first Charity Night last November with proceeds being donated to SWB. Dr Paul Anderson spoke at the event, sharing his experience of founding

SWB and the realities of working in global health. Those in attendance showed great enthusiasm for global health based on sustainable development principles, providing great promise that collaboration between health care professionals from different settings will continue into the future.



Medical Student Profile Sabrina Leong

Sabrina joined the SWB team in 2016 when she was a 3rd year medical student at Monash University.

What prompted your interest in SWB?

I have a great interest in global health. I was particularly attracted to the emphasis on medical education given that education is a sustainable initiative which can improve global health. I wanted to get a taste of the healthcare systems and medical education in Malawi and Zimbabwe, and gain some insight as to how such initiatives are run.

What did you learn during your trip?

During the trip, I had the opportunity to interact with health care professionals and students

from Malawi and Zimbabwe and learn about the similarities and differences in our healthcare systems and medical education. I learnt about the different ways they adapted their healthcare practices to accommodate their lack of resources.

How did your experience compare to other global health programs?

As I had never been involved in a global health program which focusses on medical education before, it was an insightful first experience and I was exposed to how such initiatives are run. It was heartening to know that

the knowledge passed on to the participants would not just end there, but then be used to benefit the many other people whom they will serve.

Any recommendations for students who want to get involved?

I would recommend taking the opportunity as soon as it arises. I remember being quite apprehensive initially because I didn't know anyone who was going and had to take time off uni, but it turned out to be a really rewarding experience with a really welcoming and friendly team.



Know Your Teaching Team



Annemarie Hennessey

What is your professional position?

I am a Nephrologist and Obstetrics Physician and Dean and Professor of Medicine at Western Sydney University.

Why did you join the SWB team?

I was inspired to join the team after hearing good things from SWB team member and colleague Prof Peter Zelas who has been a member of the SWB teaching team a number of times.

What was the highlight of your trip?

The highlight was the number and range of skills of the participants, their knowledge and willingness to learn and teach us.

What do you recommend for those wanting to join the SWB team?

I recommend being prepared to provide a range of materials, being flexible and being responsive to local knowledge, patterns of disease and local need.

Daniel Keating

What is your current professional position?

I'm an Unaccredited Plastic/Reconstructive Surgery Registrar at Southwest Health Care in Warrnambool, Victoria.

What motivated you to join the SWB team?

I had previous experiences in South Africa doing placement in Soweto and found that to be such an incredible experience working in an environment that was so different than what we have in Australia. I have also always had a keen interest in global health and medical education and was looking for a chance to explore those fields. The opportunity arose in 2016 to join the SWB team and I thought it would be a great opportunity to achieve these goals.



What was the highlight of the 2016 trip?

The highlight of the trip was the suturing workshop. The students seemed to really enjoy it and the positive feedback was very encouraging. I would also have to mention the chance to meet and travel with the SWB team as a whole. Some of the team's dancing at a nightclub in Blantyre was worth the 24 hour flight by itself.

What would you recommend for junior doctors wanting to join the team?

I couldn't recommend the program highly enough for any junior doctors. For anyone who hasn't experienced the medical field in a low resource setting it is a great opportunity to not only teach but learn from junior staff and students in Malawi and Zimbabwe. The lectures from the SWB senior teachers are also great for junior doctors.

SWB Stethoscope Drive

In the lead up to each year's trip we make a wish list of needed or requested items to donate at the hospitals where we conduct medical education programs. We carefully evaluate how we can transport these and which items will be of most use. Every year we wish that we were able to donate more stethoscopes, especially for medical and clinical

officer students who often don't have access to their own quality stethoscope.

For the 2017 trip we have a new plan. One that involves our wonderful supporters, people like you!

We are asking for the donation of stethoscopes, preferably new,

but used stethoscopes in good condition would also be appreciated. For those who wish to, we suggest that you write a note containing words of encouragement for the recipient. You would be more than welcome to include your email address if you would be interested in hearing directly from the individual who receives your generous donation.

You Can Help.



1. Volunteer as a SWB team member

Please contact us if you are a medical specialist, nurse or allied health professional interested in volunteering your expertise and time with our teaching team in developing countries.

2. Make a Donation

While all the specialists involved in SWB medical education programs fund their own flights and accommodation, general donations are invaluable to our work. These donations are used to cover the costs associated with delivery of our medical education programs. This includes transport and meal costs for local participants, who would otherwise not be able to attend.

3. Join SWB's Supporter Database

Joining is entirely free and means that you will receive our newsletters and other updates about SWB. We appreciate that many health care professionals may be unable to volunteer with us, but still want to know about the work we do.



Visit our website or join our Facebook group for more.



Instagram:
[specialists_without_borders](#)



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(SWB)**

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