



# SWB

Specialists Without Borders  
meeting needs through medical education

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In Brief.



## Chair's Report: June 2016

As chairman it is always wonderfully pleasing to see the continued development of the organisation. That SWB retains its essence of a high quality medical education aid program after 10 years is a testimony to those who have given of their own time and money to make the concept work. A huge thanks therefore goes to those who continue to support SWB. Offering to teach in developing countries for two weeks of the year is quite a commitment, with the very busy professional lives that everyone has. The growth of our nursing and junior doctor affiliates as well as the continued

interest from medical students wanting to accompany us has been a personal delight.

Feedback from those involved shows that our volunteers not only feel that SWB's work is worthwhile, but also that it's a fun experience. Feedback, on a professional level, has rated the teaching in the highest category and demonstrated that the innovative techniques in terms of small group teaching, Structured Clinician Instructional Modules (SCIMs), has been very successful. We intend to continue this high standard when the SWB team teaches in Malawi and Zimbabwe in late August this year. This trip will include a longer program in Blantyre, where SWB held a very successful program in 2015.

SWB has received requests to teach in additional locations in Zimbabwe as well as expanding into Ethiopia. Members of the executive will utilize their time in Africa to explore these options to evaluate their suitability. Additionally, the possibility of conducting medical education programs in Myanmar remains an exciting possibility.

Finally, thank you again to everyone involved in SWB. Our organisation only works because of your ongoing support and commitment.

**Dr Paul Anderson**  
*Chairman*

## 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.

## Consultant Profile: James Anstey

Dr James Anstey is an Intensive Care Specialist from Melbourne. Within Intensive Care, he is interested in applied physiology, ethics, resource utilisation, teaching junior doctors and nurses, and research. Having taught medical students

and junior doctors in Australia for some years, he is delighted to be able to extend his teaching experience in developing countries where resources differ greatly to those available in Australia. Outside of medicine, he enjoys travel and music.



## Med Student Rep Profile: Jessica Saunders

Jessica joined the team in 2015 on the SWB trip to Malawi and Zimbabwe and looks forward to continuing her role as the medical student liaison officer this year. She was involved in global health groups at university and nationally with Australian Medical Student Association Global Health and spent time in Vanuatu, East Timor

and rural Indigenous communities as a medical student. She is continuing these interests post graduation through a Masters of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at James Cook University as well as completing her Diploma of Child Health through the University of Sydney. She is currently an Intern at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. In her spare time, she enjoys baking, bike riding, comedy shows and recently survived hiking the Overland track in Tasmania.

## Nurse Profile: Lu Barassi

Lu is an experienced nurse with a background in neurosurgery, cardiothoracic and emergency nursing. After reinvigorating the SWB Nursing Program in 2014, she will be joining the SWB team for the third consecutive year. Lu has travelled extensively and thoroughly enjoyed her time in Kenya in 2012 when she climbed Mt Kilimanjaro.

Her experiences on this trip revealed the incredible resourcefulness of medical staff working in low-resource settings, which prompted her to volunteer with the SWB as a way of sharing her knowledge and skills with nurses working in challenging environments. She has found that volunteering with SWB provides a wonderful opportunity to learn about and from her colleagues working in settings vastly different from those she has experienced in Australia and the UK.



## Thank you to Specialised Therapeutics Australia

SWB has recently received a large donation from Specialised Therapeutics Australia. This is

the second donation given by STA, which will enable SWB to continue to provide medical education in resource poor settings. This support enables us to run high-quality programs where local doctors, nurses and other health care professionals can improve their knowledge and skills-set under the guidance of our experienced team. Additionally, resources will be provided to enable SWB to develop medical education materials, which will allow more health care professionals in

resource poor settings to benefit from the team's expertise. Development of these materials has been a longstanding plan for SWB and we are very excited to see how these progress over the coming months. Thank you to Carlo Montagner, Bozena Zembruski and Specialised Therapeutics Australia for their ongoing support. Words cannot express how thankful the SWB team is for this donation!

## Farewell to Dr Katherine Edyvane

The SWB team lost a valued colleague and friend at the end of 2015. Katherine will be remembered for her fierce sense of social justice and dedication to sharing her vast knowledge with doctors working in resource-poor settings, particularly in Timor Leste where she developed significant ties over many years. Through her commitment to helping communities in developing countries through sharing her surgical

skills she wanted to "take the luck out of personal circumstances and misfortune". Her contribution to global health was recognised in November 2015 when she made the first SWB Life Member and was awarded the RACS International Medal. These accolades are unable to convey the the impact that Katherine made across multiple borders for both those requiring medical assistance and medical professionals wanting to develop their skills. The SWB team is grateful for the privilege of working alongside Katherine in Rwanda,

Malawi and Zimbabwe. Katherine's Obituary can be viewed via our website.



## The Wes Crooke Scholarship Fund

Wes Crooke's family established a fund in his name to raise funds for SWB. Wes fought a battle with brain cancer and was treated by SWB's Kate Drummond. After his passing, Wes' family started the fund to embody his interest and empathy towards

those living in developing countries where access to high quality health care isn't always possible. We are incredibly grateful for the efforts of Wes' partner Tracey and all those who have contributed to the fund, including the team who ran in the 2015 Melbourne Marathon! Over \$6,000 has been raised thus far, which will go towards education for junior doctors in resource poor settings.





## Surgical Students Society of Melbourne

Proceeds from the SSSM Calendar have generously been donated to SWB for the sixth consecutive year. This year's calendar featured Royal Melbourne Hospital consultants dressed as their super hero alter-egos, including SWB's own Kate Drummond as cat woman. We are

greatly appreciative of SSSM's ongoing support and are always entertained by their creative, hilarious calendars. Details of SSSM's 2017 calendar will appear on our website at the end of the year, so keep your eyes peeled.



## You Can\_Help.



Visit our website or join our Facebook group for more.

### 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.

### 3. Become a Member

Membership 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.



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(SWB)**

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