



SWB

Specialists Without Borders
meeting needs through medical education

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In Brief.



Chair's Report: June 2013

It is hugely gratifying to see the ever-increasing enthusiasm enveloping SWB. Feedback from the 2012 Malawi and Rwanda seminars was extremely positive, and we are currently in the midst of planning for the 2013 seminars in Malawi and Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe is a new addition to our program, which will initially comprise a two-day seminar in Harare, following the Malawi seminar.

Locally, the Surgical Students Society of Melbourne has again exceeded expectations by raising over \$4,000 for SWB through their fundraising calendar depicting consultants in various unusual situations related to their specialties! Such a donation

makes a significant contribution, and we are extremely grateful to this group. The growing interest of junior doctors is also hugely pleasing, and through Dr Kim Yeoh, we are in the initial stages of planning an official SWB Junior Doctors Program.

SWB is also delighted to welcome back Megan Coupland as our part-time Program Manager. Megan brings with her significant enthusiasm and experience within the non-profit sector, which will further facilitate our development. We are also thrilled with the ongoing involvement of Donald Bramwell from The Flinders Musculoskeletal Research Institute. Don's involvement has been critical in the development of new and innovative teaching techniques, and he has facilitated the ongoing



evaluation of SWB's programs. A huge thank you also goes to the members of our National Executive Committee, who continue to lead our ever-increasing contribution to medical education in developing countries.

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.

2012 Rwanda and Malawi Seminars: A Volunteer's Perspective

Dr Robert Cooper travelled with SWB to Malawi and Rwanda in 2012. Robert is a radiologist working at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and in private practice with Radiology SA. He describes his impressions of the trip:

"Prior to this trip, group travel with a bunch of surgeons was not really something I would have considered, but somehow the SWB concept and the destination self-selects a fun group. One would expect a radiologist to play a limited role in a surgical trainee education conference

"The teaching part was very rewarding. The trainees were desperate for teaching and most receptive."

in Africa, but as it turned out, the SWB troupe involved many specialists other than surgeons, including oncologists, obstetricians, intensivists and psychiatrists. This type of multidisciplinary teaching is useful for both teachers and attendees.

The teaching part was very rewarding. The trainees were desperate for teaching and most receptive. Typically one would give a 15-minute lecture to the entire faculty and then



interactive tutorials to smaller groups. Obviously a lot of effort had been made in getting the best educational points across in such a limited time, and it was great to see passionate,

well-considered teaching. The whole event has changed my outlook on how to be an effective teacher, which I have tried to incorporate into my teaching of registrars at The Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Post-conference beers went down a treat, followed by a jaunt to see the gorillas – making it the trip of a lifetime. Travelling like this to non-tourism Africa is a great opportunity to put one's "first world" problems into perspective – the SWB concept provided for me that perfect synergy of having a great time whilst doing something useful. I'm all booked up for the next trip."





Know Your National Executive Committee...Introducing Dr Katherine Edyvane

SWB is extremely fortunate to be led by an exceptional National Executive Committee.

Each newsletter edition we will be introducing one of our committee members so you can find out a little more about the fantastic people at our helm. First in line is Dr Katherine Edyvane.

Katherine is a general surgeon and Head of Department at Rockingham General Hospital in Perth, Western Australia. She spent her formative years in Tasmania, gaining a Bachelor of Science and Honours degree in Zoology and Biochemistry at the University of Tasmania, where she was also introduced to student activist socialist politics and environmental issues, passions she still holds today. Later she gained a PhD in medical research from the Flinders University of South Australia and was a junior lecturer in the School of Medicine.

At the ripe old age of 27 Katherine decided to fulfil her life-long desire to study Medicine and become a surgeon. Being a perennial student, in her spare time she had to work as

a medical researcher to fund her medical studies. She established from scratch, and led for 10 years, a very productive Urology Research Laboratory at the Repatriation General Hospital Daw Park in South Australia. Katherine then undertook advanced surgical training in General Surgery in Perth, WA.

Soon after completing her Fellowship, Katherine led an all-female surgical team to Pakistan-administered Kashmir to assist in the aftermath of the devastating 2005 earthquake. It was her first experience of working in a disaster zone and in a resource-poor setting. Later followed a 2-year contract in Timor Leste as the surgeon advisor to the civilian Dili National Hospital, where she encountered and managed the full spectrum of surgery. Since 2009, Katherine has continued to visit Timor Leste as a short-term surgeon advisor, and developing educational surgical programs for the country, as well as yearly locums to Alice Springs Hospital.

It was also in 2009 that Katherine discovered

Specialists Without Borders and she impressed the executive not only with her teaching and experience in resource-poor countries, but with her relaxed style and "Che Guevara" T-shirt! Katherine has more than 20 years experience in teaching at the undergraduate and post-graduate level, obtained \$500,000 in research grants and has published over 40 journal articles.

A FAVOURITE QUOTE?

*The secret of life-long happiness?
To always nurture
your inner child*

Billy Connolly

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.



**Specialists Without Borders
(SWB)**

P.O. Box 2120
Royal Melbourne Hospital
Melbourne VIC 3050
Australia

email
info@specialistswithoutborders.org

web
www.specialistswithoutborders.org