GLOBAL HEALTH TRACK
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER—FEBRUARY 12, 2018

RESIDENTS ABROAD

Who: Dr. Dustin Hansen with Chief— Dr. Ife Ojo
Where: Cameroon
Dates: 1/15/2018 to 2/11/2018

Note from resident:

After spending almost two entire days of flying and one day of travel by small bus over winding bumpy roads we arrived at Mbingo Baptist Hospital. It originally started in 1952 as a colony for persons with leprosy and is therefore quite remote. It has since been built into a much larger center. There are local African internal medicine and surgical residencies here as well so even though it is isolated it is a busy and bustling place. It also seems to be a “referral center” and has a very good reputation locally. This often makes taking care of patients challenging because they often come here after exhausting all other options. The patient population, combined with the fact that patients typically have to pay in cash, means that they frequently present very late in their course of illness. The acuity has been high and the burden of disease somewhat overwhelming.

We have been taking care of everything pediatric from newborns with jaundice to patients in acute heart failure. We even had a 16 year old patient present in heart failure with hypocalcemia secondary to what was most likely congenital hypoparathyroidism. We are the newborn nursery, NICU, PICU, and general children’s ward, which also makes the day to day very challenging. We have been learning a lot and putting our diagnostic skills to the test every day. The burden of other diseases like malaria, TB, and HIV is also quite large so learning to care for those patients has been challenging but rewarding. Lately our specialty has seemed to be oncology and we’ve had all types of masses show up in the past week.

On a different note, we have met and continue to work with wonderful people from all over the world. We are up in the highlands at about 5400 ft elevation surrounded by beautiful mountains and lush valleys. Every day has been warm and sunny with cool nights which are great for sleeping. There are definitely highs and lows but overall things are going very well and I feel fortunate to have an opportunity to both serve with and learn from the people here. Time has gone by quickly and it’s amazing to think I only have a little over one week left here. Ife can’t say that though, he’ll be here for another three months! :)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tropical and Travel Medicine Seminar
Date & Time: Feb. 21 - 6-8 p.m.
Topic: Drug Pricing and Differential Access to Medications and Vaccines
Location: Ben Pomeroy
Registration coming soon— Click here

First Monday*

Date & Time: March 12 - 6-8 p.m.
Location: TBD
Topic: Mental Health in GH Settings - Dr. Abbo and Dr. Sommanikhone
Passport #: 27

Global Palliative Care
Movie screening and expert panel discussion
Date & Time: March 20 - 6p.m.-8p.m.
Location: Moos 2-530

First Monday

Date & Time: April 2 - 6-8 p.m.
Location: Cindy’s House

Topic: GH case discussions with the case study writing pairs - Larissa Beyerlein, Judy Eckerle, Miriam Shapiro, and Tina Slusher

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Dr. Saki Ikeda providing neonatal care for Baby Gracious in the NICU at Arusha Lutheran Medical Center, Arusha Tanzania. Gracious was second of triplets born to Mama Sarah. Dr. Ikeda worked with Dr. Steve Swanson and the medical team at ALMC during her one month international elective. Dr. Swanson, UMN pediatric faculty and Master Teacher lives with his family in Arusha.

Click here to view a video highlighting the NICU at ALMC. Be sure to watch for Dr. Swanson and Dr. Meghan Fanta.

Click here to view the Facebook page for the NICU at ALMC.

Publications:
Secrets of Breast-Feeding From Global Moms In The Know
Advancing Early Childhood Development: from Science to Scale
Advocacy for Improving Nutrition in the First 1000 Days to Support Childhood Development and Adult Health

Chief’s Corner

Note from Dr. Ife Ojo while in Cameroon:

The last few weeks have been a strong contender for the busiest, mentally and emotionally tasking 3 weeks of my career so far. Although I grew up in Nigeria and had the opportunity to work in four very different hospitals, none of my past experiences or conversations with people who have worked at Mbingo prepared me for the breadth of patient pathology we have encountered. We were thrown into performing an exchange blood transfusion less than 24h after arrival as the acting pediatrician took ill shortly after we arrived, and there was a 48h old neonate with a TSB of 26! SUGAR PEARLS EBT video was a lifesaver as it helped us save the baby's brain (and maybe life). Looking back, that procedure seems to have been a soft start as we have been faced with multiple diagnostic dilemmas and have benefited from having specialists back home available for email exchanges and even a tele-conference. We were privileged to have two cardiologists, pulmonologist, and intensivist help with talking through management options for a case of likely H-type TE-fistula in a 2 year old boy who presented with sats in the 30s and right heart failure in the setting of severe pulmonary hypertension. The little boy is doing great now (though he doesn't like being fed strictly by NG), sats >90% on RA, out of heart failure and on sildenafil, while he awaits his bronchoscopy next week. Dustin won his heart by presenting him with two little dinosaurs (my soccer ball gift wasn't such a big hit :). It's been an intense, yet exciting and growing experience for me. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve, teach and learn here, and I hope the next 3 months are not as crazy as the first 3 weeks!

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