



American Medical Women's Association
The Vision and Voice of Women in Medicine since 1915



She who has HEALTH has HOPE.

She who has HOPE has EVERYTHING.

American Women's Hospitals Service

Postcards from the Field Spring 2015

Read About:

AWHS Student Grantee Returns from Overseas Page 1

Letters from the Editors Page 2

HBS Page 2

Clinic Nepal Page 3

Engeye Page 4

Sacred Valley Health Page 5

Donation Information Page 6

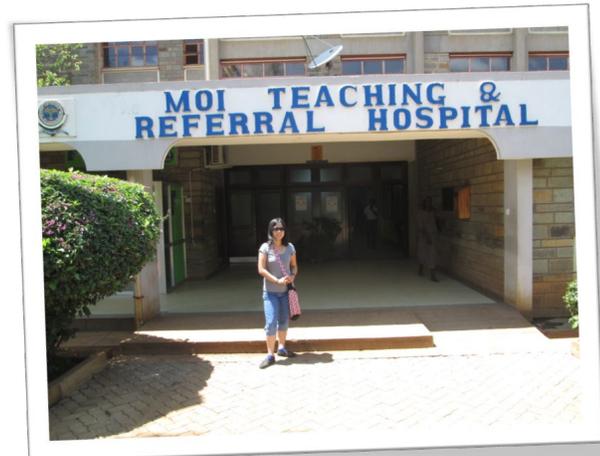
AWHS Student Travel Sasha Wee Returns from Kenya

AMPATH was started at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret Kenya. The program involves collaboration between multiple American medical institutions, and was initiated to provide care for people with HIV/AIDS with the opening of clinics across Kenya.

I spent two months on the medicine and pediatric wards at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret, Kenya. The sights, smells, and sounds of the hospital were overwhelming when I first arrived. It is an open-air hospital, and the hospital has “cubes” of patients. Each cube has eight beds. What surprised me the most was that the patients often had to share their bed with another patient, lying feet to head.

The perspective of death is different in Kenya than in the United States. In Kenya, death seems to be a more accepted as a part of life. Sometimes when I was rounding or walking to get labs, I would hear metal clanging, and see a metal stretcher with a metal lid being wheeled – this meant someone had passed away and their body was being collected. Since most patients share beds, if one patient died, they move the living patient and cover the body with a sheet, and draw curtains around the bed until the body can be collected. In one instance, a fourteen-year-old girl passed away during lunchtime, and another student noted that the families around her continued to eat lunch as if nothing had happened.

This rotation has opened my eyes to the challenges of practicing medicine in a resource-limited setting, and the creative and innovative ideas that are being put into place to provide care. Some examples include sending providers to communities to screen for high blood pressure and diabetes, placing an X-ray on a truck to provide radiology services to those who cannot travel to the hospital, and combating and eliminating counterfeit drugs. This experience has furthered my interest and desire to incorporate global health into my future career.



Medical student Sasha Wee in Eldoret Kenya outside of the main entrance of the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret, Kenya.

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Letters from the Editors



Dear AMWA members,

In this issue, we feature a few of the clinics around the world that have been sponsored by AWHs. The services they provide are creative and innovative, and the clinics allow men and women around the world to access high-quality health care that they may not have otherwise had access to. As I read through their stories, I am struck by how different the needs are of each of community. Though some common themes

exist, such as poverty and rural living conditions, the challenges faced in each clinic location are quite unique. As health care providers, we must adapt the way we practice medicine in our communities, and AMWA hopes to support those who develop innovative ways to meet these needs.

Currently, the world is focused on Nepal, where an Earthquake has left millions without basic human needs, including health care services. We encourage AMWA members to think of innovative ways to help the Nepali community during this time, and to offer donations to support the work of others.

Thank you,

Jean Chavez
Postcards Editor



Dear AMWA members,

As we enter into our 100th Anniversary of the American Medical Womens Association, we are delighted to continue in our efforts to inspire AMWA members to provide care to under-served areas around the world.

As AMWA's charitable arm, the American Womens Hospitals Service looks forward to your continued support and our collective efforts to promote education, leadership, advocacy and innovation in addressing global health disparities.

In this issue, we would like to highlight a few of the clinics with whom we have partnered with this year who offer our student members with leadership training and education, provide jobs and opportunities for women in their communities, and whose staff bring health and hope to thousands of women around the world.

Thank you again,

Dyani Loo, MD
AWHS Co-Chair

Hopital Bon Samaritan

Limbe, Haiti

Limbe, Haiti is a market town located 12 miles inland from the Northern coast of Haiti. Hopital Bon Samaritan is a full-service hospital with outpatient services, chronic disease clinics, and operating rooms. The hospital utilizes the volunteer services of health professionals from around the world.

HBS Offers Cervical Cancer Screening

Cervical cancer is the number one cause of cancer death for women in the developing world. Often these women die in their reproductive years, leaving children orphaned. This is a disease that can be diagnosed early and easily treated – treatment is 90% curative. Dr. Leslee Jaeger started a cervical cancer screening program at Hopital Bon Samaritan three years ago, and it has become more popular with patients each year. In November 2014, 130 women were screened. Five cases of advanced cervical cancer were discovered as a result of this screening and these women were referred for radiation treatment in Port au Prince. This emphasizes the ongoing need for the program to diagnose and treat cervical cancer at an earlier stage.

Patients who were screened were provided with a brochure in Creole that explained the risk factors for cervical cancer and an explanation of the screening process. A video in French was used to educate the nurses and doctors in Maternity about cervical cancer screening and treatment. Dr. Leslee Jaeger has worked closely with other organizations active in northern Haiti to continue to educate Haitian health providers about cervical cancer screening.



Dr. Leslee Jaeger uses a video to educate women's health providers on cervical cancer screening and treatment in Northern Haiti.

Engeye Health Center

Ddegeya Village, Uganda

Engeye health clinic opened in 2006 and promotes health and education in rural Uganda. Luganda is the language of the Buganda tribe in Uganda – the most widely spoken language for those served by the Engeye Health Clinic. Engeye means “white monkey,” an animal that represents many families in the region.

Engeye Expands Services to Women and Children

In 2014, Engeye Health Clinic continued partnering with the Ugandan Ministry of Health and other local non-profit organizations to protect and treat women and children in the fight against malaria, diarrheal diseases, and poverty. Thanks to the support from AWHs and AMWA, we were able to retain our Head Clinical Officer/Program Manager who heads our team of Ugandan medical staff in treating an average of 232 patients per week in 2014. We continue to support our team members both professionally and personally – over half of our staff are working mothers who not only support their families, but also act as strong role models to girls in our community.

We were pleased this year to partner with PACE (formerly Population Services International) to offer long lasting insecticide treated nets to children under 5 years who have received immunizations and to expectant mothers coming for antenatal care. With this partnership, we also continued to offer short- and long-term family planning services at our clinic and through new community outreaches. Another local staff-directed service improvement initiated by our Ugandan team was the expansion of Engeye’s laboratory testing services to include brucellosis and sickle cell.

Other important training sessions, visiting student and intern projects (with the University of Illinois at Chicago and SUNY at Albany) supervised by the Program Manager, and the formation of a collaborative health unit management committee with local leaders has led to important insights for community-directed programming and furthered local clinician training. Thank you for helping us make a difference!

Apply for an Overseas Travel Grant

The AWHs Overseas Assistance Grant provides assistance with transportation costs up to \$1,000 connected with pursuing medical studies in an off-campus setting where the medically neglected will benefit.

The grants are awarded to national AMWA student members completing their second, third or fourth year of an accredited U.S. medical or osteopathic medical school or to AMWA resident members.

Applicants must spend a minimum of four weeks and no longer than one year in a sponsored program which will serve the needs of the medically under-served.

For more information contact AWHS@amwa-doc.org.



AMWA support has allowed Ugandan medical staff to continue to protect women and children against diarrheal disease, malaria and poverty.



The Ugandan team has expanded Engeye’s laboratory testing services.

Clinic Nepal

Chitwan, Nepal

From August 2013 to February 2014, 22 Clinic Nepal health camps were held. A total of 6,305 patients were treated. Of these, 660 were female children, 672 were male children, 31,84 were female adults and 1,789 were male adults.



Health camps are established to provide services free of charge for every person, regardless of age or gender.

Clinic Nepal Free Health Camp

Clinic Nepal was established to improve the health of those living in even the most remote areas of Chitwan, a district in Southern Nepal, where access to medical care is very difficult. Last year, free health camps were also held outside of Chitwan in cooperation with the Nepalese army and CMS Teaching Hospital Bharatpur. The challenging logistics of providing health care was overcome with volunteers and staff from Clinic Nepal. Their work has included the distribution of medicine, medical examinations, treatments and health education. These services are offered to people who otherwise would have been unable to afford any care. A wide variety of ailments were treated with these health camps, including gastrointestinal, respiratory, and urogenital infections, in addition to cardiovascular problems, gynecological issues, and psychiatric disorders. Medical care provided is free of charge for every person, regardless of age or gender.

Last year, mobile health camps focused on Megghauli and the surrounding area. As seen throughout previous years, gynecologic and orthopedic problems, like back and joint pain, remain a major health issue. Ophthalmologic and ENT diseases are on the rise, and as a result ophthalmologic and ENT health camps have been established.



Ophthalmologic and ENT health camps have been established to combat the rise of eye and ENT diseases.



In the setting of the recent Earthquake in Nepal that has affected millions and created urgent need for health services, we are requesting donations on for the Nepal Clinic. Donations can be made here: <https://www.amwa-doc.org/donate/donate-nepal/>

Sacred Valley Health

Patacancha, Peru

Sacred Valley Health was formed in 2012 to improve health care access in the Sacred Valley of Peru, a rural community in a Valley of the Andes Mountains close to Machu Picchu. These communities lack access to primary medical care due to geographic isolation and poor methods of transportation.



A group of pregnant women gather once a month to discuss pregnancy-related health issues.

Sacred Valley Health Pilots Pregnancy Support Project

At Sacred Valley Health (SVH), we are underway with our pregnancy support pilot. Right now, we are working in the high-Andean community of Patacancha. Women gather once a month to learn about and discuss issues related to pregnancy. Meetings are structured in a discussion-based format. We have developed a curriculum to help guide the discussion for each month's meeting, including topics such as nutrition, breastfeeding, warning signs of dangerous conditions, and the importance of prenatal visits. SVH staff and our Patacancha community health workers facilitate these discussions.

The women participating seem to be interested in the topics and engage in conversation, posing questions ranging from, "If I have anemia, what will they do to treat it?" to "If my placenta is in the wrong place, can they move it?" At a recent gathering, Fanny, one of our community health workers, got up in front of the group and, unprompted, began telling about her experience having a Cesarean section. She explained the entire process, step-by-step, and ended saying, "I'm telling you this so that if it happens to you, you won't have to be afraid, so that you can know what's going on and why." For us, it was a beautiful moment because that is so much of what this program is about – women empowering each other to be active participants in their own health care.

Apply for an AWHs Community Project Grant

AWHS will be soliciting applications to fund a new type of grant geared towards student and resident members of AMWA. These grants are focused on community engagement and include medically-related proposals for:

- (1) Community-Based Research
- (2) Sustainable Community Service Projects
- (3) Community Advocacy/Education.

The primary goals of the Community Project Grants are to:

- Engage AMWA students, resident, and physicians in partnering with under-served communities
- Increase community outreach and resources
- Improve access to or quality of care for at-risk populations
- Maintain community self-reliance by focusing on sustainability
- Promote awareness of issues with medical care access, resources, disparity
- Plan for long-term solutions by empowering residents to explore innovative ideas in addressing these issues

Projects grants will be in the form of grants not to exceed 500\$, and will be awarded based on criteria including sustainability, benefit to community, engagement of community members, and educational value.

For more information or questions please email at AWHS@amwa-doc.org. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, with committee selection occurring quarterly.



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Donate to AWHs

Make a tax-deductible donation to AWHs. Your vital contributions will ensure the ongoing support to these many clinics. With our low operating costs, all of your funds go directly into supporting students, clinics, and encouraging member advocacy and service.

Donate By Mail:

You may send a check (payable to the AMWA – AWHs)

Mail to:

AWHS

12100 Sunset Hills Rd Ste 130

Reston, Virginia 20190

Donate Online at:

<https://www.amwa-doc.org/our-work/american-womens-hospital-services/donate/>

Special Thanks to our AWHs Committee!

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If you would like to join the AWHs Committee please email us at AWHS@amwa-doc.org

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