

What's Happening

at the Sonja Kill Memorial Hospital – December 2017



Thoughts of the Director

When I walk through the hospital, I see training taking place in every department. Medical students and young residents are being taught by more senior Cambodian doctors during case discussions. The young colleagues present cases during lunch talks. Practical training on manikins is going on in the emergency department or the obstetric department. This generation of young Cambodian doctors and students is eager to learn and appreciates the support of the senior colleagues.

The Sonja Kill Memorial Hospital's capacity building in Cambodian medical professions has come a long way since it started in April 2012. I still remember how expatriate physicians provided most of the initial teaching. I recall how we added specialty lectures to our family medicine curriculum according to the phasing in of different departments. Our training of medical professionals has truly made a difference for Cambodia. We were very excited when seven of our first trainee doctors graduated from our program in November 2016. Such a milestone was reached through dedication, constant education, and hands on practice from these seven trainee doctors as well as the senior doctors.

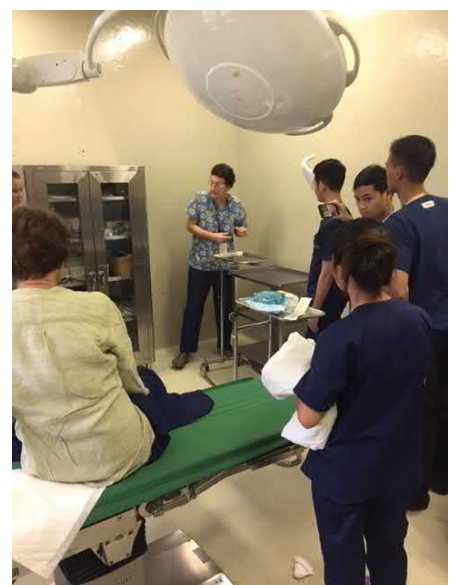
We have now reached a turning point in our development. Four of our graduates were promoted to leadership positions this year. They lead departments and are coordinating training in their specialty. I am excited to see how they have stepped up and taken responsibility as a team. This is invaluable to further develop our training programs. I believe that the Sonja Kill Memorial Hospital can become the best training center for medical professionals in Cambodia in the near future. This newsletter will share the story of our training of Cambodian physicians

Cornelia Haener, MD FMH, MScPH DLSHTM
Chief Executive Officer



Dr. Kendrick teaching during morning rounds

Treating others with fairness, dignity and compassion is the "rain" that helps them grow and be fruitful.
-Anonymous

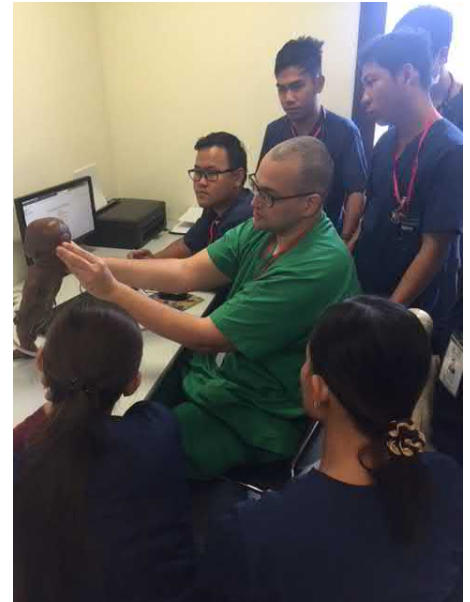


Dr. Victoria and Dr. Cornelia teach the Maternity Department during an emergency drill.

Sonja Kill Memorial Hospital reaches a new milestone

In September, the team at Sonja Kill Memorial Hospital celebrated a new milestone in its development and impact on Cambodian healthcare. Four Khmer doctors trained at SKMH were named to positions of leadership. **Dr. Sar Thona**, appointed Medical Chief of Staff, is responsible for the continued training and development of young physicians at SKMH. His additional duties will include oversight of the NICU and the Emergency Department. **Dr. Ouch Chanthy** was appointed Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Chanthy is a Kampot native and has been with the SKMH since the beginning in April 2012. Her compassion and dedication has helped the Women's Clinic and Maternity Department become the place to have a baby in Southern Cambodia. **Dr. Tan Poseng**, appointed Chief of Internal Medicine, oversees the Outpatient Department. The OPD is often the busiest area of the hospital, caring for over 100 patients a day. Dr. Poseng is assisted by **Dr. Sunly Khun** as the new Deputy Chief of Internal Medicine. Dr. Sunly and his family reside in Kampot. He serves as an anchor in the Internal Medicine Department. Together with Dr. Poseng, their Outpatient Department will touch over 20,000 lives in a year.

The SKMH family could not be prouder of its new leadership. Together they form the pillars from which the hospital will build and continue to meet the needs of patients in Southern Cambodia. The leadership of SKMH would like to express its profound appreciation to the senior physicians in Cambodia and others from around the world, who have spent years training and teaching these and other Khmer doctors. Your efforts are paying dividends today and will continue into the future.



Dr. Mohamed providing specific training regarding childbirth

A special thanks goes out to all the 2017 volunteer expatriate physicians. They have contributed to the training of our Cambodian physicians.

Dr. Margo Hudson
 Dr. Doug las Laube
 Dr. Bridget Jane
 Dr. Jobe Smith
 Dr. John Tak Woo
 Dr. Christina Biller
 Dr. Walter Koller
 Dr. Carrie Bagatell
 Dr. Maria Teresa Olivari
 Dr. Mohamed Ahmed
 Dr. Robin Ryder
 Dr. Rachel Northeim Kreise
 Dr. Victoria Mohr
 Dr. Kendrick Kahler
 Dr. Daniel Thomas
 Dr. Alex Wood

Building Sustainability for the future of Cambodia

As 2017 closes, SKMH is celebrating a great year. The impact and reputation of the hospital continues to grow through healing lives and training staff. In 2012, when HOPE *worldwide* assumed the management role and opened SKMH, it did so with the plan for the hospital to function as a social enterprise. Sustainability would be critical to its success. This included several key goals:

1. Long-term sustainability would come from its operations.
2. The hospital to serve as a place for children and women to find healthcare, regardless of ability to pay.
3. The hospital would help build the healthcare capacity of Cambodia through teaching and training of doctors, nurses and other professionals.

SKMH has worked hard to reach these goals. In 2017, operating revenue will cover over 95% of operating costs compared to 73 % in 2015. To date, 72% of all care has been directed towards women and children's health. Since opening in 2012, SKMH has given \$756,409 of free or reduced care to Cambodians. This is care that has come from its operating revenue, not donations. Through 2017, 45 doctors and 75 nurses have received training at SKMH. We are close to achieving our goals.

I would like to appeal to you to help us not only reach these three goals, but to go beyond. When I arrived I was stunned to learn that \$6000 will pay for the training of a Cambodian doctor for one year of their three-year post-graduate (residency) training program. \$100 will pay for five Cambodians patients to see a physician, have laboratory or X-ray diagnostics and receive prescribed medication.

Going forward, SKMH is looking to add a CT scanner, digital X-ray diagnostic and an electronic medical record system as part of our goal to sustainability. These would allow for more efficient patient care, increased care coordination and better diagnostic capabilities. Please consider how you can make a difference in Southern Cambodia. To give, please go to <https://hopeww.kindful.com/?campaign=275477>. For more information you can contact me at kenny.schuster@skmh.org.

Kenny Schuster, LNFA, MBA
Chief Operations Officer



Developments and Accomplishments since opening in 2012

- 2012-Hospital opened with Outpatient Department
- 2013-Emergency Department opened
Two inpatient departments opened
24 hour care introduced
- 2014-Maternity building opened
- 2015-Surgical Department opened
Neonatal ICU operational
- 2016-Official opening of the Neonatal ICU
Centralized medical gas system
Blood bank opened
- June 2017-Be Smart Learning Center

As of November 2017:

- 159,425 patient consultations
- 54,018 individual patients.
- 72% of visits were for women and children, meeting our core mission.
- Over 1100 children born since opening the maternity building.
- 7 Cambodian doctors have graduated from SKMH Post Graduate General Medicine Education Program.
- Over 180 people employed
- The Neonatal ICU has served 78 children since opening.
- The surgical team has performed over 156 surgeries in 2017, of which 39 have been for children.
- 189 units of blood donated in the Blood Bank during 2017



Sonja Kill Memorial Hospital physicians present at the second National Conference on Melioidosis Awareness

Sonja Kill Memorial Hospital was pleased to send two doctors to the Second National Conference for Melioidosis Awareness in Phnom Penh in October. Dr. Sar Thona, Medical Chief of Staff and Dr. Kong Sian, Chief Resident of Surgery each presented cases. Dr. Thona presented on **“Splenic Abscesses caused by Melioidosis in a Diabetic Patient”** and Dr. Sian presented **“Septic Shock from a Finger Infection in a Diabetic Patient”**.

Melioidosis, also called Whitmore's disease, is an infectious disease that can infect humans or animals. The disease is caused by the bacterium *Burkholderia pseudomallei*. It is predominately a disease of tropical climates, especially in Southeast Asia and northern Australia where it is widespread. The bacteria causing Melioidosis is found in contaminated water and soil. It is spread to humans and animals through direct contact with the contaminated source. In Cambodia, it is especially prevalent in rice growing areas and during rainy seasons. The disease particularly impacts diabetic and immune compromised patients, excluding HIV. Each year during the rice and rainy season, SKMH will treat numerous patients for severe infections often requiring long-term IV antibiotics, ranging from 2 – 4 weeks.

Dr. Thona said, “The conference was great for case presentation. It allowed for questions and answers. There was great feedback given. We were also able to learn new methods to diagnose Melioidosis.” Dr. Sian noted “New guidelines for diagnosis and treatment have been presented that will be very helpful for our patient care, especially the part about quicker diagnosis.” There were about 300 medical professionals in attendance.



Dr. Kill and Mrs. Kill Visit Sonja Kill Memorial Hospital

The leadership and staff at Sonja Kill Memorial Hospital were delighted to welcome the Kill family to SKMH for a visit in November. It was inspiring to see Dr. Kill and Ms. Kill engage with the staff, many whom they have known since before the hospital opened. Dr. Kill was very encouraged by the growth of the hospital including the impact it is having in the community.

Dr. and Mrs. Kill initiated the founding of the hospital in 2006. It was their goal that the health situation of Southern Cambodians would be impacted, especially women and children. Kampot and the surrounding communities remain grateful to the Kill Family and their hearts.





Six new Cambodian physicians enter SKMH Post Graduate Residency Training Program

Sonja Kill Memorial Hospital was pleased to welcome six new Cambodian physicians to SKMH Residency Training Program (3 years). They are excited about the opportunity to continue their training and development. When asked why he chose SKMH, Dr. Linne stated, “The reason that I chose SKMH is because it is a good hospital; working with children and helping the poor. I think I can improve my medical knowledge and help the poor of my country including my province which is poor.” Dr. Sothyro said, “At first I looked at the environment and how the hospital looked. It was fresh. There were multiple departments for training and improving my knowledge. I can also use what I learn to share with other doctors.”

When asked what has impacted you the most since their arrival at SKMH, Dr. Sihakneat said “The work ethic. How patients are treated regardless of their ability to pay; it is different from other places.” Dr. Havan appreciated “The friendships between the doctors and nurses. The kindness and willingness to help each other stands out.” What has been the hardest part of your training so far? Dr. Pisey stated, “The English; I studied medicine in French. At first I felt a little lost. The real work is different from the textbook”. It was interesting to note Dr. Sihakneat’s response when he was asked when he saw the first patient in his new role. “The first day,” he commented.

These new physicians were immediately seeing patients, making rounds and presenting to senior doctors their findings and cases. Dr. Kendrick Kahler, from the USA, has spent 5 years training physicians at SKMH. He noted that new trainee doctors come into the program with much knowledge, but need to learn how to focus toward diagnosis and treatment. “I see great strides after one year with us at SKMH. The doctors get exposed to a variety of cases similar to routine cases in western countries such as cardio-vascular diseases or diabetes. In addition, they see cases in tropical medicine such as typhoid fever or Melioidosis.” When asked what his greatest joy in training physicians at SKMH, Dr. Kahler noted, “It is when I am corrected by a Cambodian physician when I teach him. It tells me they are learning on their own.” Dr. Kahler was thinking about the impact of SKMH when he stated, “We are laying a foundation for a lifetime of care, long after we are gone, which perpetuates itself to the next generation of physicians.”

Dr. Sar Thona, Medical Chief of Staff commented about the new class of physicians, “Their initial medical training in medical school was good. Now they have to learn to put it into practice. They adapt well and are doing well in their training and classes. There is good communication with the SKMH staff.” He added “If they accept the training, they will be very good.”

Dr. Ouch Chanty, Chief of OB/GYN, herself a graduate of the SKMH program, stated “The key to a strong program is trainees being active in patient care, doing, not just observing or sitting in a classroom.” Her training philosophy is “See one, do one and teach one.” SKMH is proud to have these new physicians on our team.

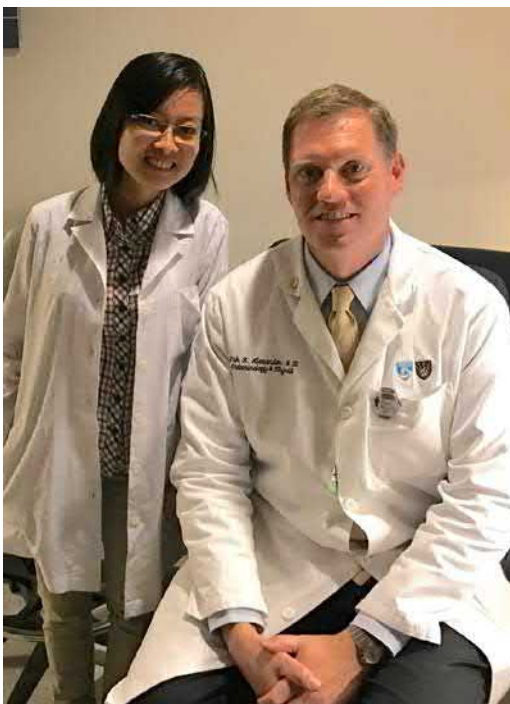
“If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people”

-- Chinese Proverb

Dr. Sophy Travels to U.S. for Endocrinology Training

This fall, Dr. Noun Sophy travelled to the United States for further training in endocrinology and diabetes management. She spent over 1 month at the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle, WA and 1 month at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, MA. Dr. Sophy has trained at Sonja Kill Memorial Hospital for four years already. She was thrilled and humbled to have the opportunity to travel to the United States for this training. She said about her trip, "I am lucky, my trip to the US is a tremendous opportunity."

Before her trip, Dr. Sophy stated that it was her goal to become the first Endocrinologist in Cambodia. Sonja Kill Memorial Hospital is grateful to have Dr. Sophy on our team. Dr. Sophy will become Deputy Chief of Internal Medicine upon her graduation in January. She will direct the Sonja Kill Memorial Hospital Diabetes Clinic. Upon her return, she noted, "Due to the knowledge I have learned, I have new ideas to update our diabetes management guidelines in the hospital, improving patient care and good outcomes." Diabetes remains a significant health challenge for many Cambodians. According to the Cambodian Diabetes Association study in conjunction with the World Health Organization, the diabetes rate of Cambodians over the age of 25 is 10%. Dr. Sophy and Sonja Kill Memorial Hospital would like to thank Dr. Peter Curran whose donation to HOPE *worldwide* made her training possible.



Volunteers

We are grateful for following volunteers who have helped us in the last six months:

Stephanie Kim	Medical Student	USA
Heidi Stofflebeme	Learning Center	USA
John Schuster	Learning Center	USA
Jaime Hislop	Bio-Medical Engineer	Australia
Chhuorng Socheata	Learning Center	Cambodia
Dr. Alex Wood	Mental Health Care	UK
Jane Mugure Kariuki	Mental Health Care	Kenya
Maria Sar	Medical Student	Austria
Francesca Siegwart	Day Care	Switzerland
Walter Siegwart	Technician	Switzerland
Alli Marie Phillips	Peace Corps	USA
Mikah Barrueta	Khmer Sign Language Teacher	USA
Mom Chhel	Peace Corps	Cambodia
Marthew Thlelker	Peace Corps	USA
Srey Sarath	Peace Corps	Cambodia
Ashlee Reaves	Learning Center	USA
Mika Barrueta	Learning Center	USA
Dr. Daniel Thomas	Anesthesiologist	USA
Dr. Kendrick Kahler	General Medicine	USA
Dr. Victoria Mohr	OB/GYN	USA
Dr. Rachel Northeim Kreise	OB/GYN	USA
Dr. Robin Ryder	Research Specialist	USA
Christina Schroffenegger	Anesthesia Nurse	Switzerland
Dr. Mohamed Ahmed	OB/GYN	Egypt

We are looking for the following volunteers:

- Anesthesiologist
- Anesthesia nurse
- Trainee doctors
- Family practice doctors
- Gynecology/Obstetrics doctors & nurses
- Laboratory medicine, especially Hematology and blood bank
- General surgeon
- Pediatric surgeon
- Midwives
- NICU physician
- NICU nurses

Opportunities to support SKMH

\$100 will sponsor

- A simple birth delivery free of charge.

\$250 will sponsor

- Prenatal consultation with ultrasound for ten women free of charge
- A Caesarian section free of charge

\$500 will sponsor

- One emergency abdominal surgery free-of-charge

\$6,000 will sponsor

- One year of training for a young Cambodian doctor



Managed by

HOPE
worldwide

Statistics

54,018

Patients treated April 2012 – November 2017

8646

New patients treated
January 2017 – November 2017

159,425

Consultations
April 2012 – November 2017

30,825

Consultations
January 2017 – November 2017

“A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such a gifted person does not think of themselves as a volunteer, but as citizen—a citizen in the fullest sense: partners in civilization.”

Anonymous

Information

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