



HEALTH PROJECTS WHY SOME OF THEM SUFFER PREMATURE DEATHS?

MANY ORGANISATIONS INCLUDING Rotary invest huge resources to improve health care in developing countries. Many succeed but some fail.

There are many examples of well-meaning health projects failing to achieve their full potential – even failing. Expensive machinery such as X-ray machines, scanners and monitors sometimes find their way to hospitals in developing countries without adequate infrastructure, technical back up and sometimes even without satisfactory power supply.

Some of the hospitals which receive substantial funding to improve health care fail to make the best use of such investments due to inadequate system of management, quality control and clinical governance.

Adherence to protocols, good communication, training and clinical governance are at times ignored by hospitals. Some hospitals claim commitment to such measures simply to satisfy donors. Some donors and recipients fail to establish clinical priorities but divert funds to glamorous projects such as computerisation.

We would like to suggest that

- Rotary encourage hospitals in receipt of Rotary finance, to introduce stringent clinical governance, adherence to protocols, good communication, line of responsibility and meticulous documentation.
- Rotary take a lead in offering training in clinical governance to those hospitals seeking financial support from international organisations.
- Rotary engage with other organisations which invest funds in health projects in developing countries to consider good management as mandatory.

ARE YOU ATTENDING THE RI CONVENTION IN TORONTO?

As in previous years, the Fellowship hopes to have a robust presence in Toronto.

- We have applied for a booth in the House of Friendship. If we get a booth space we would love to see you there and renew our friendship.
- We've applied for a breakout session on the topic 'Why some health projects fail and how to reduce the chance of them failing?.'
- We will apply for a meeting room for our Annual Meeting when as before we will invite presentations from our members.
- Our Annual 'Dine with the Doctors' will be on Tuesday 26th June. Please book your place now!
- We're hoping to have a clinical event with one of the hospitals in Toronto on Friday 22nd June.

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THE FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARIAN DOCTORS
<https://www.rotary-site.org/health-professionals>

The Joys and Pitfalls of Charitable Giving

FELLOWSHIP MEMBER PAT Green writes: 'I have been a volunteer in one capacity or another outside of the United States since 1998, and so I thought I would take the time to offer personal insight into the world of charitable giving. This is by no means an official guide, nor an exhaustive study, but only my personal experiences in the countries of Nepal, Cameroon and Mexico – advice I have been given or lessons learned the hard way, and the rewarding results when things have gone as planned, or at least not been completely derailed.' Read the full story (click the link)

<https://mex-pat.org/2017/08/28/the-joys-and-pitfalls-of-charitable-giving/>

Do you have a story to share with others?

Pat says she was reluctant to share her story. I'm delighted that she has! If you have a story to share, I would like to hear from you.

"I WAS HESITANT to share the story, as it shows some of the dark side of this type of work, and I was a little afraid of causing offence. However, I remembered that non-profits and volunteers are hesitant to share their failures for fear of scaring away donors, and that is the wrong thing to do. We need to learn from our mistakes and give helpful information to help others avoid the same problems.

"Growing up, I always wanted to end up doing some kind of international work, and pretty much always wanted to be in the medical field. With family and young children, I turned down 2 offers to be part of a delegation to China, but when the third invitation came to go to Nepal as part of a group of neuroscience nurses, my son was 10 years old, and I decided that I didn't want to turn down yet another opportunity.

"Well, that once-in-a-lifetime trip turned into other volunteer trips - to Cameroon with the British Charity AidCamps International, and then again to Cameroon to volunteer at a clinic whose clients were refugees and victims of torture. This last trip I was accompanied by my son, who was by that time 21 years old. After that, I turned my attention to Mexico, after meeting the founders of Project Amigo, Colima A.C. at the Rotary International Convention in New Orleans in 2011. Each volunteer work week thereafter convinced me that I was meant to retire to Mexico - and here I am, still volunteering while living here in my little village of Cofradia de Suchitlan.

"After moving here, I started my blog - www.mex-pat.org – in part to share my knowledge experience of international charity work – its joys and pitfalls – with stakeholders and volunteers who are genuinely eager to bridge the gap in health care provisions between developed and developing countries."

The International Decision Support Initiative (iDSI)

<http://www.idsihealth.org/>

THE INTERNATIONAL DECISION Support Initiative (iDSI) is a global network of health, policy and economic expertise, working to achieve Universal Health Coverage and the health Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 3). We support countries to make better decisions about how much public money to spend on healthcare and how to make that money go further. We believe everyone should have fair access to health, receiving the right treatment and the right medicines at the right time.

What are quality standards? Quality standards are an important aspect of priority-setting in health, as an approach to support the delivery of the best possible health outcomes within a given budget. They are concise sets of prioritised statements designed to drive measurable quality improvements within a particular area of health or care (NICE 2015b). They:

- are derived from high quality evidence, accompanied by measurable indicators, and are developed in consultation with relevant parties
- provide explicit benchmarks for assessing actual care performance and improving practice
- inform payment mechanisms and incentives, in the context of health insurance, health benefits packages, and pay-for-performance frameworks
- interface closely with other quality improvement initiatives, including clinical audit.

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