



THE **medical** ROOM



Biomedical Technical Training in LMIC - An
experiential review

SMBE NSW 2025 – Penrith

Overview

- My experience in LMIC Countries
- Commonalities & Differences
- Opportunities

Director / Training Manager



- Dr Dani Forster

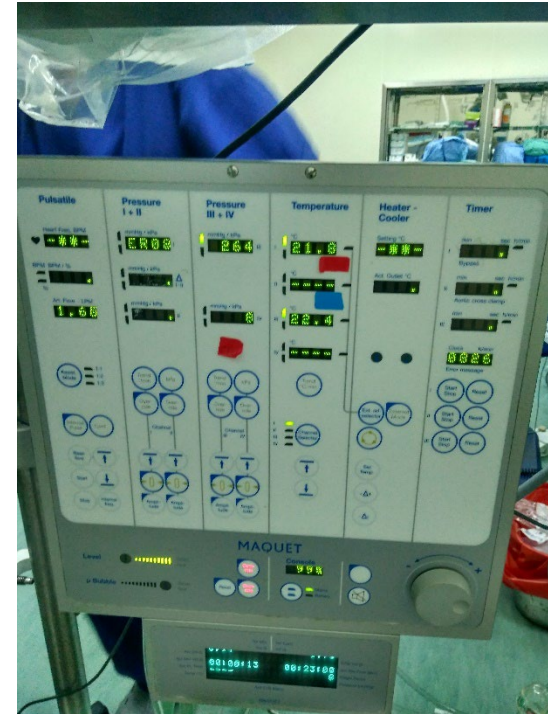
- BE(Electrical) & BSc (Computer Science) - UoM
- Winner of National Siemens Prize for Innovation
- Winner of the Victorian Fellowship
- Trained at the Royal Women's and Royal Melbourne Hospitals
- +12 yrs biomedical engineering & 6 years managing Medical Equipment Management Services at Kings College Hospital
- PhD (UoM & Mercy Hospital for Women)
- Director of The Medical Room – Competency Training & Recruitment for Biomedics – 12 years

LMIC Country Training

- Pacific:
 - Tonga – Open Heart International
 - Fiji – SSCSiP
- Mongolia
 - Ad-hoc group of Dr's and Nurses from Melb
- Africa
 - Tanzania – Open Heart International
 - Malawi – Pangea Global Health Education

Open Heart International

- Tonga & Tanzania
- Support open heart surgery
- Work closely with the local biomededs
- Innovate to find solutions to problems



Pacific

- Biomedical Technical Training – Biomedics travel to Suva, Fiji for training in groups of 10
 - Funded by
 - Strengthening Specialised Clinical Services in the Pacific (SSCSiP)
 - The Pacific Community (SPC)
- Workshops at bi-annual Pacific Biomedical Engineering Network (PBEN) Meeting

Pacific





Mongolia

- Arrived early to spend time with biomedical engineers to understand issues better
- Brainstorm and problem solve issues: how to source equipment & parts

Mongolia



Mongolia

- Arrived early to spend time with biomedical engineers to understand issues better
- Brainstorm and problem solve issues: how to source equipment & parts
- Conference with biomedics from around Mongolia
- Visit remote town to provide surgery and training for surgeons, clinical staff and biomedics

Malawi

- Pangea World Health Team
- Educational program for clinical staff developed over many years
- Pilot biomed program delivered by Mike Denison in 2023
- Full 4-day biomed program delivered in Llongwe and Blantyre in 2024



Malawi

- OpenO2 Project
- A hub for innovation and information in the space of oxygen concentration technology used in low-income countries
- <https://openo2.org>



Malawi



Differences

- Amount of Equipment:
 - Pacific – More equipment donated, though not always what is needed
 - Mongolia – Less equipment donations
 - Malawi – More equipment in Blantyre than Lilongwe

Commonalities

- Biomedical engineers are always doing their best and are amazingly innovative
- Incredibly friendly and appreciate of help
- Test equipment & part acquisition always challenging, innovation & invention required
- Ability to contribute and help where there is need

Opportunities

- Why?
 - Professional development: exposure to new problems, problem solving, understand the challenges experienced in
 - Personal development – develop life long friendships
- Malawi in October...
- You will never regret it!



Thank you for listening



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The Medical Room's 2025 UPDATE

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