WHAT'S
HAPPENING
IN

Without Borders

From the Editor

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Global Stuff You Should Know

We are aware of the increasing shortage of neurologists practicing in the United States,¹ but in some low- and middle-income countries (LMIC), such as Cambodia, the number of practicing specialists may be in the single digits. In a recent Global stuff you should know titled “Bringing neuroscience to Cambodia,” Dr. Soma Sahai-Srivastava outlined the need for her summer teaching program and follows with information on the program that will begin its 5th year in July 2018. “In my many trips to Cambodia in the last decade, volunteering solo, I realized that there are no short-term volunteering opportunities for neurology clinical care, unlike other specialties like emergency medicine, pediatrics, surgery, etc. No neurology outpatient clinics or inpatient specialized programs existed until recently. There were only 3 neurologists in the country in 2012.² The first internal medicine residency program launched in 2011 and there are still no adult or pediatric neurology residency programs. There is one pediatric neurosurgeon and no pediatric neurologists in the entire country. There is a lack of commonly prescribed neurologic medications (e.g., phenytoin and phenobarbital are the only antiepileptics available at the public hospitals). Under these circumstances, I realized that rather than volunteering in clinics treating individual patients, the first priority was neuroscience education and curriculum development at all levels: undergraduate, medical school, and postgraduate.”

References

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2. Loo KW, Gan SH. Burden of stroke in Cambodia. *Int J Stroke* 2013;8:475–478.

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