

2014 International Experiences Showcase - MEOP

Fourteen women attended the 2014 International Experiences Showcase at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at Western University on Nov. 13th. There were six from Kent, two from Lambton, four from Middlesex and two from Oxford.

Our arrival went much more smoothly than last year as there was, indeed, parking reserved for us right at the Dentistry Building where the event was held.

After we were welcomed, we helped ourselves to a lovely buffet lunch in the Global Health offices. We ate with:

- Dr. Melanie Katsivo, the Faculty Director of Global Health,
- Sophie Palmieri, Dr. Katsivo's assistant,
- Dr. Javeed Sukhera, Academic Director, Global Health Curriculum
- Helen Baldwin, Meds '17, the student liaison with the Department of Global Health.
- Emily Leighton, Communications Coordinator
- Dr. Denise Figlewicz, Vice-Dean of Research and Innovation
- Vicki Hayter, Senior Development Officer, Schulick School of Medicine & Dentistry
- Dr. David Cechetto, Professor and Director of Rebuilding Health in Rwanda

Dr. Katsivo gave us an up-date on Dr. Holdsworth's project in 3D imaging. He continues to develop it and hopes to take it to a developing country soon to test it out. Besides being the Dr. Sandy Kirkley Chair in Musculoskeletal Research as well as a Professor in the Departments of Medical Biophysics and Surgery and a Scientist at the Robarts Research Institute, he now leads a team of 20 investigators into bone and joint research.

Dr. Cechetto talked a little about how he became involved in maternal health in Rwanda. In 1999, five years after the genocide, he was asked if the University of Rwanda could partner with Western University to rebuild the medical school. After seeing the situation, he realized they were not ready to 'partner' so, instead, he helped set up a Nursing School at the Kigali Health Institute in 2005 (\$1,500,000). Since then, he has helped get funding for the Faculty of Medicine at the National University of Rwanda (\$100,000), for an assessment of health care (\$300,000), for student projects and research (\$30,000), and for maternal, newborn and child health care (\$2,600,000).

In 2013, he was awarded the Western Humanitarian Award for his work in rebuilding the shattered health care system in Rwanda.

Following Dr. Cechetto's presentation, we walked to the area where the students had their posters and were available to chat. They all seemed to be second year medical students. One young man had spent four weeks in Crete where he had observed several hernia and gall bladder surgeries. A female student spent four weeks in Malta where there is a larger than normal number of cleft lips and cleft palettes. The others had all been to China, one singly and the other three together.

These young doctors-to-be are very passionate about their chosen profession and so receptive to any learning situation. They were happy and excited to talk about their experiences. It is really too bad that we cannot get more women out to this event.