**Episode 2: Why Learn About Global Surgery**

**Guest:**  Dr. Brian Westerberg & Dr. Johannes Fagan

Dr. Wiedermann begins the episode with mention of the **Master of Global Surgical Care program at the University of British Columbia** which he pursued at the recommendation of Dr. Westerberg.

**Question:** How do you both define global surgery?

**Dr. Westerberg**

* The definition of global surgical care needs to be expanded. The most pressing issue today for health care is planetary health and climate change and that needs to fall under the umbrella of global surgical care.
* Healthcare is responsible for ~5% of global greenhouse gas emissions which is on par with the aviation industry. It would behoove us to provide global care that is more sustainable and less impactful to planetary health. While international outreach is part of it, it doesn't have the same emphasis now. More people are looking at it as a means to an end for improving all of our wellbeing whether high or low-income settings.

**Dr. Fagan**

* For me global surgery is about social justice and achieving equitable access to healthcare and health education regardless of class, location, income.
* In ENT we should remain cognizant that head and neck cancer make up about *80% of cancer deaths and 80% of patients with significant hearing loss reside in LMIC’s*. So targeting LMICs is the low hanging fruit.

**Dr. Wiedermann**

* While living in Ethiopia he started to notice the[*three-delay system*](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33040697/).
  + Type 1 delay is the decision to seek healthcare/realizing you have a problem needing help
  + Type 2 is getting through the barriers to seek care.
  + Type 3 once you're at the institution, the institution doesn’t have the resources, specialty, or perform the wrong procedure.

**Dr. Fagan**

* Dr. Fagan states that the standard of care and guidelines such as NCCN guidelines that are applied in western countries do not translate to low income countries due to lack of resources. The [*African Head & Neck Guidelines*](https://developingworldheadandneckcancerguidelines.com)are adapted to resource limited settings.

**Dr. Westerberg**

* Questions to ask are “where are the needs” and “what are the needs”. We high income countries impose what we think others need. In Canada, it happens with indigenous populations.

**Question:** What other elements, other than a change in mentality, do you think med students/residents from HIC need to constitute a solid foundation for starting on-the-ground work?

**Dr. Fagan**

* Strong advocate of open access training such as [*ENT in a Nutshell*](https://www.headmirror.com/toc-podcast)and other open access texts, and videos. I encourage young people to get involved with local departments.
* Student, resident, and faculty researchers must engage which local faculty for research that they are doing with that population.

**Dr. Wiedermann**

Do you think it's essential for surgical learners to learn about global surgery and its impact? Should that be part of our everyday curriculum?

**Question:** I see performing global surgery to be a pyramid; bottom is short term surgical trips (largest amount of people and time dedicated to it), top of pyramid are those who are highly involved in policy (i.e. WHO). What do we need more and less of in that pyramid?

**Dr. Fagan**

* In Africa we haven’t developed a good structured system for HIC colleagues to reach out in a meaningful fashion.
* [**African Head & Neck Society: Head and Neck Fellows**](https://afhns.org)program(new) partnerships we established between North American and African surgeons.
* Starting an Otology fellowship in Capetown. UMich faculty members will do a once a week zoom lecture.
* We should be looking at creating structures like this so that HIC teachers can maximize their contributions to LMIC.

**Organizations**

**University of British Columbia-Master of Global Surgical Care**

<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/prospective-students/graduate-degree-programs/master-global-surgical-care>

**African Head and Neck Society**

<https://afhns.org/>

**Dr. Fagan maintains an open access educational website for ENT surgeons** [http://www.entdev.uct.ac.za](http://www.entdev.uct.ac.za/)

**The Open Access Atlas of Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Operative Surgery**

<http://www.entdev.uct.ac.za/guides/open-access-atlas-of-otolaryngology-head-neck-operative-surgery/>

**The Open Access Guide to Audiology and Hearing Aids for Otolaryngologist**

<http://www.entdev.uct.ac.za/guides/open-access-guide-to-audiology-and-hearing-aids-for-otolaryngologists>

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