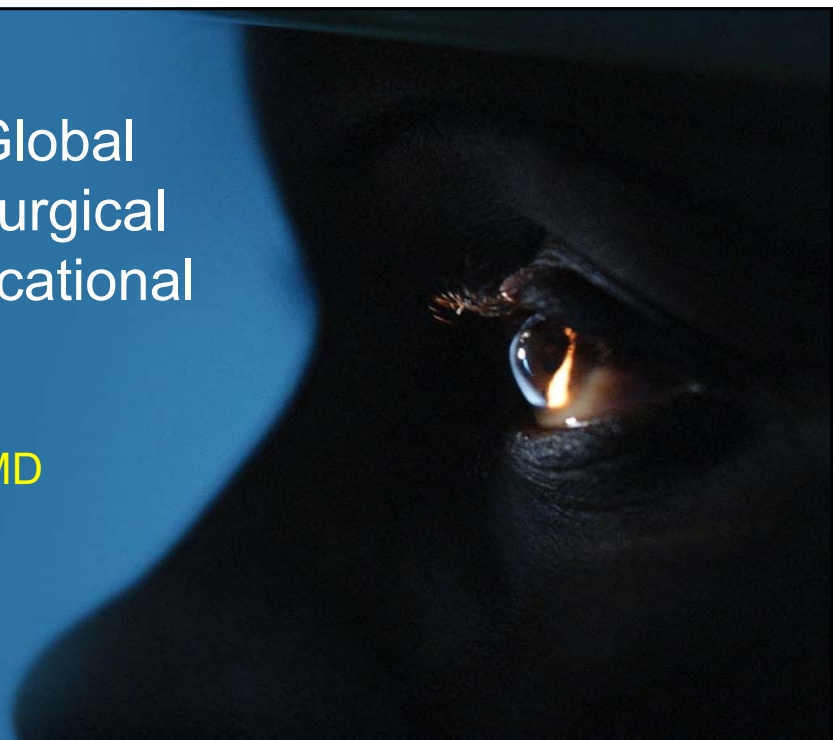


# Perspectives on Global Ophthalmology, Surgical Training, and Educational Programs

HUNTER CHERWEK, MD



## Why I prefer Global Ophthalmology & Why You Are Already Practicing It

### NATIVE AMERICAN POPULATION IN ARIZONA

- Poverty rate is 46.5%
- Extreme poverty rate is 15%
- Alcohol related deaths is 49.3%
- 74.8% have not completed a high school
- Illiteracy rate is 32%

### NATIVE AMERICAN POPULATION IN ARIZONA

- 14% live without electricity
- 20% live without indoor plumbing
- 18% live without complete kitchen facilities
- 53.4% live without telephone service.



**Ms. Ciara Wolf** - I am an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community from District 1, and was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona. I am 22-years-old and am the mother of a beautiful 2-year-old boy. During my free time I enjoy spending time with my son and family. I decided to pursue the healthcare field because I have a strong desire to help others. My education and employment goal is to complete the Ophthalmic Assistant Program and become certified. Due to the strong support and assistance to pursue my career, I would love to return to Gila River Health Care and provide services for my community. I feel that through this opportunity, it will provide me the foundation to make great strides in my life and future endeavors.



## # 1- Know thyself: What are your goals, your gifts, & time commitments ?

Service delivery vs skill transfer vs systems transfer

Teaching, surgery, clinical/diagnostic training, advocacy,  
Research, medical-legal, policy, and hospital administration

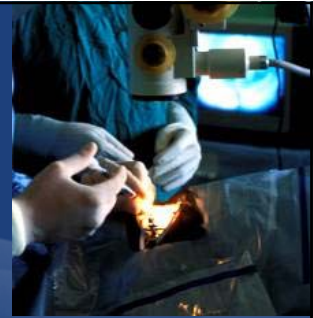
Is your focus/interest in logistics/administration

Time audits on daily, monthly, & annually

Solo vs Team vs Organization vs Partnership

1-2 weeks/year vs 2 year sabbatical vs career

You do NOT need to travel to have a global impact



## # 2- 90% of Sailing Mistakes are Made Before You Leave the Docks

**Start organizing your objectives, logistics, & supplies and aligning them with the in-country partners at least 6 months in advance**

- Travel clinic and personal health insurance/evacuation insurance
- Medical Malpractice Coverage
- Supplies, supplies, supplies- Customs Approval
- Travel visas- do you need a BUSINESS Visa
- Invitation & Approval Letters from MoH
- Temporary Licensing & Credentialing
- Weekly phone calls with hosts the last month especially patient selection and weekly schedule
- Plan the Flight, Fly the plan



### #3- Do You Know Where You Are?

Who else is doing similar work here? Collaborating with existing NGOs, in-country societies, and in-country sourcing for supplies?

Where & who to go to for help? Where is your “fixer”?

Take the first day to see patients and orient yourself/team to the operating room. Look at the whole pathway including biometry, anesthesia evaluation, microscope & chair, sterilization, and post-op care/hospitalization. This also gives you a day for jet lag “washout”

Where to go with dropped nucleus or endophthalmitis?

What are the rules for expired products, registered products (for example, Trypan Blue), donations, and medical licensing?



### # 4 Useful vs Helpful– Alignment

What value are you bringing? Does this align with the expectations and needs of the hosts?

What is your motivation and will it be sustained after the program? What is the long-term utility & impact? How is this being measured- output vs outcomes?

Is a donated machine with no warranty, supply chain for consumables, and/or local service engineers “useful” long term? What about a beautiful Retina Book in English in Western China?

Ask for regular feedback and schedule a program review before you complete your work



## #5 Safety First (Middle & Last)

### Personal & Team Safety

- Needle stick chemoprophylaxis & sharps handling/containers
- Road Travel
- Local Hospital
- Personal medicines (in carry-on)
- Local Communications- Local SIM Cards
- Haiti- Godfather Crisis



### Patient Safety

- Anesthesia & monitoring (inside and outside the OR)
- Patient selection- “the best cases that I have ever done are the ones I never started”
- Infection control and sterile technique
- “Time Out”- Surgical Safety Checklists & double checking IOL library/availability



## #6- Plan B/Cherwek’s Law- Murphy was an Optimist so Always have a Place to Go



• First time volunteers, I strongly recommend that you go with an established NGO and start your global ophthalmology “learning curve” with an existing network or mentor. This also helps to make sure that your initial efforts feed into a broader strategy, have more support, and can be carried on once you complete your work.

•The Devil Sleeps in the Details- Time out yourself 1 hour before the first case

- “Where is my favorite second Instrument?”
- “What are we going to use for irrigating solution?”
- “What are my parameters again?”



## #7- Networks are the New knowledge Networks & Existing Resources

• Find a mentor- “Never meet your heroes and always thank you mentors”. I have a younger “tech mentor”...



- AAO Global Training
- YO2GO
- IAPB/Vision 2020
- Stan Pletcher & Global Sight Alliance
- Global Fellowships & Academic Centers-  
University of Nebraska, Moran



## # 8- The Future (& World) Ain't What It Used to Be

According to Pew's research, **89 percent** of adults now own a smartphone or basic cell phone in South Africa and Nigeria, **83 percent** in Senegal and Ghana, **82 percent** in Kenya, **73 percent** in Tanzania and **65 percent** in Uganda.  
Apr 20, 2015



There has never been a more connected time with more exciting “game changing” technologies than now for Global Ophthalmology!!!



## #9 You (and your skills) only grow outside your comfort zone



Financial Advisor- Without money, there is no mission

Surgical Coaching

You are an athlete- physical therapy before an injury and physical therapy something you do, not a place you go

You can learn a lot from a little (necessity is the mother of all invention)

Have the hard conversations with your partners (donations)

The currency of the future Unlearning is the learning



## One Last Thought (#10)

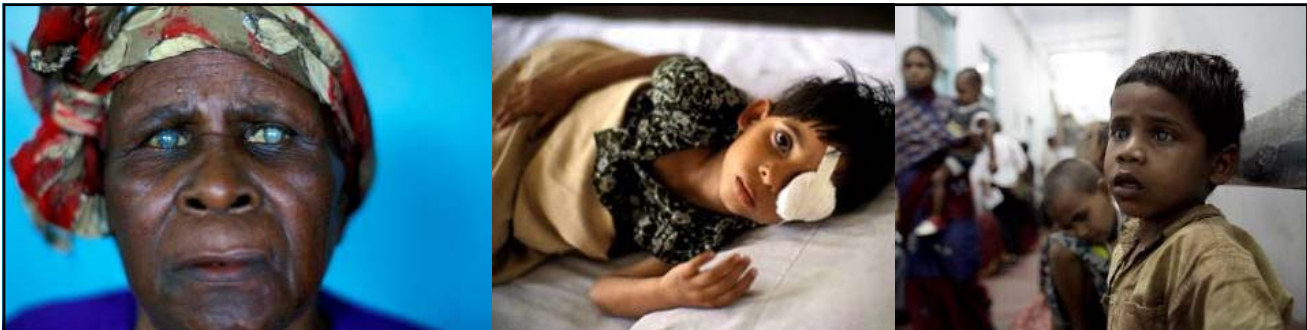
“I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

Maya Angelou



# My Take Away

“It is all about the follow-up.”



# Questions?



Not your typical day in the OR and learning all over again (and again)

