LEVOLOSI HEALTH CENTER
ELECTIVE AFRICA
ARUSHA, TANZANIA

Josh Wang, Class of 2019

http://amsaiho.org/opportunity/elective-africa/
http://www.timothytwo.org/tanzania.html
WORK DESCRIPTION

- Departments:
  - Minor Theater/Emergency***
  - Consultation/Diagnostics
  - OB/GYN

- Common tasks/procedures in the minor theater:
  - Wound cleaning and dressing
  - Circumcisions
  - Suturing
  - Abscess drainage
Maternity ward occupies around half the hospital, for interns to see live births and Caesarean sections.

Main wing of hospital with “Stop TB” graphic.
Most interns in the hospital generally stay only 2-4 weeks, but since the internship lasts 8 weeks through IIP, a trust relationship is built between students and the doctors. This in turn leads to more direct assistance; for example, during the circumcisions one intern will hand the doctor needed tools, stop bleeding of patient, etc. The doctor may also give intern the key to the supply cupboard.

Another rewarding aspect of the internship was raising money through a fundraiser to buy supplies for the hospital which are often lacking, such as gloves, gauze, local anesthetic, etc.
Examination bed + equipment in the minor theater

Close-up of table with equipment
IMPACT ON ORGANIZATION

- Most days there is a long line of patients at reception and waiting for the theater, so having interns available to assist increases the rate at which patients can be seen and more adequate treatment.

- Supplying the hospital with basic equipment similarly allows for proper and expedient care. For example, if the doctor needs a syringe that has run out in his storage, he will leave the patient on the examination bed to go ask the small pharmacy within the hospital for one at a time. Instead, the staff can find the needed syringe in the supply cupboard.
Presenting supplies purchased with donation money to doctors

Supply cabinet mainly filled by donations from various interns before leaving; 8 weeks prior it had been mostly empty.
IMPACT ON FUTURE PLANS

- This internship has solidified my interest in pursuing medicine. At Princeton it is difficult to get direct exposure to the medical field, so with this opportunity I have determined that I am both interested in studying medicine and providing care to patients. Consequently I aim to finish my premedical prerequisites to apply to medical school.

- I am also now interested in potentially becoming a doctor abroad both in the near and far future, whether it be a permanent or temporary career.
A local market

The residence

An orphanage we visited often

Mt. Meru as seen from the backyard
CONCLUDING REMARKS

- I would highly recommend this internship to anyone who is interested in medicine and/or global health, both since you get a taste of various medical fields and experience health care in a developing country with its unique challenges.

- Despite being busy both inside and outside the hospital, I would recommend the interns to take the time to talk with local people and become more culturally aware, as well as taking advantage of the Swahili lessons provided with the internship.

- Feel free to contact me at joshuazw@princeton.edu with any questions!