“En Attendant Godot”
What We Do as We Wait

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no financial disclosures

Young girl and woman brick workers DRC
“En Attendant Godot”

“World premiere production of Waiting for Godot 5 January 1953 at the Théâtre de Babylone in Paris.”
Let me begin with a story...

MSF Triage Tent, 2016
Transport triage to theatre
Colorectal surgeon…C sx…
meaning of ‘obstructed labor’
Sun had set...no electricity...enormous trees...sounds of nature...emotions palpable
response to stimulus...

down arrow

capitalized text: palpable pulse
GSW shoulder  no angio  no pan-endo
function over form  spare the skin
essential value of ketamine
America

Tylenol
Gabapentin
Dilaudid, Fentanyl, Codeine
Alvimopan
Spinal
GA - Ventilator
AbThera
Angio
CT
NPO
NGT
Ostomy
Staplers
Ostomy Supplies
Blood Transfusions
Plethora of Labs
Consultants
Ambulation (limited)

CAR – MSF

O2 6l/min max
Ketamine
Tourniquet
Tramadol
Ambulation
Ceftriaxone/Cipro/Flagyl/Augmentin
Limited suture
Early Feeding regular diet
Local blood donors rare
“African ERAS...”

same procedure → postop recovery

less interference
POD # 1

Tramadol

Ambulating Broth
All victims of violence, regardless of race or faith... have families
The Human Resources for Health Program in Rwanda — A New Partnership


A global shortage of 4.3 million health professionals poses a major bottleneck to poor people worldwide with regard to benefiting from the fruits of modern medicine. Among existing health professionals, there are also staggering inequities in skill levels and geographic distribution. Unsurprisingly, the deepest national gaps in human resources for health run parallel to poor population-level health outcomes.

Sub-Saharan Africa bears 24% of the global burden of disease but is served by only 4% of the global health workforce. The health graduate schools in the region face overwhelming financial, infrastructural, and personnel constraints, limiting their ability to address the shortage. track to achieve each of the health targets set by the United Nations for child and maternal mortality, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, tuberculosis, and malaria in the Millennium Development Goals. Nearly all Rwandans have health insurance, and the poorest 25% of the population pay no fees. Between 2000 and 2011, life expectancy in Rwanda rose from 48 to 63 years of age (up from just 27 years of age in the early 1990s).

Unprecedented global funding for HIV and AIDS since 2002 has assisted Rwanda and other countries in expanding the availability of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) for the treatment of HIV infection, transforming the disease from a death sentence to a manageable chronic illness and forever altering the context of global health in the process. Having achieved universal
The Catholic Church sent Flemish Priests to proselytize the word of God in Rwanda.

The Flemish priests, belonging to a lower heirarchial status within the European church, identified with the Hutu class of Rwandans.

Although the Hutu comprised the majority, the Tutsi ruled Rwanda due to their Physical attributes ascribed by the Germans, giving them more western features (nose, cheeks, height, eyes).
1990 Kagame “Invades” Rwanda but is defeated by French Commandos in Kigali. He retreats to Virunga Mountains and re-organizes.

July 1993 Hate Radio

April 6, 1994 President Plane Shot Down

April 7-July 15, 1994 Genocide
April 6, 1994 President Plane Shot Down

April 7-July 15, 1994 Genocide

1,000,000 Dead

100 Days
Genocide Consequences

- Indisputable Storyline
- Silence / Lack of Dissent
- Stages of Tolerance
- 80% Population under 20 years of age
There is no “freedom of speech” in Rwanda today. There is no freedom of press. There is no freedom to organize. There is no freedom of assembly. The Kagame regime continues to assassinate and disappear critics, journalists, former business associates, former military and former government officials.”

The “Low Resource Setting”
Limited Availability
“Amputation Set” at end of Day
Challenges

Children and Fire
Moto and Bicycle Trauma
First Case on Call
Pediatric Surgery is an enormous challenge
Hb 4

Osler’s nodes
Challenges
Water and Electric
“Patient is in the room”
Prisoners

Orange – Felons

Pink – Genocide

Supervisors
Red Cross Hats
The “Donation Graveyard”
Surgeons = ability to ‘improvize’

rectal prolapse and cow’s milk
Rectal prolapse rx’d with cow’s milk injection

preop

postop
Abcesses ...anywhere and everywhere

neck  hand  septic myositis
From the operating theatre to the ‘improv’ theatre

empyema
tubing, gravity, bottle

femur fx
tape + stones
Names: Gad
Procedure: 4th & 5th Angers of R hand Contracture Release & STSG

Dr. Rudolph
Dr. Egide
Int. Pamela

Anesthetist: Emmanuel N.

Nurses: Vincent

Instruments Count
- Sutures
- Gauzes
- Blade

Preparation

Needed Materials
- Vaseline gauze
- Blade/Bistouri: N°15
- Humby knife: 1
- Elastic bandage: 2 pieces
- Vicryl 3.0: 3 pieces
- Seringue: 2 cc: 2 pieces
- Abarthe: 2 piece

Communication Preparation Anticipation
burns and fractures

- amazingly common
- huge impact on inability to work
- 1/5 global deaths 2* surg disease/trauma

G IIIB
Ex Fix
Chronic Advanced Disease

Kaposi

Chronic Osteomyelitis
Ten Commandments of Working in Low Resource Settings

I. Concentrate on the youth, for they are the most likely to listen, learn, and implement institutional reforms necessary on a grand scale. Have faith. Faith outperforms hope.

II. It is not about you! However the most valuable asset you have is your ability to positively affect others with your talents. Your impact on others will far outlast your possessions that will all rot with time.
III.
Survival is Adaptation – Avoid personal and institutional “Brain Drain”.
IV. Understand that priorities are not set by you, but by those with whom you are working. Low expectations rule the day.
V.
Time is on no one’s side. The impact of any work done may not become observed or palpable for years. You will likely leave no fingerprints. Never abandon yourself.
VI.
Sometimes the most formidable obstacles to change are those in power with their own cultural and institutional imprinting. Expect change to be minimal.

VII.
Develop as many personal and institutional relationships as possible — networking groups and forming coalitions is critical to success.
VIII.
“Lines in the Sand” are a constantly moving target.
IX.

Don’t assume hoofbeats mean horses!
X. Always consider the road not taken as an alternative in achieving whatever goals you set. Consider the arts as a means to free yourself from the concerns of the day.
Plan Ahead!!!
US Armed Forces field manual

Tourniquet

‘Scoop and Run’ vs ‘Lie and Die’

Ketamine

‘Special K’
The Ethical Dilemma

8 Year Old Boy

Fever, chills, arthralgias

Progressive sepsis

Death Day 5
Second Child 10 YO Male

Fever, Arthralgia, Somnolence

Rash

Progressive Sepsis

Death Day 6
14 YO Boy

Fever, Rash, Vesicular Lesions over Entire Corpus

Third Child
Father was a BUSHMEAT Hunter
Nurse at Hospital
Fever / Arthralgia
Vesicular Rash / Lymphadenopathy

Transmission from mother ➡️ nurse
Ebola, now Zika, monkey pox
risk of global pandemics
Bioterrorism
Total 8 patients
No Internet x 3 weeks
Meetings? - Plan of Action? Confidentiality?
Situational Awareness
Week 2, Expatriot Pediatrician with fever, malaise, vesicular lesions
Expat vs National Infection
Chain of Command
Obligation of Camp / Intl Travel
Leadership at all levels
Global surgery experience
Possibility to return to our roots
How did we get to this?

- Imed X 20
- Vent
- CRRT
- EMRs
- 68k ICD-10s
- CPTs
- HMOs
- ACA
- Lawsuits

MD BURNOUT
Chance to rediscover our ‘raison d’etre’ ‘renew our vows’
Very **profitable** experience

you receive much more than you give
CAR Operating Room Crew - Tireless
Moving forward...
Each of us has a path to choose

CAR Water Supply

CAR Infirmiere
As you learn in maturity aren’t simple things, such as acquiring information and skills. You learn not to engage in self-destructive behavior. You learn not to burn up energy in anxiety. You discover how to manage your tensions. You learn that self-pity and resentment are among the most toxic of drugs. You find that the world loves talent but pays off on character. You come to understand that most people are neither for you nor against you; they are thinking about themselves. You learn that no matter how hard you try to please, some people in this world are not going to love you—a lesson that is at first troubling and then really quite relaxing.

John W. Gardner
The bananas are good...
Bibliography


