

**Going Forward:** Ultimately, natural compounds that are responsible for the anti-cancer activity may be identified in the extracts, but the effects of the mixtures contained in extracts are anticipated to be stronger than those of individual compounds. Inclusion of additional sites in West Africa is being explored.

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### Lessons from the establishment of Nepal's first skin bank

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**Program/Project Purpose:** In January 2014, our team partnered with ReSurge International to examine peri-operative burn care in Nepal. In Nepal, burn trauma remains an extremely common source of injury and disability, causing more than 55,000 injuries annually. Unfortunately, patients in Nepal who sustain burns on over 35% of their body cannot be successfully treated and typically die from infections. To combat this challenge, our team worked with the local Nepali team at Kirtipur Hospital to establish the country's first ever skin bank and offer these burn patients another chance at life.

**Structure/Methods/Design:** With the ultimate goal of creating a sustainable skin banking program, we identified four major tasks: 1) Identify and acquire the minimum set of equipment needed to collect, process, store, and graft cadaveric skin for burn injuries; 2) Develop feasible and safe donation protocols and documentation for low-resource settings; 3) Pilot test the end-to-end donation system with donors and patients; and 4) Develop a long-term awareness program to introduce the novel concept of skin donations to the Nepali people.

**Outcome & Evaluation:** Since January 2014, the skin bank program has made tremendous strides. The hospital acquired all of the necessary equipment and materials for the skin bank through a combination of local and international fundraising efforts. In collaboration with US-based tissue distribution organizations, existing US skin banking protocols were adapted for the Nepali setting and tested with potential patients, donors, and physicians. These successes have culminated in 3 skin donations this year, which have been successfully used to save the lives for 4 severe burn patients.

**Going Forward:** Long-term sustainability now depends on spreading awareness and education in the Kathmandu Valley to overcome religious and cultural barriers that have slowed widespread adoption. New partnerships with the Nepali cornea donation program and an Indian skin bank will provide valuable lessons on creating a culturally sensitive awareness campaign. Given the low cost and the high utility of this skin bank, we eventually hope to expand this system to the rest of ReSurge's international partner hospital network.

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### The role of distance-learning partnerships in building local undergraduate and postgraduate psychiatry capacity in resource-poor contexts

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**Program/Project Purpose:** Unstable geopolitical environments present barriers to medical education and healthcare systems development. In Palestine, the Separation Wall, numerous checkpoints, and ongoing political volatility have made psychiatric disease particularly prominent. Cultural attitudes towards mental illness, lack of postgraduate education, and limited resources result in poor provision of psychiatric care. OxPal Medlink, established in 2011, is a synchronous web-based, distance-learning partnership aiming to address these deficits in medical education for Palestinian students and postgraduate trainees.

**Structure/Methods/Design:** Using an online virtual classroom, participants attend tutorials with clinicians at Oxford University Hospitals. Tutor- and student-provided cases act as the focus for developing undergraduate clinical reasoning. Postgraduate tutorials focus on sub-specialities including forensic and child psychiatry. Evaluation is via online questionnaires. A yearly field trip to the West Bank provides an opportunity to host face-to-face focus groups and semi-structured interviews with students, psychiatric trainees and clinical faculty, allowing ongoing needs assessment. During the 2015 trip, OxPal also collaborated with the Palestinian Ministry of Health, and charity IMET, to host a teaching conference in mental health attended by over 50 healthcare workers.

**Outcome & Evaluation:** In the past two years, 16 undergraduate psychiatry tutorials have been delivered, engaging 49 students at four universities. Students stated that OxPal positively modified their current practice with 92% rating tutorials "Fairly" or "Very" relevant to their future practice. In the last 15 months, 4 postgraduate psychiatry tutorials have also been delivered to 8 psychiatry residents at various stages of training at Bethlehem Mental Hospital. All trainees reported greater confidence in subject areas following tutorials. 66% stated that tutorials were relevant to psychiatric practice in Palestine and 100% expressed intent to register for further tutorials. All OxPal participants rated tutorials "Good" or "Excellent".

**Going Forward:** OxPal is a unique educational intervention using web-based distance learning to facilitate delivery of high-quality and locally-relevant teaching in psychiatry, with potential to strengthen local educational capacity. The programme has demonstrated that long-distance collaboration at both undergraduate and postgraduate level is increasingly feasible using online platforms. OxPal will continue delivering psychiatry seminars in topics requested by trainees, whilst also extending teaching to other clinical specialities such as psychology.

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