Shajara
(African Diary/Dossier Africain)

Shajara is your opportunity to promote emergency care related events happening in Africa. Every day on our continent, individuals and groups are involved in activities to improve either directly or indirectly, emergency care for patients. The goal is to develop the AFJEM community into a supportive, interactive network. We encourage anyone teaching, developing or supporting events in Africa to tell us about their activities in order to promote their upcoming events. Email Shajara at africandiary@afjem.com.

The focus of this month’s Shajara regards web events and resources that can help strengthen emergency care across Africa. Technology and Web 2.0 are valuable tools in helping to build knowledge and skills. Here is our pick of the bunch:

MedicineAfrica

MedicineAfrica is an augmented social network which enable doctors to receive clinical support and training live and interacting in small groups with professors from across the world. It also supports training within countries where teaching resources are stretched.

Its aim is to harness the knowledge capital in Western Health Care Systems and find a conduit, through innovative technology to share it with developing countries. Through an online network and clinical case based live tutorials doctors throughout the world are able to deliver clinical teaching to the ‘bed-side’ in Africa. Currently MedicineAfrica gives postgraduate training and support to all the final year medical students in Somaliland and all the doctors in training.

Moreover, the process is two way and doctors in Africa have been giving live training to medical students in the UK with an interest in global health. This has brought alive the flat world to the global health students and allowed to doctors in Somaliland to both connect and improve their teaching skills. The doctors in the UK who teach and the medical students who are taught are gaining new insights into the Somali culture, to the new things that Somali culture can bring to Medicine to improve it in the Developed World and a new connectedness to the enormous beauty of a place which is often written off as war ravaged.

MedicineAfrica is currently expanding its programmes to Sierra Leone, Ghana, Palestine and Zimbabwe to support postgraduate paediatric training in Sierra Leone and Cancer Care training in Ghana. Together these programmes will hopefully continue to contribute to a flatter world of care for patients.

See the medicineafricatv youtube channel and medicineafrica.com to find out more.

FREEEMERGENCYTALKS.NET

Noted Emergency Physician and speaker Prof Joe Lex has put together a website hosting more than 1400 emergency care related talks, many of them from large International meetings. These talks are in mp3 format and are downloadable or able to be streamed online.

Find them at www.freeemergencytalks.net

Accessing African medical literature

It is possible to access medical literature relevant to emergency care in Africa. The WHO have collated a list of African health care journals with links to the journal or the African Index Medicus. http://indexmedicus.afro.who.int/Journals/Indexj.htm

Open access journals are available to all. The Directory of Open Access Journals (www.doaj.org) has hundreds of medical journals listed.

Internet based learning is a rapidly developing tool and many universities are making online educational coursework freely available. These include Johns Hopkins, Tufts, UCT and MIT.
Upcoming events in 2012

International Conference on Emergency Medicine
27–30 June 2012, Dublin, Ireland
www.icem2012.org

African Conference in Emergency Medicine
30 Oct–1 Nov 2012, Accra, Ghana
www.afcem2012.com

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Available online 14 September 2011