



Editorial

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ABOARD THE DIGITAL AIRLINER, *Global Health*, the captain has turned off the fasten seat belt sign and the readers are on their way to a three-continent journey, with a stop in the United States and connecting flights to Africa and India. But airline travel is a hassle these days – why not forgo the travel itinerary and save both money and stress? For reading pleasure, fire up your Kindle and learn a bit about pharmacy practice in India; medication therapy management in Lawrence county, Ohio (U.S.A.); pharmacy service in Kenya, Africa, and a Study Abroad program of experiential learning that finds a blend of oxen and engineers in Chennai, India.

In the second section of a two-part series entitled, *Two Different Worlds of Pharmacy Education – United States of America and India*, Dr. Chandra Sekar delves deeper into the practice of pharmacy in two countries and concludes each one must take steps to upgrade the profession. In India, the role of the pharmacist in a retail pharmacy (more commonly referred to as a “medicine shop” or “chemist”) or a hospital fails to recognize the contribution that a pharmaceutical education provides. On the other hand, drugs are inexpensive and readily available, often without a prescription. In the United States where a six-year pharmacy degree is the norm and the newly graduated pharmacist receives a Pharm D. (Doctor of Pharmacy) degree, these highly trained practitioners’ talents are not being utilized in the real world of pharmacy practice. In the political arena, Dr. Sekar suggests that pharmacists should demand their rightful place at the health care (negotiating) table.

All of us probably wish there were a litmus test for health status. Place a small piece of litmus paper on the tip of a person’s tongue; visually scan the results, and “Voila” we know if that ice cream cone is really worth the calories and cholesterol. Life is not that easy, so we turn to Dr. Donald Stansloski and two Pharm D. candidates, Laura Mako and Kyle Yoder for *An Analysis of the Overall Health Status of Lawrence County, Ohio*. This article examines one county in Ohio (U.S.A.) to identify that population’s health problems. Further, the authors focus on health issues that might be managed by a pharmacist. Data from the Center for Disease Control and other population resources were used to identify the Ohio County with the most morbidity and mortality from diseases most responsive to pharmacist management. The authors

discuss the use of medication therapy management in treating certain noncommunicable diseases, such as diabetes.

In 2009, Macau had a life expectancy of 84.36 years, and it was ranked first in the world country ranking for life expectancy. Kenya was ranked 185th of 221 countries, and it had a life expectancy of 57.86 years (CIA World Fact Book). If a person is born in Macau, he or she is likely live 26.5 years longer than if that person is born in Kenya. Against this background, a group of volunteers from Ohio Northern University (Ada, Ohio, U.S.A.) share with our readers the emotional and far-reaching impact health care volunteerism can have on an impoverished people. Authors Dr. Kristen Finley and Terren Kindsvatter chronicle their journey in an article entitled, *Pharmacy Service With Passion in Kenya, Africa*. In it, a young Kenyan boy is given an opportunity by a local judge to study at a private school and eventually studies medicine in the United States thanks to his local village members’ providing financial support for his airline ticket. The young man vows to bring back medical treatment and doctors to his village. The rest is history. SHARE is born (Student Health Assistance Rural Experience). Each year teams of volunteers from all health professions head to small Kenyan villages to provide a smorgasbord of health care services – and they do it with a passion.

Experiential learning is learning through direct real-life exposure to the study topic. Study Abroad programs bridge the classroom and the real world, and an example of these benefits are explored in an article entitled, *India – Where Oxen and Engineers Co-Exist – An American Perspective on Enterprise*. Authors Dr. Nabarun Ghose and William Ruse collaborate to examine the value of studying abroad in a global economic world, and they describe the valuable lessons learned via a case study that contrasts a mixture of cultures – an ox drawn cart within eyesight of a modern office building inhabited by highly skilled engineers. Discipline focused study abroad programs, especially, provide the sustainable competitive advantages (Vance, 2005) of firsthand insider knowledge and invaluable observations of backstage culture. The advantages of study abroad can be categorized into two sets of competencies: cultural competency and business competency. In Part Two of the article, readers are taken on a journey by a faculty member who before had seen India only through the eyes of his students (many of whom were from India). As an opening caveat points out – this was no “Margarita Trip.” In truth, it is difficult to replicate the real world in the classroom.

Reference

Vance (2005).