

Office for Global Health - Student Impressions

Personal Details

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| Name | Lindsey Jones |
| Email - USYD | |
| Email - other | |
| Nationality | Australian |

OGH Placement Details

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| Country | Cambodia |
| City / Town | Phnom Penh |
| Hospital | National Paediatric Hospital & One-2-One Organization |
| Department / Rotations | |
| Start date | 4 Jan 2016 |
| End date | 26 Feb 2016 |
| Was this a Stage 3 elective placement? | Yes |

Summary of Placement/s (about 500 words will suffice)

- ✓ What were the key medical aspects that you learnt on your OGH placement/s that will contribute to you becoming a better doctor?
- ✓ What were the key cultural lessons that you learnt during your placement/s?
- ✓ What were the challenges you faced – either organizing the placement or while in-country?
- ✓ Please include at least 1 -2 appropriate photos

Lindsey Jones – medical student from Sydney Medical School, undertook an Elective in Cambodia in 2015 – 16

The Sydney Medical Program Elective Term is an exciting time for many students – a time for travel, personal growth, and education. I was very honoured to receive the Dr. Carl

Richard Jackson Scholarship in 2015-16 and began planning my trip to Cambodia almost immediately.

My first placement was at the National Paediatric Hospital in the heart of Phnom Penh. The professors were extremely keen to teach and the medical students were very welcoming and eager to share their knowledge while practicing their English. Furthermore, the patients and their families were grateful for the medical attention despite the sometimes-desolate conditions in which it was delivered. With my time split between respiratory, gastroenterology, and surgery, I was able to see a wide variety of cases and was often offered hands on experience. Some of the most notable cases included the surgical and medical management of third degree burns, an alveolar bone graft for the repair of a cleft palate, and multiple incidences of Osteogenesis Imperfect.

My second placement was also located in Phnom Penh at a medical clinic run by One-2-One Cambodia. One-2-One is a NGO that focuses specifically on providing for the poor and vulnerable populations of Cambodia. Furthermore, One-2-One has a holistic approach that attempts to address all determinates of health by providing educational programs, dental programs, vocational programs, and physical movement programs. My four weeks with One-2-One was an eye opening experience in that the majority of clinics were conducted in the alleyways of the slums¹ of Phnom Penh. Hygiene in this setting was a major barrier to effective delivery of health care. Nevertheless, the mobile clinic came armed with generous supplies of masks, gloves, and anti-bacterial hand-wash. I was fortunate enough to fully engage in parallel consulting via the help of a volunteer translator. Unfortunately, the care we could provide in such setting was rudimentary at best. Referrals to further services were often ignored due to lack of time, lack of transport, and lack of money. While many of the inhabitants of the slums presented with malnutrition, anaemia, and poor dentition, three of the most interesting cases for me were 1) a case of untreated, chronic uterine prolapse and 2) an undiagnosed case of cerebral palsy in a two year old boy with a known ten minute post birth hypoxic event and 3) a severe case of domestic violence in which a young boy was brutally whipped.

Before setting out on the elective, I had made a personal goal of immersing myself in the local culture and seeing as much of the country as possible. I'm happy to report that I was able to achieve this goal, although it made for a jam-packed schedule. I learned of the tortuous history of Cambodia by visiting the Killing Fields and Toul Sleng Genocide Museum and was even privileged enough to talk with survivors of the Khmer Rouge about their experience. I became friends with the owner of my guesthouse and with my tuk tuk driver, learning about their culture and religious beliefs and the struggles of living in a poverty stricken country. I

¹ 'Slums' is term used by One-2-One when referencing their various mobile clinics. E.g. House Above the Water Slum Clinic.

visited the Phnom Tamao Wildlife Sanctuary where I fed wild animals while hearing stories of poachers and illegal animal trading. I made daily excursions to the local markets, honing my bargaining skills and experiencing new foods, such as the Cambodian 20 day salted egg. I visited the beautiful beaches of Sihanoukville and enjoyed a boat trip out to the island of Koh Rong. I travelled to Siem Reap to experience the wonders of Angkor Wat and toured the floating villages on Lake Tonle Sap. I also visited my local pagoda, Wat Ounalom, where I chatted with a monk about Khmer Buddhism and life inside the monastery.

As a 2015-16 recipient of The Dr. Carl Richard Jackson Scholarship. I cannot begin to express my gratitude to the Jackson family for providing me with such a wonderful and enriching opportunity. I want to thank the entire Jackson family, especially Mrs. Jackson, for all of their support, advice, and interest in my life and my future career.



Permissions

| | Yes | No |
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| I give permission for any comments written in my report to be quoted in materials produced by the Sydney Medical School | y | |
| I give permission to use any photos supplied to be used in materials produced by the Sydney Medical School | y | |
| I give permission that some queries may be passed on to me in future from other prospective students who are interested in the same or similar placement | y | |

Date 26 Feb 2016

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Please return report to:

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THANK YOU!