HEALTHCARE IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS
Assessing Health Practices of Clinics in Remote Regions of the Solomon Islands
by: Amanda Miesnieks

Where: The Solomon Islands are an archipelago of more than 1000 islands in the heart of the South Pacific. These islands contain some of the most remote human populations on the planet. Hundreds of islands are home to tribes without access to electricity, clean water, or adequate health care.

My Expedition:
• Accompanied an NSF funded film crew (Day's Edge Productions) that was creating a film about a National Geographic Explorer's research on speciation
• Assisted with film production
• Responsible for basic medical care of the crew
• Volunteered in local clinics and hospitals at each location we visited

Contact Info:
Working in a Hospital in the Solomon Islands:
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Medical Firsts:
• Witnessed use of a vacuum extraction pump
• Assisted in the delivery of twins
• Assisted in a breech delivery
• Listened to the lungs of a tuberculosis patient
• Audition of a heart murmur
• Uterine fibroid palpation
• Newborn assessment
• Stroke assessment
• Interviewed patients in Pidgin

Medical Firsts:
• Landed on a grass runway in an airplane
• Showered out of a bucket
• Had a hen lay an egg in my bed
• Had a hen defecate in my bed
• Ate Coconut Crab and slippery cabbage
• Was among the first scientists to visit the island of Ulawa

Other Firsts:
• Malaria
• Lack of family planning
• Tuberculosis
• Alcohol abuse
• Accidental injury
• Corruption
• Limited access

Goal:
To learn about a different culture, see how health care is provided in remote regions, and emerge with a deeper understanding of self and my career goals.

Major health problems in the Solomon Islands:
• Malaria
• Tuberculosis
• Alcohol abuse
• Accidental injury
• Limited access

Table: comparison of country-wide statistics for the USA and the Solomon Islands