

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



Medical Firsts:

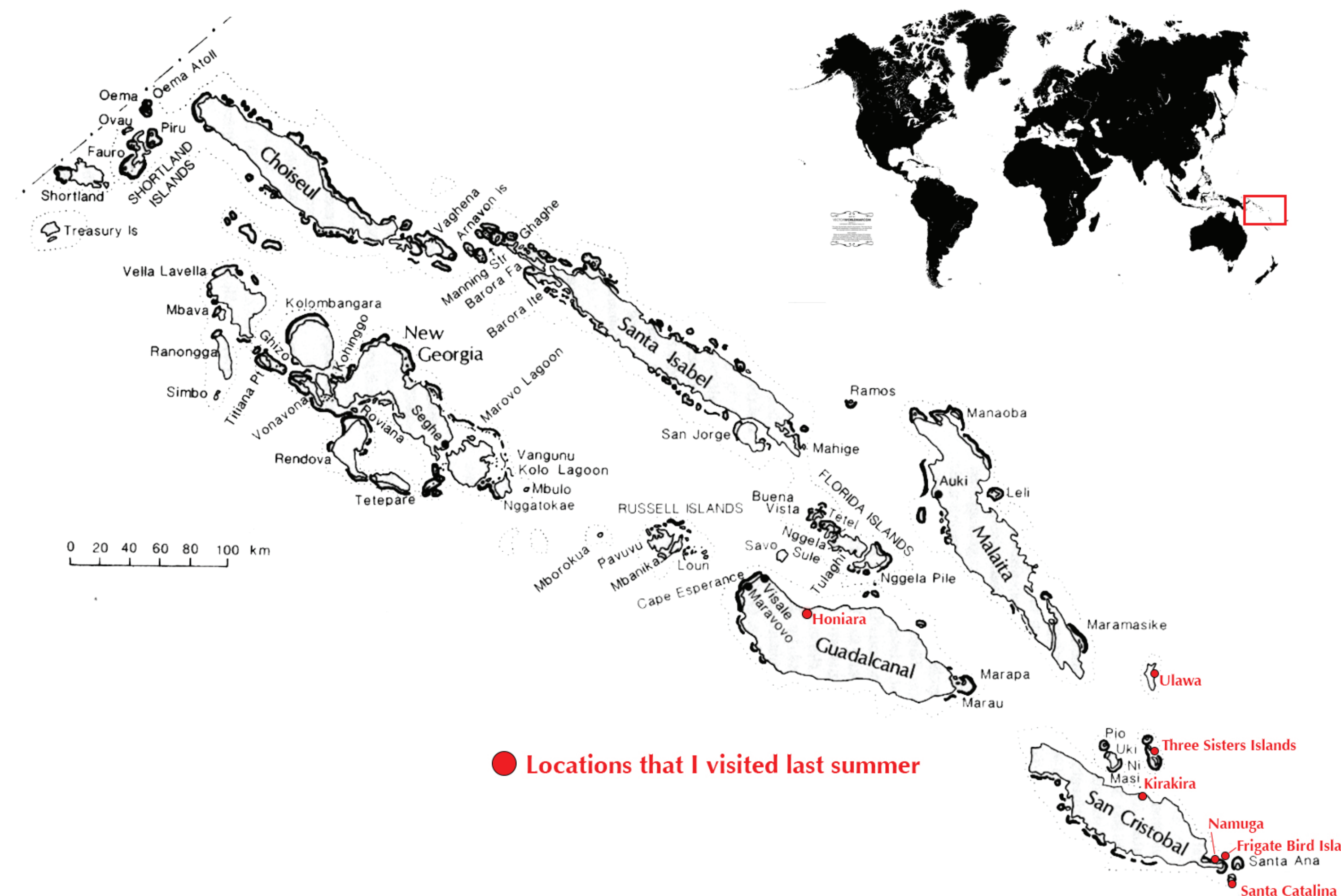
- Witnessed use of a vacuum extraction pump
- Assisted in the delivery of twins
- Assisted in a breach delivery
- Listened to the lungs of a tuberculosis patient
- Audition of a heart murmur
- Uterine fibroid palpation
- Newborn assessment
- Stroke assessment
- Interviewed patients in Pidgin

Other Firsts:

- Landed on a grass runway in an airplane
- Showered out of a bucket
- Learned Pidgin
- Had a hen lay an egg in my bed
- Had a hen defecate in my bed
- Had a hen think my beds was it's bed
- Ate Coconut Crab and slippery cabbage
- Was among the first scientists to visit the island of Ulawa

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.

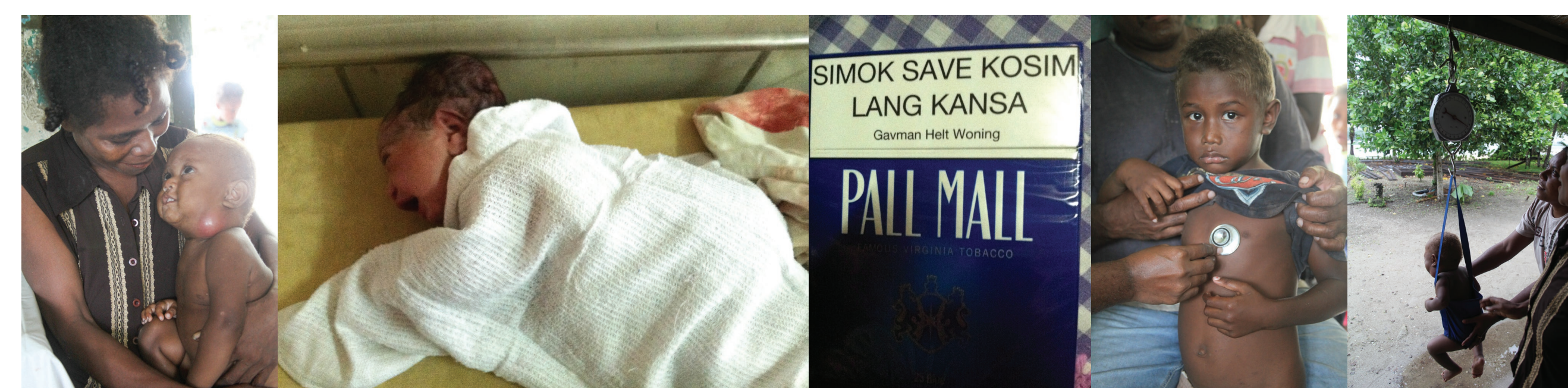


	Solomon Islands	U.S.A
Total Population	550,000	318,000,000
Gross National Income per capita	2,350	48,820
Life Expectancy at birth m/f	68/71	76/81
Probability of dying under 5 per 1000 births	31	7
Probability of dying between 15 and 60 years m/f per 1000 population	201/59	131/77
Total Expenditure on health as % of GDP (2011)	8.8	17.9

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

Major health problems in the Solomon Islands:

- Malaria
- Lack of family planning
- Tuberculosis
- Alcohol abuse
- Accidental injury
- Corruption
- Limited access



Contact Info:

Working in a Hospital in the Solomon Islands:
http://www.hermannoberli.ch/general_e.htm

Dr. Rodney Talo: rodneytalo@yahoo.com
 Director of Kira Kira Hospital of the Makira-Ulawa Province

Dr. James Fink: jfink@bond.edu.au
 Associate Professor (Discipline Lead, Robina Hospital)
 Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine
 Bond University, Australia

Amanda Miesnieks: amiesnieks@gmail.com
 MD Candidate (M2)
 RWJMS

Acknowledgements:

I would like to acknowledge the RWJMS Global Health Office, the RWJMS Retired Faculty Association, the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association, Day's Edge Productions, National Geographic, the National Science Foundation, Dr. Rodney Talo, Dr. James Fink and the University of Miami for their support in completing this project.

