

TECHIES WITHOUT BORDERS

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



To our Techies Without Borders community:

While challenges in 2020 captured our attention just as it did for everyone of you, it was an opportunity for Techies Without Borders (TWB) to contribute to causes that mattered the most.

The Continuing Medical Education on Stick (CMES) project remained the main focus of TWB throughout 2020. We shifted our efforts to ensure that curated, up-to-date knowledge on COVID-19 management was made available to frontline health workers in global austere settings.

TWB remains strong in our commitment to stand united with global communities and organizations leading the charge against social and racial inequities. *Wunan Foundation* and *White Coats 4 Black Lives* are two such organizations that TWB supported in 2020.

Looking forward, TWB has bold and innovative goals for 2021 and beyond. We aim to inspire greater participation in the CMES project from Africa and Oceania regions, welcome new techies and board members to TWB, and connect with more clients and communities.

Once again, I am reminded of the great things that techies working together – without borders - can do to create collective impact in ways we have not imagined before.

Thank you for your continuing support.



Manoj Thomas, President TWB

Donor generosity in 2020 allowed Techies without Borders to end the year in a strong financial position heading into 2021.

TWB Nonprofit Corporation is rated Platinum Level on the GuideStar-Candid Platform which is the highest Seal of Transparency.

Due to the 2020 worldwide pandemic, no travel-related expenses were incurred due to restrictions and travel bans. As 2021 unfolds and the course of the Covid-19 pandemic remains uncertain we anticipate continued postal expenditures as we mail devices to new participants and when travel is safe we plan for travel-related expenses to resume in the Oceania and African regions.

Thanks to volunteer service hours expenditures during the year were kept low and administrative expenses only accounted for 3% of total expenditures.



Jennifer Borneman, CFO TWB

IMPACT 2020

The Continuing Medical Education Project (CMES) provides thumb drives and small computers called Raspberry Pi to doctors and nurses in 15 countries. CMES provides free up-to-date monthly podcasts and PDF files on Emergency Medicine, Rural and Primary Care to over 3600 medical participants serving over 2 million patients. Tracking usage for 2020 we saw:



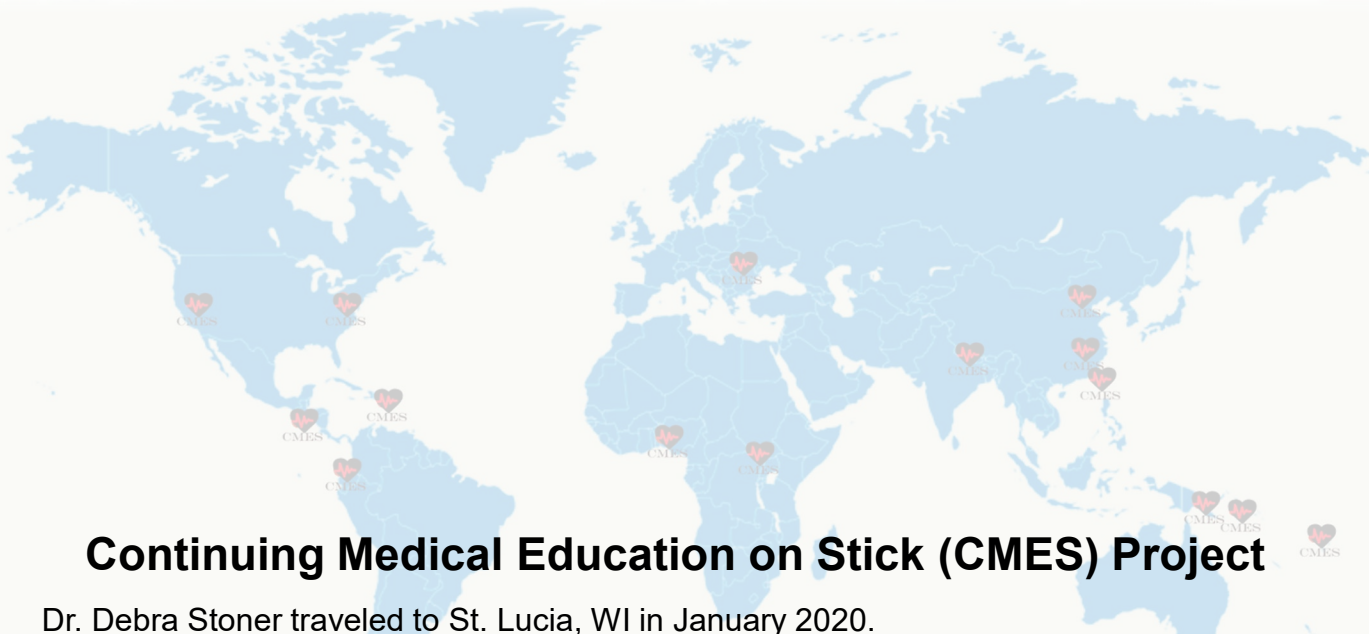
Our USB participants **logged in 101 hours.**



Over 420 individual topic podcasts and associated PDF files were uploaded and participants **downloaded 501 topics** for later listening.



Top 3 articles were: *The Happy MD's Guide to Physician Wellness*, *Point of Care Troponin*, and *Covid-19 Health Care Expansion*.



Continuing Medical Education on Stick (CMES) Project

Dr. Debra Stoner traveled to St. Lucia, WI in January 2020.

- 20 staff members from medical, nursing, and pharmacy at St. Jude Hospital in Vieux Fort, St. Lucia were trained on and received the CMES USB.
- The Victoria Hospital CMES-Pi in Castries, St. Lucia was updated and reinstalled with the help of Kevin Harris and Jirnel Alexander from the IT Department. In May the device was moved to the new OKEU Hospital outside of Castries and successfully installed and continues to provide cutting edge emergency medicine clinical information for the medical teams.

While March saw COVID-19 halt travel, installations, and conference presentations, the IT team continued remote maintenance and technical support in all 15 countries using CMES. In addition, our partner, Emergency Medicine Reviews and Perspective (EMRAP) released the Covid-19 CorePendum chapter from its online medical reference book, as free open-source knowledge which allowed us to upload it to all CMES devices. Vital monthly updates are posted for participants to access the latest information on COVID-19 outbreaks, vaccines, treatments, and global statistics.

Support for Racial Justice

July 2020 TWB published a position statement on “Black Lives Matter” and made donations of \$500 each to the *Wunan Foundation* and *White Coats 4 Black Lives*.

Wunan is an Aboriginal development organization in the East Kimberley region of Western Australia that operates with a clear purpose and strategy to drive long-term socio-economic change for Aboriginal people by providing real opportunities, investing in people’s abilities, and by encouraging and rewarding aspiration and self-responsibility.

White Coats 4 Black Lives, USA energizes a mission to dismantle racism in medicine and promote the health, well being, and self-determination of people of color by addressing and promoting racial justice in communities, medical care, and medical education.

Spotlight on Techies



Chris Close

Chris brings a wealth of experience as our Salesforce Architect...along with his quirky sense of humor and love of all things galactic. He joined TWB to get us off spreadsheets and onto a modern platform, which effectively manages our data and streamlines organizational tasks.

During the day he is the Salesforce Platform Director for Owens & Minor in Richmond, Virginia. Chris holds a B.S.B.A in International Business from the University of Tulsa.

In his free time, Chris can be found hanging from the side of a cliff while rock climbing, hiking, camping, and touring US National Parks.

Publications & Research

1) May 2020 “Citizen-centric capacity development for ICT4D: the case of continuing medical education on a stick” was published in the Journal of Information Technology for Development. Authored by Li, Thomas, Rana, and Stoner, the paper presents a Citizen-centric Capacity Development (CCD) framework that focuses on goal-driven ICT solution design and impact assessment.

2) “Knowledge Management in ICT4D (Information and Communications Technologies for Development) projects”. The research, led by Drs. Thomas, Li and Sistenich investigates factors affecting knowledge management in development projects, from gathering and storing data to training and teaching practitioners, and how beneficiaries of development projects may bridge knowledge gaps. On 27th October, the research team presented preliminary findings to date at the NetHope Summit 2020 conference.

TWB Volunteer Summary

**In 2020 we logged
2264 volunteer hours**

Future Goals

1. TWB is deeply grateful for our donors who continued their support despite global hardships caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. We plan to resume funding campaigns and travel in the fall of 2021.
2. The Oceania CMES Project will launch in the fall/winter 2021 depending on Covid-19 travel restrictions. Target countries are Tonga, Solomon islands, Vanuatu, and Tuvalu.
3. Working with the AFEM we will extend the CMES Project in Africa to additional sites in Uganda, Nigeria and The Democratic Republic of Congo and new sites in Rwanda.
4. We continue to search for indigenous community practitioners who want to participate in CMES through outreach with our partner, Timmy Global Health, in Guatemala and Ecuador.

Partners & Sponsors

Connections with Democratic Republic of Congo continues, thanks to our Handup Congo team leaders Lucy Hobgood-Brown and Dr Vera Sistenich, and Techies Without Borders colleague Dr. Manoj Thomas.


Partnering with the African Federation of Emergency Medicine (AFEM) and its president, Dr. Ben Wachira, Dr. Yan Li and Dr. Debra Stoner developed and distributed a survey on continuing medical education to access the needs and preferences of emergency medicine healthcare providers in Africa. The survey will assist in choosing additional countries and specific hospitals for installation of the CMES Project in Africa.

The survey data will guide the development of future CMES Projects in Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria and Uganda.



TWB Partner & CME Sponsor

Social Media

 Facebook: **210 followers** reaching an average of **3600 people per post**.

LinkedIn: **74 followers** and **interactions** on posts have **increased 67%**. 

 Twitter: **29 followers** and over **800 views per month**.

Instagram: **63 followers** and **36 posts** reaching out to donors and participants **weekly** during 2020.

