

**Sixth Annual Ilula-Minnesota International Healthcare Conference**  
**Iringa, Tanzania**  
**January 28-29, 2019**  
**Final Report**



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*“This conference is very nice and I learn more things. May God bless you for what you are doing for us a nice training it is helpful for us. Thanks for what you are doing a great job.”*

*“It reminds us of our responsibilities and commitments to good quality service delivery to meet patient's rights and needs.”*

# 2019 Ilula-Minnesota International Healthcare Conference

## Final Report

On January 28-29, 2019, The Sixth Annual Ilula-Minnesota International Medical Conference was conducted in Iringa, Tanzania. This report summarizes the outcomes of the conference.

Shoulder to Shoulder, in conjunction with Global Health Ministries, has partnered with Ilula Lutheran Hospital in Ilula, Tanzania for more than 15 years to develop and improve the services provided to the local area by the hospital. Starting in 2014, Shoulder to Shoulder presented the inaugural Ilula-Minnesota International Healthcare Conference. Our first course was presented in January 2014 with 30 attendees. Based on extremely positive feedback from the initial conference, our partners in Tanzania encouraged us to significantly expand the conference to offer this educational experience to a much larger audience of caregivers. As a result, we expanded the 2015 conference to include all 28 Southern Zone Lutheran Hospitals with a total attendance of approximately 80 professionals. For the 2016 conference, we added an administrative track to our conference and included over 100 attendees. The 2017 conference expanded attendance to include nursing school staff. For the 2019 conference we hosted over 100 Tanzanian health care professionals.

The invited hospitals from the Southern Zone of Tanzania included eight regions (28 Primary Care Hospitals)

- Iringa (Ilula and Tosamaganga)
- Njombe (Ilembula, Milo, Lugarawa, Bulongwa, Ikonda, St. Joseph Ikelu)
- Ruvuma (Peramiho, Mbesa, Litembo, Liuli, Lituhi, Ruanda)
- Mbeya (Mwambani, Igogwe, Mbozi, Matema, Itete, Isoko, Mbalizi, Chimala)
- Rukwa (Namanyere, Dr. Atman Mem. Hospital)
- Katavi (no hospital currently)
- Mtwara (Ndanda)
- Lindi (Mnero, Nyangao, St. Martin Kipatimu)

The conference is based on 5 principles:

1. Lifelong Learning. We believe all professionals should contribute to a culture of learning and continuously learn to improve our practice. We include students and residents in preparation and presentation of the conference.

2. Interprofessional teamwork. We include nursing, pharmacy, administrators, and physicians in both the attendance and presentations. We emphasize teamwork throughout the conference. We each bring unique knowledge and skills to share; specifically, Tanzanian presenters emphasize tropical medicine and HIV, American presenters emphasize the growing global problem of chronic and non-communicable diseases.

3. Mutual Respect. We emphasize the ability for all our participants to teach and learn from each other regardless of differences in practice setting, culture, and socioeconomic situation. We include local leaders in planning the conference and select topics based on feedback from participants. Presentations are delivered by both US and Tanzanian professionals. We adhere to the highest international standards in the preparation of the educational content and accreditation of the program. The program is based on a foundation of a longstanding and ongoing relationship.

4. Continuous improvement. Learning should drive improvement in practice. We include education on principles and tools for developing quality improvement plans. Each team prepares a specific quality improvement plan to implement upon returning to home hospitals.

5. Sustainable Impact. We believe that education and improvement are some of the most valuable ways to promote a lasting and sustainable positive impact on the health of our partner's communities.

An academic paper describing the conference has been published in the Christian Journal for Global Health and can be found here: <http://journal.cjgh.org/index.php/cjgh/article/view/129> A copy of the paper is included with this report for your interest.

The content of the course was based on learning needs identified by participants from the previous conference. Learning formats included didactic lectures, question and answer sessions, skills labs, and group sessions to develop quality improvement plans. A total of 13 hours of instruction was provided.

In addition to the benefits to patients and staff in Tanzania, participation in this program provided a unique opportunity for volunteer US physicians, nurses, pharmacists, administrators, and students by promoting engagement in the profession, providing an opportunity to serve and learn about medicine in the developing world, engage interest in contributing to global health development, and fostering a culture of education. In planning the conference, we adhere as closely as possible to the highest international educational standards. As such, the conference received approval from the Education Department at the HealthEast Care System to provide participants with fully accredited continuing medical education credits for participation in this program.

All the faculty involved in the program provided all services on a volunteer basis without any compensation and were fully responsible for all costs of their own transportation, travel expenses and living expenses while volunteering to serve in this program. We would like to thank our sponsors, faculty, students, organizers, and attendees for another successful conference that we believe will promote improved health in southern Tanzania, and foster relationships across continents.

Course Directors: John Kvasnicka, MD; Ken Olson, MD; Randy Hurley, MD; Dr. Mufwimi Saga

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#### Evaluation Results:

- When asked to rate the overall value of the conference on a scale of 1-10, responses averaged 8.9 with a median of 9
- Each team created a quality improvement action plan to implement at their home hospital (available upon request)
- Representative comments from the evaluation forms are noted below.

Overall, we believe this conference provides great value, has significant potential to improve healthcare in Tanzania, and enhances our ongoing partnership. We hope to be able to continue this course in future years and continue to improve the format and content.

## Attachment A Learning objectives

1. Participants will learn current concepts and techniques in medical care in the acute hospital setting
2. Participants will be able to compare and contrast current practices in US hospitals and Tanzania hospitals. Reasons for differences will be highlighted.
3. Participants will develop quality improvement action plans for their own hospitals based on learning from the presentations and skills lab

## Attachment B: Schedule

DAY 1 Monday						
Time	Duration	Topic	Speaker	Optional Breakout		
8:00AM		Registration				
8:30 AM		Welcome/Invocation				
8:45 AM	30	<b>Keynote Address: Lecture 1</b>	Prostate Cancer	Randy Hurley		
9:15 AM	30	<b>Lecture 2</b>	Quality Improvement	Steve Moberg		
9:45 AM	30	<b>Lecture 3</b>	Hyperglycemia/DKA	Kaylin Maddy		
10:15 AM		<i>Breakfast 45 min</i>				
11:00 AM	30	<b>Lecture 4</b>	Preeclampsia/Eclampsia	Leslie Pratt		
11:30 AM	30	<b>Lecture 5</b>	Pelvis Pain / Birth Control	Seleipiri Akobo		
12:00 PM	30	<b>Lecture 6</b>	Cancer Immunotherapy	Arek Dudek		
12:30 PM	30	<b>Lecture 7</b>	Infertility	Dr. Mbise		
1:00 PM		<i>Lunch 60 min</i>				
2:00 PM	30	<b>Lecture 8</b>	Diabetes	Michael Nkrumah		
2:30 PM	30	<b>Lecture 9</b>	Neonatal Resuscitation	Kelsey Mosser		
3:00 PM	30	<i>Refreshments</i>				
3:30PM	30	<b>Lecture 10</b>	HIV Update	Michael Madalon	Preeclampsia/E clampsia	Pratt/Mbise
4:00 PM	30	<b>Lecture 11</b>	Communication/AIDET	Sara Patton		
4:30 PM	30	<b>Lecture 12</b>	Basic Life Support	Deann Tims		
5:00 PM		Adjourn for the Day				
Day 2 Tuesday						
8:00 AM	30	<b>Lecture 13</b>	No Scalpel Vasectomy	Ken Olson		
8:30 AM	30	<b>Lecture 14</b>	Customer Care	Kari Hurley	Research and IRB	Arek Dudek
9:00 AM	30	<b>Lecture 15</b>	Hypertension	Maja Zioncheck	Heart Failure	Megan Nelson
9:30 AM	30	<b>Lecture 16</b>	Ultrasound	Michaela Vivant	Sleep Disorders	Chandra Cherukuri
10:00 AM	30	<b>Lecture 17</b>	Abnormal Uterine Bleeding	Dr. Mbise	Chronic Kidney Disease	Deepthi Malepati
10:30 AM		<i>Breakfast 45 min</i>				
11:15 AM	30	<b>Lecture 18</b>	Intimate Partner Violence	Gina Francois	Preeclampsia/E clampsia	Pratt/Mbise
11:45 AM	30	<b>Lecture 19</b>	Metabolic Syndrome	Deb Mangham		
12:15 PM	30	<b>Lecture 20</b>	Stroke	Katherine Zerebiec		
12:45 PM	30	<b>Lecture 21</b>	Disability and Rehabilitation	Hans Schwake		
1:15 PM		<i>Lunch 60 min</i>				
2:15 PM	30	Quality Improvement Plans Refresher		Steve Moberg		
2:45 PM	45	<b>Develop Quality Improvement Plans</b>				
3:30 PM		<i>Refreshments</i>				
4:00 PM	30	<b>Report out Quality Improvement Plans</b>				
4:30 PM	30	Summary Comments				
5:00 PM		Course Evaluation and expense reimbursement				
5:00 PM		Course Concludes				

## **Attachment C: Selected Comments from Evaluation Forms (transcribed verbatim)**

### Representative positive comments

- The conference is very fruitful to me as it has increased my knowledge in different aspects
- The coordinator of this training was very committed and sharp, the timetable was tight but all topics presented
- Presenters had a good mix of gender and nationalities
- I have updated my knowledge by attending this educational conference and I expect to improve customer care services. This education should continue each year as you do
- The education is very good please next time you may try to extend the duration of learning
- Topics were clear and well arranged. Time management is good
- Education conducted well articulated, simple understanding, well organized from presenters
- This conference is very valuable. Please let it be every year
- All topics presented are very important to improve health care services
- The conference was very interesting keep it up
- It reminds us of our responsibilities and commitments to good quality service delivery to meet patient's rights and needs
- The conference was very interesting I learned a lot of things during the presentation.
- This conference is very nice and I learn more things. May God bless you for what you are doing for us a nice training it helpful for us. Thanks for what you are doing a great job
- Thanks for good presentation comment is to request for another education for another year 2020
- The education is very productive and up to date to enhance medical care
- You are good in all aspect, may almighty God bless you all who conducted the program
- The topics were very good and understandable
- All sessions were well presented and clearly understood

### Representative negative comments or suggestions for improvement

- My comment is time is short relates with our topics at least to have 3 days for this good training which have good and important topics
- Most presenters were students and as such the subject contents were very basic perhaps too basic
- Some of the presenters were too fast
- As an administrator, I found the presentations were more for practitioners than administrative
- Should have more days. i.e. 3-4 days
- Please next time to translate English to Swahili
- Language converter from English to Swahili in order to be the same in understanding process
- For more improvement include more administration topics
- One suggestion we should use 2 languages English and Swahili
- Remember all participants have English as second language therefore I think to have the presentations translated to Swahili, or at least the speaker should talk very clear and slow
- Please be aware the majority of the audience which is not the mother tongue. Therefore please use simple wording and speak slowly and clearly.
- Focus more on what is available and possible in Tanzania
- Time limited compared to the contents
- Can you make the program to be done twice annually?
- Some slides were invisible to the audience, too small of font size
- Sitting allowance must be increased

**Attachment D: Photo of hospital team developing quality improvement plan**

