

# **GHDonline: Communities of Practice for Global Health Implementers**

**Unite for Sight**

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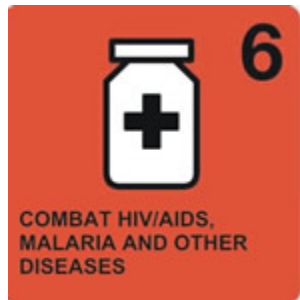
Rebecca L. Weintraub

# Health delivery in resource-limited settings

## The Challenges

- Limited infrastructure
- Limited access to information
- Professional isolation
- Difficulties receiving training
- Difficulties sharing knowledge

# Millennium Development Goals



# Bridging the Knowledge Gap

## The Solutions

- Open Access Journals
- Database Initiatives: HINARI, Ptolemy, eGranary
- Web 2.0/3.0 technologies: Wikis, etc.
- Professional Virtual Communities

# Professional Virtual Communities

Professional Virtual Communities are  
“an association of individuals identified by a  
specific knowledge scope with an explicit business  
orientation, aimed at generating value through  
members’ interaction, sharing and collaboration.”

*Santoro R., Bilfuco, A. 2008. "Professional Virtual Communities" PVC  
Reference Framework, European Society of Concurrent Engineering.*

# Global Health Delivery Project



# GHDonline.org is...

- ...where **professionals** share proven practices, connect with colleagues, and find resources they need to improve health outcomes in resource-limited settings.
- ...home to **practice-based communities run by members**, not by any single organization.

# GHDonline.org: Facts

- Launched in July 2008
- Open collaboration in 7 public and 30+ private communities moderated by experts from multiple organizations
- Communities focused on specific health delivery challenges chosen for their potential impact on delivery of care



# GHDonline

Improving health care delivery through global collaboration



**Welcome to GHDonline**, the online platform of communities developed by the Global Health Delivery Project. GHDonline is where health care implementers share proven practices, connect with colleagues, and find resources they need to improve health outcomes in resource-limited settings.

- [About us](#)
- [Our Partners](#)

## The Global Health Delivery Project

The Global Health Delivery Project aims to improve health among disadvantaged populations worldwide by systematizing the study of global health delivery and rapidly disseminating knowledge to practitioners through a range of coordinated initiatives.

- [Global Health Delivery](#)

## COMMUNITIES

Professionals representing 935 organizations across 124 countries are collaborating in GHDonline communities to improve the delivery of health care in resource-limited settings. Join one or several of the public communities below, or [click here](#) to learn more about the 35 private GHDonline communities designed to support the work of individual organizations and partnerships.

### Adherence & Retention

Members from 539 organizations across 87 countries are working together on Adherence & Retention challenges.

### Global Health Nursing & Midwifery

Members from 244 organizations across 57 countries are working together on Global Health Nursing & Midwifery challenges.

### Global Surgery

Members from 32 organizations across 9 countries are working together on Global Surgery challenges.

### Health IT

Members from 474 organizations across 91 countries are working together on Health IT challenges.

### Malaria Treatment & Prevention

Members from 206 organizations across 55 countries are working together on Malaria Treatment & Prevention challenges.

### MDR-TB Treatment & Prevention

Members from 460 organizations across 95 countries are working together on tuberculosis and drug-resistant TB management challenges.

### TB Infection Control

Members from 541 organizations across 103 countries are working together on TB Infection Control challenges.

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## Search the Knowledge Base

Find the information you need in:

- Discussions and resources from GHDonline communities
- Content from our partners
- Our [news feed](#) from selected organizations
- Our selection of external websites' content



## International Grant Subscription Program

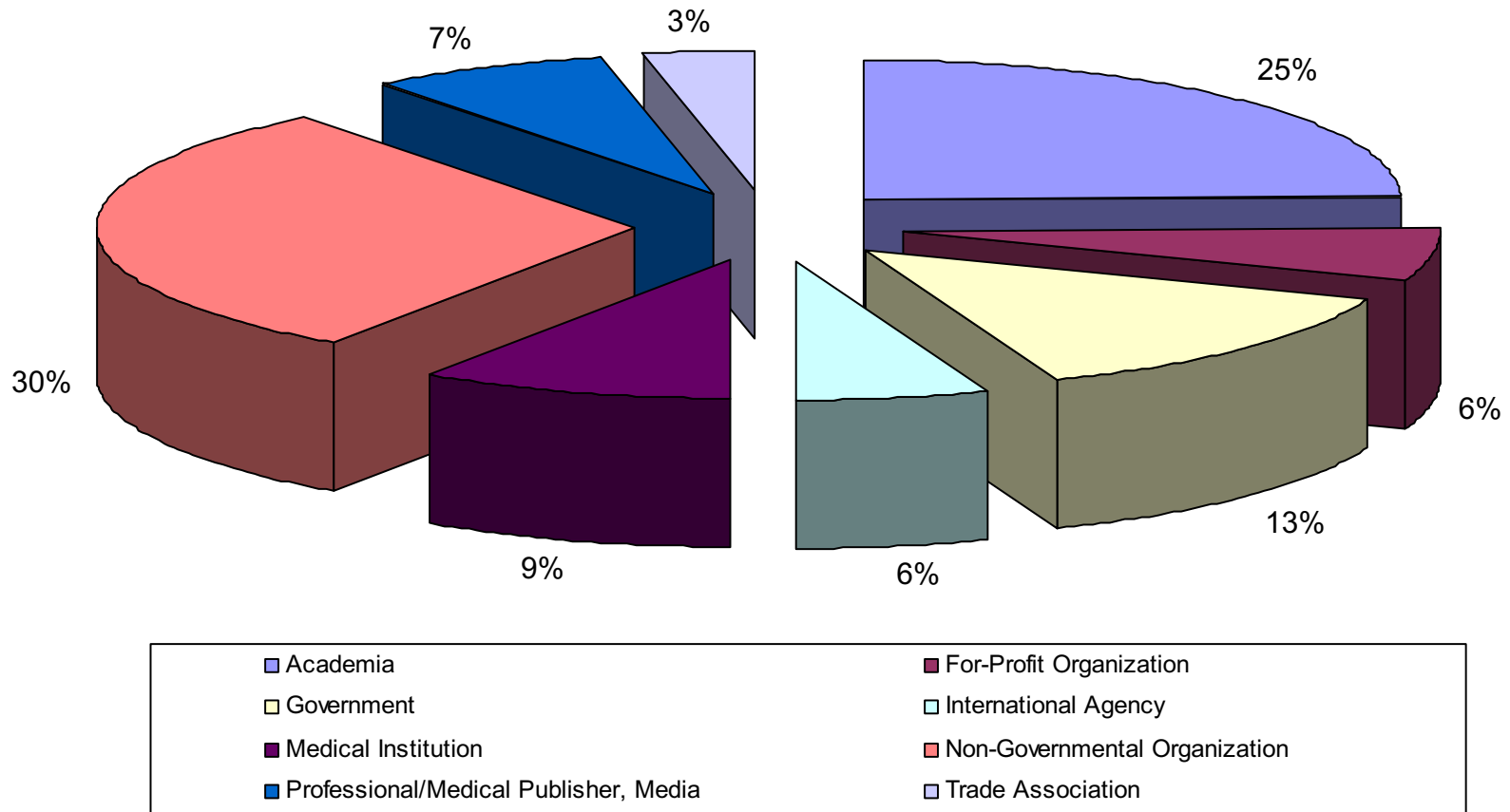
The GHD Project and UpToDate, a leading electronic medical information provider, are teaming up to offer a limited number of one-year subscriptions to qualifying clinicians and organizations.

## Supporting Medical Providers in Haiti

UpToDate is granting requests for donated subscriptions to medical providers in Haiti. Click [here](#) for more information.

# GHDonline.org: Facts

- More than 2,600+ members representing 930+ organizations across 120+ countries



# GHDonline.org: Mapping worldwide collaboration



# GHDonline.org Use Cases

- Builds bridges between professionals, academics, and policy-makers
- Strengthens bonds within existing communities
- Leverages partnerships to democratize health information

# GHDonline: *Building Bridges*

## ***Public Community : TB Infection Control***

<http://www.ghdonline.org/ic/discussion/infection-control-at-home/>

- A member, Director of a program in Lesotho, asks about Tuberculosis Infection Control interventions at home
- 27 replies received from 14 members
- 18 replies in less than 72 hours
- 12 organizations and 10 countries

# GHDonline: *Building Bridges*



- Partners In Health, Lesotho
- CDC, U.S.A
- Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Ghana
- Joint Clinical Research Centre, Uganda
- Brigham and Women's Hospital, U.S.A
- Tygerberg Hospital & Stellenbosch University, South Africa
- Vladimir Oblast TB Dispensary, Russia
- Médecins Sans Frontières, South Africa
- Health Canada, Canada
- Stauch + Partners Architects, Namibia
- International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh
- National DOTS Plus Program, Pakistan



**COMMUNITIES**[Home](#)[Adherence & Retention](#)[Global Health Nursing &  
Midwifery](#)[Global Surgery](#)[Health IT](#)[MDR-TB Treatment & Prevention](#)[Malaria Treatment & Prevention](#)**[TB Infection Control ▶](#)**

## TB Infection Control: Discussion

### Infection control at home

*Started by [Hind Satti, MD](#) on 09 Mar 2009*

Dear colleagues,

I am a director of the MDR TB program in Lesotho. Our program is community based program, we manage and treat patients at home.

I would like to share with you what we are doing for infection control at home:

- We provide community health workers with N95 masks, each will get 3/month.
- We conduct home -visit assessment before initiation of treatment to design intervention for infection control at home.
- Cough hygiene education for the patient and the family members.
- Separation where possible, if the patient lives in one room-house we reallocate our patient temporary until he/she become noninfectious.
- Screening for TB and HIV for all household contacts.

I would like to hear from others what you are doing?

Thanks

Hind

 **Attached resource:** ["Whirly Bird" ventilation](#)

**Keywords:** Personal Respiratory Protection, TB IC Guidelines

REPLIES (28)

 [Add reply](#)

1

[Virginia Lipke RN, MHA, CIC](#)

Dr. Satti,

I wonder if your home-workers are making any suggestions on improving ventilation within the family home for summer months and winter months.

Select Language



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[▶ Share this](#)

### Attached Resources

[▶ "Whirly Bird" ventilation](#) (14 Mar 2009)

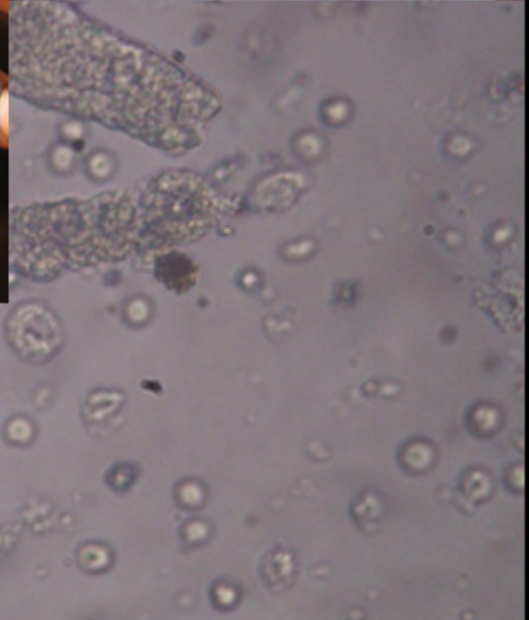
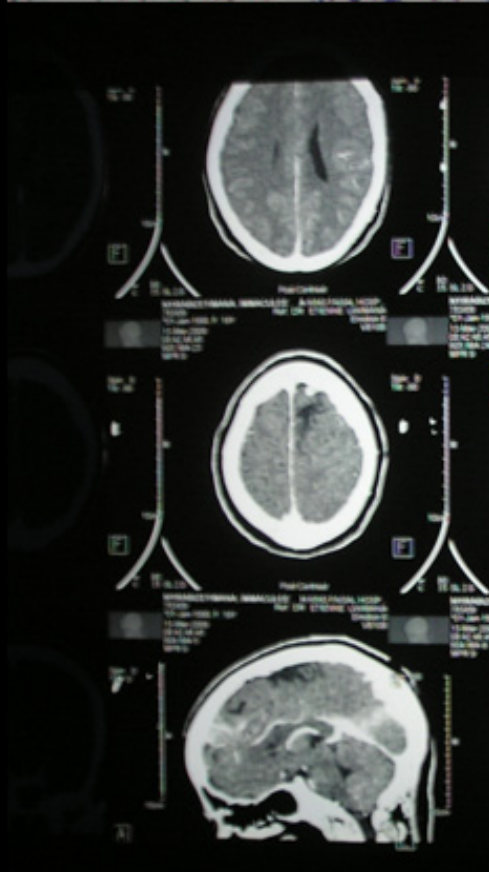
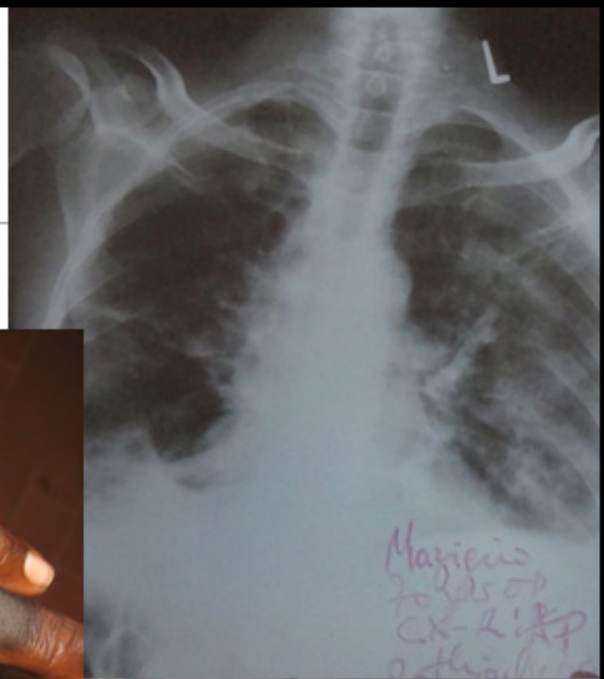
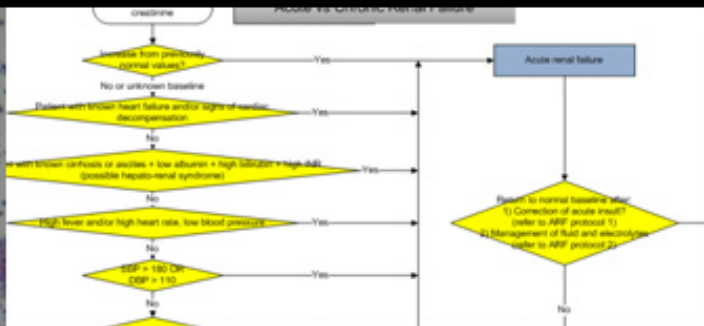
# GHDonline: *Strengthening Bonds*

## ***Private Community:*** Clinical Exchange

Partners In Health clinicians discuss with each other and Boston based colleagues complicated cases they encounter in the field.

- Subspecialty consult:  
Management of multiple myeloma
- Interdisciplinary collaboration:  
Breast Cancer patient
- Improved patient care:  
25 yo F with progressive weakness





# GHDonline: *Leveraging Partnerships*

- UpToDate<sup>®</sup> The clinical decision support tool for more than 360,000 clinicians in over 145 countries use as their clinical-decision support tool
- Journal Watch Produced by the publishers of the *New England Journal of Medicine*
- Endeca Search engine software
- Brightcove Video streaming

# Facing the challenges of health delivery together



**Professional Virtual Communities are an ideal environment for the production and sharing of knowledge in global health delivery.**

**<http://www.ghdonline.org>**

# Acknowledgements: Founding collaborators of the Global Health Delivery Project



**Brigham and Women's Hospital, Division of Global Health Equity**



**The François-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard School of Public Health**



**Harvard Medical School, Department of Global Health and Social Medicine**



**Partners In Health**

[www.globalhealthdelivery.org](http://www.globalhealthdelivery.org)