2018 Pre-Clerkship Summer Elective in Kigali, Rwanda

Ahmed, James, Jun & Kiera
Background

- Rwanda is small but densely populated
  - >999 hills and >999 999 smiles

- Multiple languages are used throughout the country
  - English, French, and Kinyarwanda

- The history is very impactful
  - The genocide is still central to Rwandan culture
So, Like, What’s it Like to Live in Africa?!

Food and Accommodations (and cheap beer)?

Things to do?

Expatriate community?

Getting Around?
CHUK

- Our answer to the question: What brings you to Africa?

- Main teaching hospital in Rwanda
  - One of the four main tertiary hospitals in Rwanda

- Patients speak mostly Kinyarwanda, but instruction was in English
  - Staffed largely by Rwandan physicians, supported by foreign consultants
Typical Day

- 7:00 am arrival at the hospital
- Morning department staff meeting
- Rounding on patients, lectures, observing procedures
- Rotations:
  ○ Paediatrics
  ○ OB/GYNE
  ○ Emergency
  ○ Internal
  ○ Acute Care Surgery
- Finish ~2:00pm - 5:00pm

Explore the city and it’s many amazing restaurants!
Exploring Rwanda
Highlights and Memorable Moments

- Getting hands-on hospital experience
  - Working with patients and performing supervised tasks
  - Improving physical exam skills

- Seeing things you would not likely find in Canada
  - Both medical things and elephants

- Getting to explore this amazing country and culture!
What We learned

- Challenges of working in a resource-poor setting
- Role of international consultants within the hospital
- Adapting to a new professional medical culture
- How to prevent *schistosomiasis* with hand sanitizer
- Always bring enough water when tracking chimps
  - Kiera doesn’t like to share (but she will keep you alive)
  - Also thick socks
Challenges

- Language barrier & culture shock
- Logistical challenges
  - Securing accommodations
  - Clearing customs
  - Finding supervisors
- Miscommunications concerning level of medical education and being asked to perform procedures despite lack of qualification
- Getting that last $%&*#$@ mosquito before you get to sleep
Questions?