

WHAT'S  
HAPPENING  
IN

# Without Borders



## From the Editor

Gretchen Birbeck, MD, MPH

Without Borders recently added an article to our Global Stuff You Should Know section on the topic of building research capacity in Sri Lanka.<sup>1</sup> As Drs. Philips and Wanigasinghe note in their piece, “It is an unfortunate fact that while 80% of the world’s children with developmental disabilities live in LMIC such as Sri Lanka,<sup>2</sup> most research is conducted in higher income countries, often in the US or Europe. Thus, particularly in the area of developmental disabilities,<sup>3</sup> there is a clear need for greater engagement of LMIC in clinical research.”<sup>1</sup> When an NIH-funding opportunity announcement was made, the funding for expanding research capacity in Sri Lanka was secured via an existing informal United States–Sri Lanka collaboration (a team that includes faculty from the University of New Mexico and the Mind Research Network in Albuquerque and the Medical Faculty of Colombo in Colombo, Sri Lanka), which provided the pilot data necessary to secure this funding. There are 2 main components to this collaborative research project and these are discussed in the article along with future steps to extend this work in several directions. This program expanding research capacity has already been the catalyst for developing new collaborations, including one with a local engineering university.

### References

1. Philips J, Wanigasinghe J. Building Research Capacity in Sri Lanka. In: *Neurology*<sup>®</sup> Journals: Without Borders: Global Stuff You Should Know [online]. Available at: [neurology.org/without\\_borders](http://neurology.org/without_borders). Accessed October 4, 2018.
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### Blog

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[NPub.org/wbblog](http://NPub.org/wbblog)

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