

WHAT'S  
HAPPENING  
IN

# Without Borders



## From the Editor

Gretchen Birbeck, MD, MPH

This spring Without Borders conducted an interview with Dr. Joseph Zunt from the University of Washington where he is a professor of Global Health, Neurology, Epidemiology, and Infectious Disease. He is also the Principal Investigator of the Northern Pacific Global Health Fellows Consortium, one of 6 consortia funded by the NIH Fogarty International Center. In the interview, he talks about how he began his career in global neurology and the opportunities for people looking to become involved in global neurology.

You will hear Dr. Zunt describe some of the programs available to those with an interest in global neurology, but he also describes the importance of global programs being a partnership where all parties benefit, “I just think we’ve got to be equitable when we approach these research and training programs. And in the past, it’s not been, so we have what I refer to as parachute epidemiologists or parachute scientists. So, people from upper income countries going into another country—typically a low to middle income country—gathering samples, gathering data, and then leaving, and then, perhaps, not recognizing their colleagues who have done so much work to help them actually succeed with their project, and providing no feedback on what the research findings were, or not providing any opportunities for their colleagues in those countries to grow as researchers themselves.”

At the end of the interview, Dr. Zunt makes this generous offer, “I’d be happy to be contacted by any young neurologist interested in global neurology and see where I can connect them to start them on their career.”



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