

The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

February 2018

In color at our web site: <http://www.explorersnorca.org>

LOCATION

Note venues and dates with care
Friday, 23 February 2018, 6:30pm
The Dolan Law Firm
1438 Market Street, SF 94102

OPERATION EBOLA SURGICAL CARE DURING THE EBOLA CRISIS OF 2014 Dr. Sherry M. Wren FN'14, FACS, FCS (ECSA)

In March 2014 investigators confirmed that the mysterious deaths of multiple people from a remote village in Guinea were due to Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). Rapidly the disease spread to Liberia and Sierra Leone including dense urban centers. By July there was rapid acceleration in case numbers and fatalities. Ministries of Health, WHO, and aid organizations were struggling to handle this epidemic which had a staggering effect on whole families and health care workers. By June 2016 there were 28,616 EVD cases with 11,310 deaths: 860 of these deaths were health care workers who suffered a 57% mortality rate with the disease.

In September 2014 it became obvious to Dr. Wren and her colleague, Dr. Adam Kushner, that the WHO, CDC, or other organizations were not considering the issue of patients with potential surgical problems and how they would be handled during this crisis. She wrote "Having worked extensively in Africa we knew what our colleagues were facing; inadequate personal protection equipment, cloth gowns with no fluid protection, and an already inadequate supply of surgeons. We rapidly wrote the world's first, an only, guidelines on how to perform surgery on suspected or confirmed EVD patients. The American College of Surgeons, an organization of >80,000 surgeons around the world, recognized the need for this guideline and distributed it to all members. Within a few days multiple international surgical societies had

"Surgical care is still not included in the CDC guidelines which currently cover how to breast feed and do kidney dialysis in an EVD infected patient. Public health experts still lack an understanding that surgical care is part of basic health care and therefore no policies exist for provision during these epidemics.

"In response to this continued blind spot we decided to write *Operation Ebola* and were fortunate to have the Johns Hopkins University Press publish the book. It is dedicated to all of the brave surgeons and nurses who cared for patients as well as the patients affected by disease; pregnant mothers, car accident victims, and people with surgical emergencies who died from lack of care during this time. The book is a compellation of stories from the field told first hand by the doctors involved in the crisis and shows the extreme fear, dedication, and lack of knowledge in how to address the situation. We hope it can serve as a catalyst to force public health policy makers to consider the care of surgical patients in any epidemic."

Sherry M. Wren MD, FACS, FCS (ECSA):

Professor Sherry Wren has been on the faculty at Stanford University since 1997.

At Stanford she serves as Vice Chair

Department of Surgery, Director of Global Surgery at the Center for Innovation and Global Health and also is the Director of Clinical Surgery at the Palo Alto Veterans Health Care System. Dr. Wren is also a Honorary Professor in the Centre for Trauma at the London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London. Dr. Wren has held multiple leadership position in national and international surgical organizations, and is currently on the multiple editorial boards including JAMA Surgery. Her clinical practice and US based research programs are in gastrointestinal malignancy and surgical robotics.

Since 2006 she has worked with Doctors Without Borders/ Médecins Sans Frontières providing surgical care in conflict zones. She created a novel US International Humanitarian Aid Surgery course designed to prepare surgeons for work in low resource environments and to date has trained more than 450 surgeons worldwide. At Stanford, her research includes international projects on humanitarian surgery, conflict surgery, gender issues in surgical patients and workforce, and barriers to surgical care. Current educational or research projects are underway in Sudan, Malawi, Cameroon, and Zimbabwe.

Dr. Wren's talk is scheduled for Friday, 23 February 2018.



Non-EBOLA related surgery



Dr. Wren and her EBOLA team

adopted our guidelines, including the African surgeons. This helped shine a light on the challenges being faced and the incredible fear and uncertainties that were occurring in the field on a daily basis. While US hospitals were stockpiling personal protective equipment that was never used there was little to none being sent for use in hospitals in the thick of the epidemic.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND CIVIL WAR ON MOUNT EVEREST

Dr. John All LF'14; 26 January 2018

Our January talk by Dr. John All was a remarkable presentation of courage, humanitarian issues, politics and the environment. Dr. All has spent the last decade studying the effect of global warming and climate change on the temperate glaciers of Nepal and the tropical glaciers of Peru. He has shown that the same human effects on glacial snow melting prevail in both these regions, despite the differences in latitude and in elevation.

His talk to our Explorers Club Chapter had two components:

- * the description of a life-threatening event experienced in Nepal; and
- * the science involved in measuring the effect of climate change, identifying and quantifying the human impact on our earth and its environment.

Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world. Most of the population consists of the Sherpas and farmers. As the primary supporters of the climbing industry, the Sherpas are the most affected by any climate changes that impact the glaciers that cover the climbing routes.

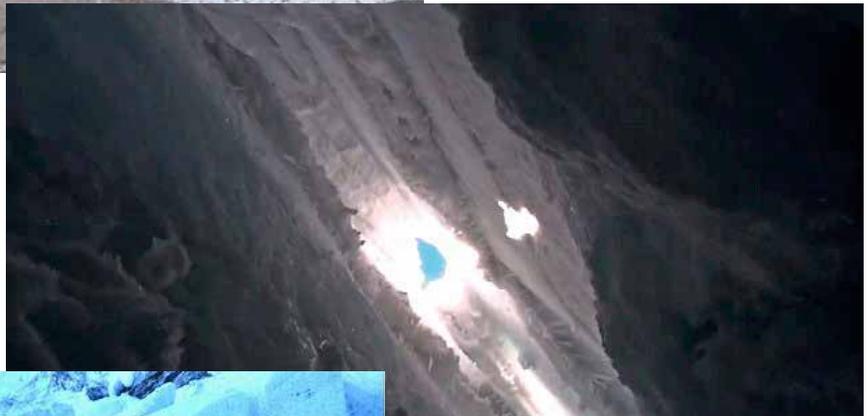
A major impact of global warming is the



melting of the glaciers. In 2014 he was on Mt. Everest with his research team to gather evidence of global warming. He showed the picture above taken on the way up the mountain of a cluster of climbers waiting to cross a recent slide that had disrupted the trail. Within minutes of that picture being taken, a second slide occurred burying 14 people including one team member.

After the accident, the Sherpas voted to continue climbing on the mountain. A brief mention was made of the humanitarian effort by the climbing world to provide financial help to the families of the lost Sherpa climbers. However that was stopped when the government demanded control of the finances that were collected. Ultimately the government closed the mountain.

The closure of Mount Everest forced Dr. All to move his study to another Nepal site, Mount Himlung, taking just 2 team members with him. One of those became ill requiring the second member



to accompany the sick one back down the mountain. Dr. All, continuing on alone, fell into a 70-foot deep crevasse. He found himself at the bottom, injured, with a satellite phone that did not work in the crevasse and no chance of outside assistance.

His story of how he dragged himself out of the rift with a mangled shoulder, broken arm and 5 broken ribs would be almost unbelievable if Dr. All had not made a video record of his efforts. The playing of that video held the meeting enthralled. When asked why he made the video, he

View from the bottom of the crevasse

replied that he wanted to document the effort for his mother - a tribute not only to his determination to survive but also to the mother who inspired it.

In recent years he has continued with his research, documenting the effects of change of color of glacial snow due to wind-blown dirt. The darker the color of the snow, the less of the incoming sunlight is reflected, and the more is retained as heat. Hence the melting of the snow and ice is accelerated, resulting in increased run-off.

A long term impact of melting glaciers, however, is that as the glacier gets smaller, the amount of ice left to melt to water and supply the dependent communities is reduced, impacting life on those who count on that water supply.

Dr. All also extended his investigations to include satellite imagery to understand changes on the mountains. The effects on vegetation can be observed and advances of certain plants up the mountain as the climate gets warmer can be monitored. To fully understand this requires ground truth data, and Dr. All made a plea for more support for field workers to be trained to carry on the data acquisition of ground-truth conditions of plants to assist in interpretation of the images.. **AJ**

Check out the video on Youtube
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_C_PQ0WJjs



Speaker Dr. John All and Meg All



Sandy Ross, Sandra Cook, Jim Prigoff and Bob Schmieder



Retired AV man Jim Hurson



Paul Freitas, Anna Freitas and Tom Patterson



Hank Skade and Les Dewitt



Speaker John All and Chair Steve Smith

HONOR ROLL
PAID UP DUES
FOR 2018

MEMBERS
Amaral, Julia
Beer, Michael
Bekins, Joan
Blake, Rick
Bolt, Kendra
Boothe, Joan
Chase, H. Keith
Cheeseman, Ted
Cook, Sandra
Dehmel, Rick
Diggles, Mike
Dolan, Tom
Durbin, Thom
Dyal, Palmer
Estey, Sue
Ewing, Lesley
Ford, Art
Fox, Susan
Freitas, Anna
Freitas, Paul
Griffith, Jerry
Hemming, Peter
Heydorn, William
Heyneman, Donald
Higgins, Robert
Hurson, Jim
Hurson, Von
Hutchison, Alan
Jake, Krist
Jepsen, Anders
Klein, Ronald
Klotz, Suzanne
Kvenvolden, Keith
Langan, Lee
Lapham, Ellen
LeBonte, Alison
Lidicker, William Jr.
Lingl, Herb
Macbeth, Pierre de St. J.
McMillan, Peter H.
Meniketti, Marco
Miller, Gregory
Nichols, Alan
Prigoff, James
Rygh, Rebecca L.
Schmieder, Robert
Skade, William
Smith, Steve
Tarter, Jill
Von der Porten, Ed
Weil, James

SIRDARS
Barnes, James
Boothe, Barry
Cohn, Lawrence
Cooper, William Scott Jr.
Crowder, Wendy
Elkus, Nancy
Engstrom, Dafne
Heyneman, Louise
Hutchison, Ann
Isaac, Nancy
Jepsen, Kathy
Langan, Karine
Loew, Tim
Longo-Cohn, Mary
McLoughlin, Liz
Nikas, A. James III
O'Keefe, Bonny
Patterson, Tom
Stewart, Zach
Van Austen, Bob
Van Austen, Judy
Weiman, Mark

From the Chair

Our January meeting at the new Dolan Law Firm venue started off with a very interesting presentation by climber/author and fellow EC member Dr. John All. Not only did we learn about the potential ecological impacts of climate change in high altitude regions, we also learned first hand how to extract oneself from a crevasse with multiple broken bones while capturing it all on camera. If nothing else, we are reminded that the intersection of science and exploration continues to be a risky business.

By all accounts our new venue made a positive impression on most of our attendees, but, as predicted, was not without some hiccups. It may take us a few meetings to work out the kinks so we ask for patience with the process. We appreciate the feedback offered by some of our members, both positive and negative, and appreciate even more suggestions on how to make our new venue the most enjoyable experience possible. Some of the issues we will be working on immediately will be a more optimal arrangement of tables and placement of

Some follow-up notes on traveling to our new venue.

Feedback received during and after our first meeting in the new location leads me to believe that many did not read our recommendations for travel and parking presented in the last newsletter. Here for your convenience are some further observations. If you are driving, the best place to park may be in the Market Square Garage located behind and under the Twitter Headquarters Building. The entrance is located on Jessie Street. Google "Market Square Garage" for a map. This garage is open until midnight on Fridays and charges \$5.00/hour. Approaching on Market Street from the direction of the Embarcadero, turn left on 10th Street and then take the first available left onto Jessie Street. (There is no obvious street sign identifying Jessie). The entrance to the garage will be down the street on the left side. It is a short walk to the Dolan Office from the garage. Walk through the Twitter building.

Alternatively, parking may be available on Fell Street, which is behind the Dolan Offices and other streets nearby. After 6:00 pm Fell Street is free and unmetered. Enter through the back door of the Dolan Offices on Fell Street. There is a sign above the door. Individuals who wish to be dropped off on the street may find it considerably easier at the Fell Street entrance versus attempting a stop on Market Street.

If you are taking BART, get off at the Civic Center station. The best exit is the one marked B1 Market & 8th Street Exit. There is an escalator to the street from this exit. This is the exit at the far north end of the Civic Center station and it places you just down the block and across the street from the Dolan office. It is an easy walk from that exit. If you take Muni, depart at the Van Ness Station. I am informed that the walk to Dolan is shorter than from the Civic Center Muni Stop. SS

the food service, the maximum number of attendees that we can comfortably support, and hopefully resolving some noted problems with the a/v system (Dolan is working on the latter). In the past it has been infrequent that we reached 60 or more reservations and we pushed the limits to accommodate as many members as possible. We shall see how the more typical attendance level works with the new space. Every venue we have had in the past has had its own unique issues that caused some portion of attendees consternation, and so far, none have proved to successfully satisfy all. Sometimes life is compromise.

Your Chair will be absent from the next meeting, leaving the lead duties in the capable hands of Vice Chair Lesley Ewing. I will be disappointed to miss Dr. Wren's presentation, speaking of the willingness to accept and deal with risk for the sake of science and medicine, Ebola or a crevasse, take your pick.

Stephen E. Smith FN'96

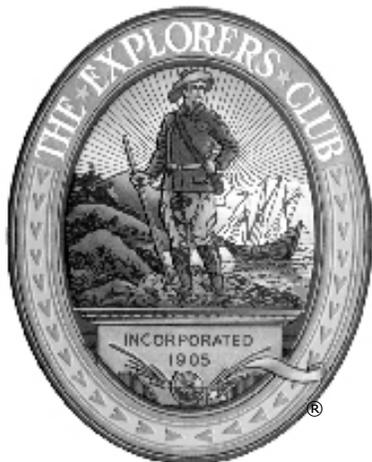
JOAN BEKINS FN'86 NAMED BELEVEDERE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

It is a pleasure to see one of our long-time Chapter members, Joan Bekins FN'86, get local recognition for the contributions that led to her becoming a Fellow of the international Explorers Club. She and her husband, Don, have been participating in the Northern California Chapter for many years and still regularly drive in from Marin County to attend our meetings. Seen here in the backyard of her Belevedere home, Joan was named that city's Citizen of the Year Emerita in 2017 for her lifetime of volunteer work as a nature educator and environmental activist. Bekins was the driving force behind promoting and expanding the teachings of renowned Marin County naturalist Elizabeth Terwilliger.



Throughout the 1970s, Bekins secured funding for and produced five "Tripping with Terwilliger" films, designed to teach kids about nature. The films are still used today and are estimated to have reached more than 60 million kids across the U.S. Bekins also produced nature guides, educational materials and "Mrs. Terwilliger's Coloring Book" for use by teachers, parents and children. She also secured funding for 'NatureVans', which enabled volunteers to bring nature education to schools throughout the Bay Area, extending the reach of Terwilliger's programs to about 60,000 kids annually. **Congratulations Joan!**

February 2018 Issue
Northern California Chapter
Established 1973



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 Trekking@sonic.net
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 415-233-1697
 Webmaster: Mike Diggles FN'92
 Newsletter: Anders Jepsen FN'03
 ajviking@aol.com
 925-322-8893

Chapter Calendar of Events
 (Venues are identified as soon as known.)

2018
 February 23 Dr. Sherry Wren
 Surgical Approaches in the Ebola Crisis . Dolan
 March 30 Ms. Kimberley Chambers
 Swimming With Sharks Before Breakfast . Dolan
 April 27 Alan Eustace
 The Stratospheric Jump Dolan

Earlier Chapter Events
2016

June Picnic Crissy Field
 September Drakes Bay Field Trip
 November 18, 2016 Dr. Bob Schmieder
 2016 Heard Island Expedition . . Grace Luth Ch
 December 11 Holiday Party
 Home of Chapter Chair Joan Boothe

2017

January 27 David Helvarg
 The Blue Ocean Grace Luth Ch
 February 23 David Rumsey
 Rumsey Map Center Stanford University
 March 31 Eric Weiss
 Expedition Medicine Grace Luth Ch
 April 28 Sandy Ross
 Afghanistan pre-Taliban . . Grace Luth Ch
 May 26 J.R. Skok
 Seeking Life Signs on Mars Spengers, Berkeley
 June 24 Chapter Picnic
 Angel Island
 September 22 Dr. Anders Jepsen
 Drones to map landmines . . Grace Luth Ch
 October 27 Dirk Rosen
 Save Deep Sea Corals Grace Lutheran Ch
 November 17 Jordan Fisher Smith
 Engineering Eden Grace Lutheran Ch
 December 17 Holiday Party
 Home of Joan and Barry Boothe
 January 26 Dr. John All
 Climate Change on Mt. Everest Dolan

Send address changes and
 corrections by email to
 ecnca@oceaneearth.org

OTHER EVENTS, EXPEDITIONS, etc.

September 19 – October 1, 2018. 13-day Uganda-Rwanda study/Adventure
 Long time Chapter Member Julia Amaral MN'88 is leading an exciting
 expedition in support of the Kellermann Foundation's work with the
 Batwa Pygmies. 2-3 places are still available. An exciting itinerary.
 For more information, contact Julia at 530-277-4640 or jamaral@saber.net



Gorilla in the Umubwindi
 swamp, Bwindi Impenetrable
 National Park, Uganda.

ECAD 2018

EXPLORERS CLUB ANNUAL DINNER

Described by James Cameron as “the Academy Awards of Exploration,” The Explorers Club is proud to once again host the world’s largest gathering of explorers, with our 114th Explorers Club Annual Dinner. Honoring the world’s leading explorers and field scientists since 1904, more than 1,200 explorers and guests will converge on Times Square at the Marriott Marquis on March 10th, 2018.

This year, we look at Next Generation Exploration: Frontiers, Technology, Innovators. Upon his recognition at our 109th Annual Dinner, the late John Glenn defined exploration as ‘curiosity in action’:

“ . . .and if you think about it, curiosity is far more than just wanting to go and look at some new scenery someplace—it’s an attitude...Our whole history has been one of dragon pushing. Pushing dragons back off the edge and filling in gaps on the maps.”

CHAPTER DUES

TEC Chapter Members and Sirdars, your dues are due! Our Treasurer, Joan Boothe, has distributed the annual dues statement for 2018 to all Chapter members. For TEC Members, the requested donation is only \$25 a year; for Sirdars your dues of \$50 keeps you on the distribution list and is not optional. Your chapter depends on these monies to fund the day-to-day running of the chapter, as well as to support our two annual events for which we do not charge — our Holiday Party and the Annual Picnic.

All donors are acknowledged on the Honor Roll in the monthly newsletter. And don't forget . . . since our chapter is recognized as 501 (C) (3), whatever you send us may well be tax deductible, depending on your personal situation.

CHAPTER MEETING Friday
February 23, 2018

Date: Friday, 23 February, 2018
 Place: The Dolan Law Firm
 1438 Market Street
 San Francisco, CA 94102
 Time: 6:30 - reception
 7:15 - dinner; 8:00 - program
 Meal Options: Chicken marsala or stuffed pork tenderloin
 Veggie option - Eggplant parmesan
 Cost: \$49 in advance, \$60 after 23 January; Students: \$35.
 (2018 dues: Members \$25, Sirdars \$50)
 Please mail reservations, checks & dues to Joan Boothe
 email: Joan at hoodooskr@aol.com; or Call 415-233-1697 or
 mail to 2435 Divisadero Street, San Francisco CA 94115

We have an established PayPal account.

With an account, you can sign up and remit your meal costs, dues, etc. to the NorCA Chapter
There is a PAYPAL BUTTON on our website (www.explorersnorca.org); easy to use!