

Old Mutare Hospital and Africa University
Zimbabwe

Andrew Garner
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I spent the last month working with Dr. Tendai Manyeza, the Medical Superintendent (and only Physician) at OMH. OMH is a secondary referral center that sees approximately 2000 patients per month. My position for the month was in the outpatient department where, with the assistance of several excellent nurses/translators, I screened patients for admission and treated the rest on an outpatient basis. This was a tremendously rewarding educational experience.

In addition to working at OMH, I spent two hours a day, two days a week in the Student Clinic at AU. AU is a United Methodist-related, private university designed to educate students from all over Africa. It currently consists of two undergraduate programs (in Theology and Agriculture) and one graduate program (a Masters in Business Arts) with approximately 150 students from over a dozen African countries. It plans to open two new undergraduate programs in Education and Arts & Sciences within the next five years. However, the long term plans include construction of a teaching hospital and the formation of nursing and medical schools.

My experience at the AU Student Clinic (with emphasis on education and preventive medicine) provided an interesting contrast to the acute care provided at OMH. While working in the AU Student Clinic I was also under the direction of Dr. Manyeza, who has just recently worked out an agreement with AU to spend 2 hours a week in the AU Student Clinic (thereby saving students the 2 mile walk to OMH).