

Class 2001

This project is anticipated to begin on April 1, 2001 and extend through April 30, 2001. All activities will take place at the Royal Melbourne Hospital in Melbourne, Australia. During this month it is anticipated I will participate in clinical activities related to the orthopaedic problems facing the indigenous population in Australia. The Aborigine natives of Australia carry one of the highest rates diabetes, similar to the Pima Indians in the United States. Many have little access to health care and often receive little education or treatment with regard to adequate diabetes management. As a result, the incidence of severe diabetic foot ulcers is exorbitant. During the course of my elective I hope to examine this problem to a greater extent with regard to treatment, prevention, and management of diabetic foot ulcers in the Aborigine population. Clinical activities will include but are not limited to:

- 1.) Diagnosis, management, and treatment of diabetes.
- 2.) Clinical evaluation and diagnosis of foot ulcers, peripheral neuropathy, and vascular disease in diabetes patients.
- 3.) Treatment and prevention of diabetic foot ulcers through medical and surgical management.
- 4.) Management of associated infections through antibiotic use and surgical procedures.
- 5.) Diabetes education with regard to proper foot care, strict glycemetic control, and adequate medical follow-up.
- 6.) Insight into the problems facing the Aborigine population and the difficulties accessing health care.

All activities will occur under the direction of the orthopaedic and medicine faculty at RMH. Clinical evaluation will be based upon fulfillment of the aforementioned objectives.