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Medicine and Health Sciences
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Geneeskunde en Gesondheidswetenskappe

“Doing what you can with what you have?”

How building resilient multidisciplinary teams can help improve clinical outcomes even in times of scarcity.



Rural hospitals are among the most resource constrained of all our health environments. It constantly feels as if we are asked to do more with less – and to do it better! I don’t have “the answers”, or a stock of magic bullets to share out, but in this webinar I’ll share some thoughts from the 17 years I spent building a multi-disciplinary team at Zithulele Hospital in the Eastern Cape. I’ll focus on how shared values can help us maximise the outcomes for our patients, hopefully without sacrificing the health professionals, and offer some thoughts about what is and isn’t possible in the context of current scarcities.



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Register Now for the webinar

Date: 15 May, Wednesday

Time: 18:00 - 19:00

**Venue: Worcester Campus, 1 Durban
Street, Auditorium**

Platform: MSTeams

CPD point: 1

Dr Ben Gaunt has spent most of his career as the Clinical Manager at Zithulele Hospital near Hole in the Wall on the Wild Coast, where he and his doctor wife Taryn lived from 2005 to 2022, having the privilege of serving the community and living out their dream at the same time. (If you want the details, he wrote a book called Hope, a Goat, and a Hospital – available on Amazon.) Clinically, he's a "hospital generalist" with various diplomas and a master's degree in international primary care, but in 2022 he found himself a refugee from institutional politics and he now works for the ECDOH as a clinical medico-legal advisor.

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At a hospital down the road from where Nelson Mandela grew up, the rural community still lived without the standard of health care their compatriots took for granted. More than a decade into the country's democratic era, the hope and promise of freedom hadn't yet changed the chance babies had of being born alive, or children making it to their fifth birthday. Making life "better for all" takes more than rhetoric and policy. It requires real people, doing real jobs, often under difficult circumstances. At Zithulele, a "sticky core" of four doctor friends responded to the call to make a difference. Their story is one of hard work and humanity. There's heartache; at times, hilarity. But mostly, it's a story of hope; a story of ordinary people doing their bit to make South Africa better.

The Gaunts have lived at Zithulele Hospital since 2005. Both Ben and Taryn studied medicine at UCT, where they met and married. They worked in KZN and briefly in New Zealand, before moving to the Eastern Cape. Following their dream, they were responding to God's call to rebuild a rural hospital. Both continue to work in the hospital, where Ben is the clinical manager and Taryn juggles medicine and home schooling.

ZITHULELE
HOLE IN THE WALL - SOUTH AFRICA
living the dream