

As a student I undertook a medical elective in Nepal, which exposed me to the notion of serving the poor. I then worked up in Papua New Guinea and that interest was further developed. So when I was a young doctor working in the UK I trained in tropical medicine and public health, and obtained a DTM&H diploma, from the University of Liverpool. I thought that maybe I would then work in developing nations, perhaps as an infectious disease doctor, as a career. I loved the excitement and the idea of being able to make a big difference to those in need. But life didn't work out that way for me for a variety of reasons. My career took other turns and, as it turns out, worked out quite successfully for me.

But when the tsunami hit Indonesia in late 2004, I returned to that world. I describe elsewhere my motivations for going to Aceh to help, and how it all evolved. But since then I have made about 25 to 30 trips doing this sort of thing, mostly in Indonesia. This section discusses some of that work.