

**December 2019**

## Three Months to Save Lives

### Progress Toward Decreasing Preventable Childbirth Deaths in Low and Middle Income Countries (but the fruit does not hang as low as it seems)

By Justin Kaplan, MD, Deputy Editor-in-Chief

I just returned after spending 3 months in Senegal as part of Merck's Global Health Fellowship program. Three women and I worked with [Africare](#), an NGO, on a project to contribute to education of teens and their families about sexual and reproductive health, with the ultimate goal of decreasing maternal mortality by decreasing rates of teen pregnancy. Working intensively and exclusively on a single project, not to mention living dormitory style in an apartment with 3 strangers in a Low-Middle Income Country (LMIC), were quite different experiences from my usual style of work and life. [More](#)



The fellowship team discusses how to educate and counsel teenage girls on sexual behavior with the village Matrones (mature women respected for their wisdom and advice).

## Department of Redundancy Department

As you updated your chapter, you might have wondered why certain concepts or even exact language, photos, or other information were repeated several times throughout a chapter. Of course, repetition is unneeded during the chapter review when all the topics are contained in a single document. But once we publish, each topic is a stand-alone web page that should be self-contained and indeed should repeat important information. Although we still provide links to related information, readers are better served when each topic is complete.

### By the Numbers

Last 30 days • 2019 to date

Website user sessions	<b>39.7M</b>	<b>342M</b>
Total pageviews	<b>60.7M</b>	<b>508M</b>
Chapters published:		
CONSUMER	<b>33</b>	<b>230</b>
PROFESSIONAL	<b>21</b>	<b>235</b>
App downloads:	2019 to date (as of Oct 31)	<b>1,278,046</b>

## Exciting News!

Merck Manuals has been named one of the “10 most influential books for doctors” as voted by the readers of MDLinx. Check out the [list](#).

## Lights, Camera, Action!

Last month, Dr. Robert Porter spoke with medical students and the larger Merck Manuals community during a live streaming event on Facebook. He shared his professional journey, including tales from the ER and his experience as the editor-in-chief of The Merck Manuals

In case you missed it, [here](#) is the recording.



## Help Wanted

Dear Editorial Board Members and Other Contributors,

We have an immediate need for a full-time physician editor. The ideal candidate is an experienced clinician who enjoys and is skilled at writing. A change from clinical medicine may be unattractive to some physicians but could be very attractive to others.

Still, it has been difficult to find candidates who are qualified and interested. We realized that you have worked with a large number of physician writers/educators and thus may know of someone who may be interested. If you know of anyone who might fit (even if you're not sure), please contact [me](#) or [Rob](#).

For more details, see the attached brief [job description](#).

Many thanks for your help,

Justin



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