I just left a grand rounds session today (Aug 21) which was especially exciting because it featured the first patient referred by Chidamoyo Christian Hospital in Zimbabwe. Chidamoyo is one of our four pilot project sites.

The patient was not doing well and had cavities in her lung. She had a combination of conditions that made choosing a treatment complicated. There was a lively discussion and some new possibilities about the underlying cause were brought up. A new course of treatment was chosen based on the opinions expressed. A 30 year old woman whose weight was down to 40 kilos and at risk of dying may have been saved. We have to wait to know for sure.

There was a lot of expertise at both ends of the Internet conversation and I found it exciting to witness how the doctors and medical professionals quickly formed a team to address the issue. Doctors in India were on the call, too and benefitted from the discussion. As I left the session, I thought “This is exactly how we hoped it would work when we began the project!”

“All the pilot telemedicine projects are very excited about grand rounds.” – Mikel Cook, President of Global MedWeb

These are the Rotary clubs backing the four pilot telemedicine projects. The projects were launched by Rotarians working with Rotary Club of Sebastopol Sunrise and Global MedWeb:

- **Rotary Club of Manila hosts Mary Johnston Hospital project in Manila, Philippines.** The Manila Club is the first to have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with RC of Sebastopol Sunrise.
- **Rotary Club of Kolwezi Downtown hosts Mama Tabatha Hospital in Kolwezi, Congo.** We are investigating what added equipment may be needed. We hope to get feedback on the impact of the project.
• Rotary Club of Sebastopol and Rotary Club of Harare Dawn host Chidamoyo Christian Hospital in Karoi, Zimbabwe where the whole medical staff has been participating in grand rounds and now has made its first remote consult request.
• Rotary Club of Nagercoil Midtown hosts Bensam Hospital in Nagercoil, India where each week twenty to thirty doctors and nurses participate in grand rounds.

Several more Rotary clubs are interested in promoting a telemedicine project at a hospital in their community.

REMOTE CONSULT REQUEST FROM PILOT PROJECT
Chidamoyo Christian Hospital in Zimbabwe requested its first remote consult in August 2013. The patient became the case discussed in grand rounds (continuing medical education). The request for a specialist opinion was triggered by contacting Dr. Gude, the Medical Director for Global MedWeb.

WHY GLOBAL MEDWEB GRAND ROUNDS ARE SPECIAL
Many hospitals offer grand rounds to maintain medical staff skills and update their knowledge of the latest best practices. They have a senior doctor present and the sessions are very good. What makes the Global MedWeb grand rounds special is they are based on an actual patient and generalize from there.

Dr. James K. Gude is Medical Director for Global MedWeb, the non-profit formed by Rotarians to promote telemedicine projects around the world, and he is Medical Director for OffSite Care, a growing US-based telemedicine services company. Dr. Gude is a long-time member of the faculty at the prestigious University of California at San Francisco Medical School.

Dr. Gude conducts our grand rounds and recently wrote an article titled “Attending Rounds as a Way of Life and Literature.” You can see his article about attending rounds in the publication of the Sonoma County Medical Association at Sonoma Magazine. In the article Dr. Gude honors his teachers and describes his career in conducting grand rounds. He talks about why grand rounds are important and why he often includes a historical perspective and likes to begin by interviewing a patient currently being treated. It keeps things fresh and lively.

If you would like to see and hear for yourself what grand rounds with Dr. Gude is like, send a request to grandrounds@globalmedweb.org.

SPOTLIGHT ON ZIMBABWE AND CHIDAMOYO HOSPITAL
When we spoke with another Rotary club in Sebastopol about telemedicine, Bob Rogers, then International Chair and now President told us about his club supporting Chicamoyo Hospital for ten years, providing a variety of equipment including a generator and a truck. Bob introduced us to Kathy McCarty, the Administrator of the hospital. She happened to be coming to Sebastopol for a visit last September. We got to introduce her to Dr. Gude and described to her what the telemedicine program offers. Kathy attended grand rounds and saw Dr. Gude in action! She said the doctors on her staff would welcome the opportunity because in Zimbabwe there are not many opportunities for continuing medical education.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with a Rotary Club with a lot of experience working with the hospital that now has a telemedicine project.

The Rotary clubs working together have provided Wi-Fi networking installed by a local vendor and four iPads donated by the head of EHRI, the software company started by Dr. Gude. We hope to expand the Internet connection to better enable video conferencing.