Teaching developing countries clinical engineering and technology management is no small feat. Just ask J. Tobey Clark, director of the Instrumentation and Technical Services Department at the University of Vermont. Clark received the 2009 AAMI Foundation/ACCE Robert L. Morris Humanitarian Award for his efforts to spread knowledge about clinical engineering. In this issue of AAMI News, he discusses how biomeds and clinical engineers can get involved in international efforts, and what they can do to help Haiti as it recovers from a devastating earthquake.

**AAMI News:** How did you get involved in working with developing countries?

**J. Tobey Clark:** I was motivated by leaders at the American College of Clinical Engineering (ACCE) who served as volunteer faculty for World Health Organization (WHO) workshops in developing countries. In particular, Antonio Hernandez at the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) had the vision to involve clinical engineering as a key resource in healthcare systems’ improvement worldwide. The ability to work internationally would not have been possible without the expert and supportive staff at the Instrumentation and Technical Services Department at the University of Vermont.

**AN:** What is the biggest challenge you have faced in teaching developing nations clinical engineering and technology management?

**JTC:** It’s not the enthusiasm and willingness of the many hundreds of participants who have attended the workshops! They all have been inquisitive, hard working, and gracious. Problems include adapting United States practices to international situations and cultures, and the sustainability of efforts—particularly related to changes in government where new initiatives like healthcare technology management can stall.

**AN:** How can the clinical engineering community help Haiti recover from the devastating earthquake?

**JTC:** The emergent needs in Haiti are basic—medical care, food, water, and shelter. I would urge all to support the medical charities such as those identified by AAMI. An opportunity to provide biomed support is to join the Clinical Engineering Community for Haiti Relief, which works with PAHO, earthMed, and Global Links.

**AN:** What are some ways that biomeds can use their technical skills to lend support to developing countries?

**JTC:** Contacting international support organizations such as Assist International, Engineering World Health, and other non-governmental, religious, and international organizations, like PAHO, can lead to opportunities for biomeds. Joining listserves such as InfraTech and responding to questions posed by biomeds in developing countries is a positive action. Coordinating medical equipment donations at your hospital is valuable if you follow WHO donation guidelines and work with a reputable organization.

**AN:** The University of Vermont offers an online course sequence in healthcare technology. How has it been received?

Educator Spreads Clinical Engineering Beyond Borders

![J. Tobey Clark, center, has worked with (from left) Dr. Juan Valencia, Professor Rossana Rivas, and Professor Luis Vileahumaman to create an online course program.](image)

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Join to Help Out

Help those in developing countries with technology management by joining the InfraTech listserv. To join InfraTech, a listserv operated by the PAHO, just go to http://infratechonline.net.
Jon Cammack has been named president and chief executive officer of ISIS Services, a device-focused contract research organization based in CA. Previously, Cammack worked at Baxter Healthcare as vice president for Technology Resources, Baxter's global research and development organization.

Sterilization expert T.K. “Chip” Moore has joined Pryce Consultants. Moore will provide leadership on the company’s recently expanded chamber mapping service, which uses a diagnostic tool to measure temperature and pressure in sterilizers. Previously, Moore was employed at Getinge, a global medical equipment supplier.

Fred Jaramillo, CBET, and Tom Nirschl, CBET, have been elected president and vice president, respectively, of the Colorado Association of Biomedical Equipment Technicians (CABMET). Jaramillo is the manager of bioengineering at the University of Colorado Hospital in Aurora, CO; and Nirschl is the service manager for Hospital Shared Services in Denver, CO. Jaramillo succeeds Dave Scott, CBET, and Nirschl succeeds Robert Preston, CBET.

A grant from the Pan American Health and Education Foundation of becoming a full certificate program was used to offer online courses on medical devices and systems. Working with collaborators in Colombia and Peru, two bilingual courses were developed and reached more than 500 students from 18 nations. The online courses can be viewed at www.aami.org.

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

JTC: A grant from the Pan American Health and Education Foundation of becoming a full certificate program was used to offer online courses on medical devices and systems. Working with collaborators in Colombia and Peru, two bilingual courses were developed and reached more than 500 students from 18 nations. The online courses can be viewed at www.aami.org.

What are the advantages and challenges to creating an online program? The biggest challenge in developing online courses is you essentially have to write a hyperlinked, illustrated book for each course.

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