

## Medical student and hospital team fight cervical cancer in rural China

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Haley Newman, a fourth year medical student at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, USA, wanted to improve cervical cancer detection for rural women in China.



“In 2010 while studying abroad in Yunnan, I lived in a remote village. At that time, I conducted a rural health survey, and one of the most common medical challenges I heard described was women’s gynecological health issues,” Haley says.

Since that time, she has sought out an opportunity to help the women in these rural villages.

“In medical school, I learned more about cervical cancer, and I had a conversation with an oncologist who was talking about the particularly high rates in China. Learning about this sparked my interest in cervical cancer screening techniques that are more applicable in remote areas where women don’t have primary care physicians who can perform regular pap smears and the required follow up.”

Haley read about the Gynocular being used successfully in India, and she brought the idea to partner with a doctor at the First People’s Hospital of Yunnan. Together they designed this study to examine the effectiveness and utility of the Gynocular in rural Yunnan as a new model of screening for cervical cancer and precancerous lesions.

“I am now in China with the team from the Hospital and we are out in the villages screening women. Our study aims to evaluate portable colposcopy for cervical cancer screening in rural China. In the past 10 days we have examined over 500 women!”



Haley obtained a grant through Umass to purchase one Gynocular mobile colposcope and two Gynocular scopes were provided through the Gynius Academic Research program as well as the Triage to Diagnose software <http://www.gynius.se/software/> Prior to her trip, Haley also learned basics of colposcopy through Professor Singers’ online colposcopy course <http://colposcopycourses.com/>.

“This is an important study,” says Haley. “A third of the new world-wide cervical cancer cases occur in China. Although, there has been a decrease in deaths from cervical cancer, there is an increased trend of cervical cancer in young women, especially from rural areas. I am grateful for the opportunity to help lead this project and hope that it can help prevent cervical cancer in the future.

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