



Burden and care of spinal disorders among Batswana in Village Shoshong

**Mahalapye Spine Care Conference
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Background

- Few healthcare resources to relieve the burden of musculoskeletal (MSK) disorders in developing nations
- Insufficient data exist to describe how, where and in what context people currently seek or find relief

WSC Research Efforts: Team I

- Longitudinal data collection at the Shoshong and Mahalapye World Spine Care Clinics
- Qualitative study: *focused ethnography*
- Cross-sectional epidemiological study (household surveys)

Longitudinal data collection

- Opportunity to describe rich cohort of people and reasons for seeking healthcare at WSC clinics
- Jan-Mar 2013, concerted effort to establish protocols and instruments (special thanks to volunteer, Michelle Boyle!)
- Opportunities for cross-cultural comparisons
- MoH human subjects application in preparation
- Retrospective review to summarise patients seen to date
- Prospective data collection, training the local workforce to continue these efforts

Focused ethnography

- A *focused ethnography* emphasizes anthropological theory and methods while limiting the scope and duration of fieldwork to a specific program-relevant research problem
- Research approach to explore the meanings that people attribute to particular life events, including health and illness

Broad Aim

- To examine the cultural, social, clinical and organisational characteristics for the burden of living with and caring for people living with MSK conditions in Village Shoshong

Focused ethnography

- April 2013, on the ground to build relations, prepare contractual arrangements, pre-test interview questions, finalise translations, design optimal recruitment strategies
- May-Jun 2013, finalise MoH human subjects application
- Oct-Nov 2013 **and** Apr-May 2014, primary data collection
- 2014-2015, prepare manuscripts and HH survey
 - Secure funding to hire and train local workers for HH surveys

Cross-sectional household surveys

- Informed by early research efforts
- Culturally sensitive and feasible survey
- Local workers
 - Leadership on-the-ground for training and oversight
 - Anticipate hiring 12-15 workers
 - 3,000-4,000 household surveys
 - 3-4 months employment
 - Every two years

WSC Research Team I

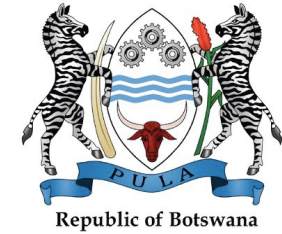
- **Describe** prevalence & burden of MSK disorders
- **Estimate** the numbers & types of providers needed to serve the community for spinal health
- Inform **public health policy** for the most effective strategies to improve quality of life & ability to work
- Incorporate community values into **sustainable** partnerships

Ke a leboga!

- Botswana Ministry of Health and World Spine Care
- Danish Chiropractic Research Foundation
Copenhagen, Denmark
- University of Southern Denmark, Faculty of Health Sciences
Odense, Denmark
- University of Hawaii at Mānoa
- Palmer Center for Chiropractic Research
Davenport, Iowa, USA
- **Most importantly**
 - **the people of Shoshong and Mahalapye!**



Village Shoshong



Republic of Botswana



Ke a leboga, Caitlin Mulligan for permission to use her photograph of Shoshong, taken on 11-April-2010

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