



and digest in small portions as an authoritative in-depth reference source on all aspects of the temporal lobe and limbic system. It will be of interest to neurobiologists, psychologists, neurologists, epileptologists and neurosurgeons operating on patients with epilepsy. It will remain the standard reference source for many years.

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## Partnering and Health Development: The Kathmandu Connection

Melville G. Kerr. 250 pp. Illust. University of Calgary Press, Calgary; International Development Research Centre, Ottawa. 1996. \$27.95. ISBN 1-895176-73-5 (U of C); ISBN 0-88936-819-8 (IDRC)

**Overall rating:** Excellent  
**Strengths:** Lucid, objective evaluation of triumphs and challenges related to partnering in health development between a Canadian university and other nations  
**Weaknesses:** Some repetitiveness, albeit in a palatable format  
**Audience:** Private and public health care providers seeking to develop partnering relationships in health education, research and caring with nations of different cultures or within one's own country

This is a well written narrative that describes the evolution of medical care and educational programs in Kathmandu, Nepal and Davao in the Philippines. It is an objective articulation of the pros and cons of partnering with distant nations. Certainly, the lessons learned in these challenges are a must-read for universities intent on partnering overseas.

The experience of the Division of International Development, International Centre at the University of Calgary, and the division's Director, Melville Kerr, is well chronicled here to help us avoid the pitfalls of such a complicated endeavour. The arcane processes of finding support for such programs are sufficient to overwhelm most of us. However, the problems universities and faculties may face in a culturally diverse, remote area have been thoroughly documented by the author. He describes the error of not recognizing the need to provide education and training on-site in the country with whom a North American university is partnering.

The partial irrelevance of North American medicine to public health and medical problems in Nepal, the Philippines, or for that matter any other part of the world, are points well made. An ivory tower mentality has no place in the world of poverty, massive public health problems, starvation and types of infectious diseases not seen in North America. An interesting concept of health training is described: health volunteers received paramedical training alongside medical students and became an interesting and viable model in the Davao Medical School of the Philippines. Indeed, one might ask if these models that became successful in Nepal and the Philippines could be applied to remote areas of this continent or even, at a time of growing cultural diversity, be used in large Canadian cities.

Kerr is indeed convincing of the mutual benefits of international partnering in the health sector, providing one understands the frustrations and makes an effort to learn from the in-depth experience of others.

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## Evidence-Based Healthcare: How to Make Health Policy and Management Decisions

J.A. Muir Gray. 270 pp. Illust. Churchill Livingstone. 1997. Price not stated. ISBN 0-443-05721-4

**Overall rating:** Excellent  
**Strengths:** Very readable, either from beginning to end or as a reference text. Collects questions managers should ask and presents "how-to" skills they should use to incorporate knowledge and research into their decision-making.  
**Weaknesses:** Examples excellent, but more needed to illustrate application of guides on critical appraisal of research.  
**Audience:** Physician managers, other health service administrators, health policy analysts and planners, health research methodology students

Decision-making about health services for individuals and populations should be guided by evidence on the need, effectiveness and ways to use resources optimally. Politics and lack of research can curtail this, but, frequently, decision-makers do not have the skills to *search* for, *critique*, *apply* and *store* research evidence and reports.

Dr. Muir Gray, Director of Research and Development at the National Health Service (NHS) Executive, Anglia and Oxford Region, Oxford, UK, makes a plea for these 4 management skills and describes, in an engaging fashion, what they entail.

**Search:** Over the last 10 years computers have revolutionized searching for research findings in the health care field. The most valuable and well-known databases are MEDLINE and, in Europe, EMBASE. These and other databases such as healthSTAR and the Cochrane Library can be accessed through the Internet. As a time saver, we are encouraged to first search for reviews, because good reviews, including meta-analyses, assess study methods