

## PRESS RELEASE

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### UpToDate Elevates Worldwide Practice of Medicine by Providing Information Access to Physicians in Less Economically Developed Countries

*- UpToDate Joins Brigham and Women's Global Health Equity Residency Program in Effort to Formalize Program to Improve Health Outcomes for Global Population; Three Healthcare Sites in Africa Receive Free Access and Training in Pilot Program; Program to be Extended -*

Waltham, Mass. (World Health Day - April 7, 2009) - [UpToDate](#), part of Wolters Kluwer Health, today announces its commitment to improving the practice of medicine by providing access to its evidence-based, physician-authored medical information resource in low and middle income countries (LMICs) around the globe. Widely accepted by 360,000 clinicians in 147 countries, 88 percent of academic medical centers in the U.S. and thousands of patients, *UpToDate* has formalized its worldwide efforts by kicking off a two-year program earlier this year with [Brigham and Women's Global Health Equity Residency Program](#) to explore the impact of *UpToDate* in LMICs. *UpToDate* is providing free access to medical content as well as necessary training for three participating sites in Africa.

Today, World Health Day acknowledges the significant role public health services play in quality of life for the international community. With a mission to improve health outcomes for patients everywhere, *UpToDate* aims to increase the quality of clinical information that is available in resource-limited settings, where the burden of disease for treatable illnesses is associated with high rates of morbidity and mortality. Through its work with public hospitals supported by [Partners in Health](#) in Rwanda, Malawi and Durban in South Africa, *UpToDate* will analyze usage, topic selection and user feedback to understand how use of the program is affecting knowledge base and clinical practice. Based on the results, *UpToDate* will implement a structured worldwide program to provide complimentary access to more physicians in LMICs, positively impacting the quality of healthcare for patients in these areas. [Global Health Delivery](#) will conduct this program extension via its web platform for global health implementers.

Despite the vast amount of online medical information resources available, studies have shown that use of *UpToDate* is associated with improved quality and efficiency of care. In a [recent study](#), hospitals with access to *UpToDate* performed significantly better on risk-adjusted measures of patient safety and complications, and had significantly shorter length of stay compared to hospitals without access. The study also confirmed a correlation between usage of *UpToDate* and hospital performance, supporting a dose-response effect.

*UpToDate's* content includes treatment recommendations based on the best medical evidence. *UpToDate* uses a literature-driven updating system, monitoring more than 430 journals to ensure that the most recent information and findings are incorporated into the site. Created by more than 4,000 editors, authors and peer reviewers from leading medical institutions, *UpToDate* is consistently reviewed to guarantee reliability.

**Quote, attributed to Denise S. Basow, MD, Editor-in-Chief, *UpToDate***

*“UpToDate* has a vision to improve healthcare around the world. Our medical information is heavily relied on and is changing patient outcomes every day, and we take the responsibility to consistently review and update our information to guarantee reliability very seriously. By providing free access to LMICs, *UpToDate* is helping to improve the quality of healthcare for patients in locations that need it most.”

**Quote, attributed to Johanna Daily, Associate Professor of Medicine, Albert Einstein School of Medicine, Global Health Equity Residency Program, Brigham and Women’s Hospital**

*“It’s clear that UpToDate* has a strong impact on the quality of patient care, even in data-rich settings. In an environment where resources are scarce, we expect the impact to be dramatic. From changes in treatment decisions to maximizing physician efficacy, the feedback we’ve received from our three site leaders in Africa is that patient outcomes are positively being affected. We look forward to learning more about the impact that *UpToDate* can have on patient outcomes and healthcare worker knowledge in these settings. ”

**Quote, attributed to Corrado Cancedda, MD, Global Health Equity Residency Program, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Partners In Health Rwanda**

*“Most of our doctors and nurses have worked in a setting where information was hardly available and clinical practices were passed on without much support from scientific evidence. They were indeed doing an amazing job given the limited tools available. UpToDate* has really improved this. The availability of great information for clinical decision making helps our physicians understand that if evidence changes, practices should follow. Medicine is a fluid discipline and nothing is carved in stone. It’s exciting to see our staff empowered with the tools to thrive as care providers.”

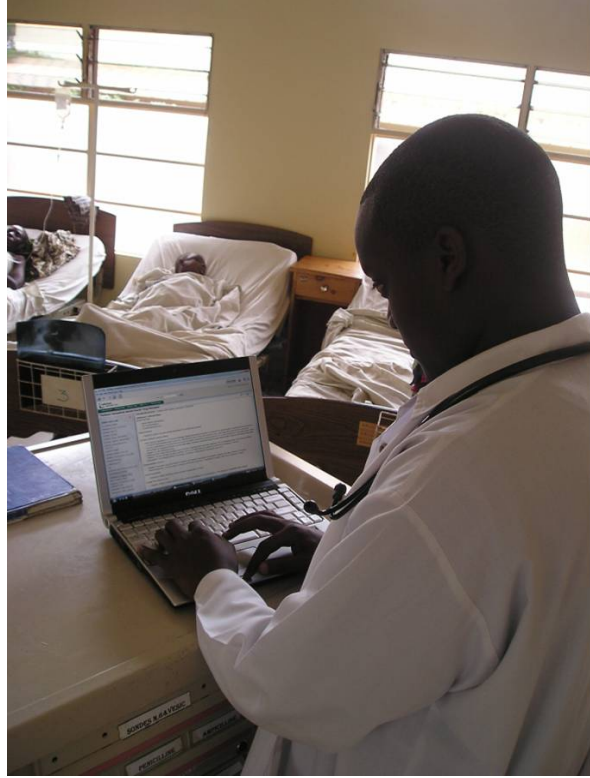
**Quote, attributed to Molly McNairy, MD, MSc, Global Health Equity Residency Program, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Partners In Health Malawi**

*“Despite extraordinary advances and unprecedented funding in global health, a gap in the delivery of healthcare to the world’s poorest remains profound. Part of this gap is due to the lack of readily available medical education and information in resource limited-settings. At Neno District Hospital, Malawi, UpToDate* has fundamentally changed our practice by allowing us to find immediate online answers to medical questions ranging from acute inpatient care to outpatient chronic HIV management. The value of *UpToDate* is indefinable; it has improved our quality of care and diagnostic and management capacity exponentially.”

**Quote, attributed to Aba Ewusi, MD, Schwartz Global Health Fellow, Massachusetts General Hospital, Consultant, Department of Medicine, McCord Hospital, Durban, South Africa**

*“We’ve already trained more than 30 physicians at McCord Hospital and UpToDate* has been a welcomed benefit. *UpToDate* is a key resource, providing quick access to information and furthering our physicians’ medical education. Having the support of *UpToDate* to guide us through patient diagnosis and treatment has been invaluable, and has already yielded significant improvements. We’re committed to improving global health and believe that *UpToDate* will have a positive impact.”

**MULTIMEDIA ELEMENTS**



Footer: Physician using *UpToDate* in Rwanda



Footer: *UpToDate* training session in Malawi

**Keywords:** online medical content, healthcare information, medical information resources

### About UpToDate

[UpToDate](#)<sup>®</sup> is an evidence-based, physician-authored medical information resource - available via the Web, desktop and PDA. With *UpToDate*, physicians can answer questions quickly, increase their clinical knowledge and improve patient care. Patients may also subscribe to [UpToDate's patient information](#) and gain access to the same current, in-depth medical content trusted by physicians, allowing patients and physicians to make shared medical decisions. Founded in 1992 and headquartered in Waltham, Mass., *UpToDate* is relied on by more than 340,000 physicians worldwide, 88 percent of academic medical centers in the U.S. and thousands of patients. *UpToDate* is part of [Wolters Kluwer Health](#), a leading provider of information and business intelligence for students, professionals and institutions in medicine, nursing, allied health, pharmacy and the pharmaceutical industry.

Wolters Kluwer Health is a division of [Wolters Kluwer](#), a leading global information services and publishing company. The company provides products and services for professionals in the health, tax, accounting, corporate, financial services, legal, and regulatory sectors. Wolters Kluwer had 2008 annual revenues of €3.4 billion (\$4.9 billion), employs approximately 20,000 people worldwide, and maintains operations in over 35 countries across Europe, North America, Asia Pacific, and Latin America. Wolters Kluwer is headquartered in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Its shares are quoted on Euronext Amsterdam (WKL) and are included in the AEX and Euronext 100 indices. Visit [www.wolterskluwer.com](http://www.wolterskluwer.com) for information about our market positions, customers, brands, and organization.

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